



Tab 5

## Legislative Proposals

Coordinating Board for Higher Education

December 6, 2023

### BACKGROUND

#### Legislative Proposal #1

The Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development is required to certify all proprietary schools operating in the State of Missouri. The certification protects Missouri students by ensuring that the school has the resources to operate, is operating its programs in accordance with the required standards, and has a plan to protect students and their records should the school close.

#### Legislative Proposal #2

Multiple statutes concerning the Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development have not been updated to reflect recent changes, have sunset, or have not been refunded.

#### Legislative Proposal #3

The "Higher Education Academic Scholarship Program," commonly referred to as "Bright Flight," established by § 173.250, RSMo, is a merit-based financial aid program enacted by the General Assembly in 2007 and last revised in 2010. The program eligibility is based on student's performance on the ACT or SAT. The grant assists Missouri students finance postsecondary education at an approved institution of higher education in Missouri.

#### Legislative Proposal #4

The "Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program" established by § 173.1101, RSMo, is a need-based financial aid program enacted by the General Assembly in 2007 and last revised in 2018. The grant assists Missouri students finance postsecondary education at an approved institution of higher education in Missouri.

### CURRENT STATUS

#### Legislative Proposal #1

Department staff propose the following change to the schools and courses exempt from certification statute:

**Exemption to U.S. Department of Labor approved Registered Apprenticeships.** Section § 173.616, RSMo, exempts specific schools or programs from the certification requirements in sections § 173.600 to 173.618, RSMo.

The proposed change would exempt training programs approved by the U.S. Department of Labor as a registered apprenticeship from the certification requirements with the Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development. The change would clarify requirements for those wishing to offer a registered apprenticeship program.

#### Legislative Proposal #2

Department staff propose the following changes to statute:

Correcting the Office of Workforce Development from the Department of Economic Development to the Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development and moving statutes regarding the Office of Workforce Development to Chapter 173.  
Removing statutes that have sunset, removing programs in statute that are no longer operable or funded, and removing statutes referring to task forces that no longer exist.

#### Legislative Proposal #3

Department staff propose the following changes to the Higher Education Academic Scholarship Program statute:

**Eligibility Score Change.** Section § 173.250, RSMo, defines the “qualifying score” as “a composite score on the ACT or the SAT... that is in the top five percent of Missouri test-takers.” Due to the eligibility score being based on a percentage, the score can change over time and create confusion.

The proposed change would define the qualifying score as a definite number. The qualification for the top award category would change from a qualifying score in the top three percent of Missouri test-takers to a score of 32 or higher on the ACT or an equivalent score on the SAT. The qualification for the other award category would change from a qualifying score in the top five percent of Missouri test-takers to a score of 31 on the ACT or an equivalent score on the SAT.

**Award Increase.** Section § 173.250, RSMo, creates the award amounts for the program. The current award amounts are \$3,000 per year for the top award category and \$1,000 per year for the other award category.

The proposed change would increase award amounts for both award categories for the program. The award amount for the top category would increase from \$3,000 to \$4,000. The award amount for the other award category would increase from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

#### Legislative Proposal #4

Department staff propose the following change to the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program statute:

**Award Increase.** Section § 173.1105, RSMo, creates the award amounts for the program. The current award maximums are \$1,300 for students attending public two-year institutions and \$2,850 for students attending all other approved institutions. These limits went into effect beginning with the 2014-2015 academic year.

The proposed change would increase the maximum award amount by approximately twenty-five percent. The maximum award amount for students attending a public two-year institution would increase to \$1,700. The maximum award amount for students attending all other approved institutions would increase to \$3,500. The level of increase is consistent with § 173.1105 (4), RSMo.

## NEXT STEPS

If the draft legislation is approved by the Coordinating Board, department staff will continue to work with the Governor's Office to finalize the legislation, identify bill sponsors, and introduce the bills during the Second Session of the 102nd General Assembly.

## RECOMMENDATION

### Legislative Proposal #1

Staff recommend approval of the revisions to the Proprietary Certification statute, and the board to direct staff to file the draft legislation, and authorize the department to make any necessary adjustments to the legislation as the bill goes through the review and legislative process.

### Legislative Proposal #2

Staff recommend approval of the revisions to statute, and the board to direct staff to file the draft legislation, and authorize the department to make any necessary adjustments to the legislation as the bill goes through the review and legislative process.

### Legislative Proposal #3

This is an information only item on hold.

### Legislative Proposal #4

This is an information only item on hold.

## ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A: Current Proprietary School Statute
- Attachment B: Draft Proprietary School Legislation
- Attachment C: Draft Revisions with Explanations
- Attachment D: Current Higher Education Academic Scholarship Program Statute
- Attachment E: Draft Higher Education Academic Scholarship Program Legislation
- Attachment F: Current Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program Statute
- Attachment G: Draft Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program Legislation