



Tab 7

Legislative Session Preview

Coordinating Board for Higher Education
December 8, 2021

BACKGROUND

The Second Regular Session of the 101th General Assembly will begin on January 5, 2022. Pre-filing of bills began on December 1. The Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development's primary focus and the top priority is reauthorizing and improving the Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant program and promoting its FY 2023 budget priorities.

CURRENT STATUS

Board book materials were prepared before pre-filing began on December 1. Department staff will provide a more current update, including whether legislation has been filed on any of the following, at the board meeting. In addition to Fast Track legislation, the following topics may be addressed during session.

- **Workforce Development in Elementary and Secondary Education.** If filed, this legislation would require high school students to complete individual career and academic plans and FAFSAs. It would also require DHEWD to equip all 57 area career centers with the means and capability to allow students to complete an application for aid under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
- **COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements at Higher Education Campuses.** The U.S. Department of Education is expected to issue guidance on vaccine requirements for colleges and universities receiving federal contracts. Based on this guidance, the General Assembly may consider legislation in response to federal action.
- **Higher Education Funding Formula.** During the 2021 legislative session, Rep. Mike Henderson (R-Bonne Terre) and Sen. Karla Eslinger (R-Wasola) introduced bills that would have established procedures for determining funding allocations for institutions of higher education based on "workforce readiness of students." The Joint Committee on Education held a hearing on performance funding in October 2021. (2021 Legislation: [HB 1346](#) & [SB 585](#))
- **AP Credit Exam Credits.** Last session, Rep. Chris Brown (R-Kansas City) introduced legislation that would require public institutions of higher education to adopt and implement policies that would provide undergraduate course credit to entering freshman students for each advanced placement (AP) examination on which the student achieves a score of three or higher. The legislation would have required DHEWD to work with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to identify correlations between subject matter and content in courses and examinations in the AP program. (2021 Legislation: [HB 1208](#))
- **Critical Race Theory.** Most discussion on critical race theory in Missouri to date has focused on the elementary and secondary level. However, lawmakers in more than 15 states have introduced or passed legislation seeking to limit or ban the teaching of critical race theory at public higher education institutions. There is increasing interest in the topic in Missouri, with several legislators expressing an intent to introduce legislation this upcoming session.
- **State Student Financial Aid Program Modifications.** Each session, legislators introduce bills that would modify Missouri's state student financial aid programs.

RECOMMENDATION

This is an information item only.

NO ATTACHMENTS