

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 977

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR WALLINGFORD.

Read 1st time February 5, 2020, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

5316S.011

## AN ACT

To repeal section 173.670, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) initiative.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 173.670, RSMo, is repealed and one new section  
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 173.670, to read as follows:

173.670. 1. There is hereby established within the department of higher  
2 education and workforce development the "Missouri Science, Technology,  
3 Engineering, and Mathematics Initiative". The department of higher education  
4 and workforce development may award matching funds through this initiative to  
5 public institutions of higher education as part of the annual appropriations  
6 process.

7 2. The purpose of the initiative shall be to provide support to increase  
8 interest among elementary, secondary, and university students in fields of study  
9 related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and to increase the  
10 number of Missouri graduates in these fields at Missouri's public two- and  
11 four-year institutions of higher education.

12 3. **As used in this section, the following terms mean:**

13 **(1) "Department" the department of higher education and**  
14 **workforce development;**

15 **(2) "Educational benefits", the funds provided by an employer to**  
16 **a qualified individual or to an accredited educational institution for a**  
17 **period of up to five years to pay any portion of the tuition or fees for**  
18 **a qualified individual pursuing an advanced certificate, associate's**  
19 **degree, bachelor's degree, master's degree, or doctorate degree in a**

**EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

20 field of study related to health care, engineering, or information  
21 technology;

22 (3) "Full-time position", an occupation lasting at least one year  
23 that consists of at least thirty hours of work per week;

24 (4) "Internship", a program lasting at least eight weeks that  
25 consists of at least fifteen hours of work per week;

26 (5) "State tax liability", any liability incurred by a taxpayer  
27 under the provisions of chapter 143, excluding withholding tax imposed  
28 by sections 143.191 to 143.265, or the tax imposed in chapter 147, 148,  
29 or 153;

30 (6) "STEM field", a field involving science, technology,  
31 engineering, or mathematics.

32 4. There is hereby created a "Science, Technology, Engineering, and  
33 Mathematics Fund", which shall consist of money collected under this  
34 section. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund and may approve  
35 disbursements from the fund in accordance with sections 30.170 and  
36 30.180. Upon appropriation, money in the fund shall be used solely for the  
37 administration of this section. Any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of  
38 the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund. The state  
39 treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are  
40 invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited  
41 to the fund.

42 [4.] 5. As part of the initiative, the department of higher education and  
43 workforce development shall develop a process to award grants to Missouri public  
44 two- and four-year institutions of higher education and school districts that have  
45 entered into articulation agreements to offer information technology certification  
46 through technical course work leading to postsecondary academic credit through  
47 the program established in section 173.675.

48 [5.] 6. The general assembly may appropriate funds to the science,  
49 technology, engineering, and mathematics fund to match institution funds to  
50 support the following programs, **as recommended by the department**:

51 (1) [Endowed teaching professor programs, which provide funds to support  
52 faculty who teach undergraduate courses in science, technology, engineering, or  
53 mathematics fields at public institutions of higher education;

54 (2)] Scholarship programs, which provide financial aid or loan forgiveness  
55 awards to Missouri students who study in the science, technology, engineering,

56 or mathematics fields or who plan to enter the teaching field in Missouri with an  
57 emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics areas; **and**

58 **[(3)] (2) Experiential youth programs [at public colleges or universities,]**  
59 **designed to provide Missouri middle school, junior high, and high school students**  
60 **with the opportunity to experience science, technology, engineering, and**  
61 **mathematics fields through camps or other educational offerings[;**

62 **(4) Career enhancement programs for current elementary and secondary**  
63 **teachers and professors at Missouri public and private colleges and universities**  
64 **in the science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields to improve the**  
65 **quality of teaching].**

66 **7. Any taxpayer in this state who provides educational benefits**  
67 **or selects a student majoring in a STEM field who is attending a two-**  
68 **year or four-year public or private Missouri college or university for an**  
69 **internship located in this state, or who selects a student who recently**  
70 **graduated with a degree in a STEM field from any two-year or four-**  
71 **year public or private Missouri college or university for a full-time**  
72 **position in a STEM field located in this state, may apply to have ten**  
73 **thousand dollars of the taxpayer's state tax liability transferred from**  
74 **the general revenue fund and placed in the science, technology,**  
75 **engineering, and mathematics fund established in this section, upon**  
76 **approval by the department and appropriation by the general**  
77 **assembly. The department shall establish a procedure for approving**  
78 **applications under this subsection. For purposes of this subsection, the**  
79 **taxpayer's state tax liability shall be paid before a transfer under this**  
80 **subsection occurs. The cumulative amount of taxes transferred to the**  
81 **science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fund under this**  
82 **subsection shall not exceed an annual total of two hundred thousand**  
83 **dollars from all participating taxpayers in tax year 2021, with such**  
84 **amount adjusted annually for inflation as determined by the Consumer**  
85 **Price Index for all Urban Consumers for the United States as reported**  
86 **by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, or its successor index. If a donation**  
87 **is made to the fund from a third party, that donation shall not count**  
88 **towards such annual limit.**

89 **8. The department may promulgate all necessary rules and**  
90 **regulations for the administration of this section. Any rule or portion**  
91 **of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created**  
92 **under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective**

93 only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter  
94 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are  
95 nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the general  
96 assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date,  
97 or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held  
98 unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule  
99 proposed or adopted after August 28, 2020, shall be invalid and void.

✓  
Unofficial

Bill

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