

Tab 5, Attachment E

Draft Higher Education Academic Scholarship Program Legislation

AN ACT

To repeal section 173.250, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the
Higher Education Academic Scholarship program.

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

Section A. Section 173.250, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 173.250, to read as follows:

173.250 1. There is hereby established a “Higher Education Academic Scholarship Program” and any moneys appropriated by the general assembly for this program shall be used to provide scholarships for Missouri citizens to attend a Missouri college or university of their choice pursuant to the provisions of this section.

2. The definitions of terms set forth in section 173.1102 shall be applicable to such terms as used in this section. In addition, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) “Academic scholarship,” an amount of money paid by the state of Missouri to a student pursuant to the provisions of this section;

(2) “ACT,” the American College Testing program examination;

(3) “Approved institution,” an approved public or approved private institution as defined in section 173.1102;

(4) “Eligible student,” an individual who meets the criteria set forth in section 173.1104, excluding the requirements of financial need and undergraduate status and, in addition, meets the following requirements:

(a) Has achieved a qualifying score on the ACT or SAT;

(b) Is a Missouri resident who has completed secondary coursework through graduation from high school or the virtual public school established in section 161.670, receipt of a general education development (GED) diploma, completion of a program of study through homeschooling or any other program of academic instruction that satisfies the compulsory attendance requirement under section 167.031; and

(c) Is enrolled full time or accepted for full-time enrollment as a postsecondary student at an approved institution during the academic year immediately following the completion of his or her secondary coursework;

~~(5) “Missouri test takers,” all Missouri high school seniors who take the ACT or the SAT;~~

(6) “Qualifying score,” a composite score on the ACT or the SAT achieved in an eligible student's high school sophomore, junior, or senior year that is ~~[in the top five percent of Missouri test takers, as established at the beginning of an eligible student's final year of secondary coursework]~~ **a 31 or above on the ACT or an equivalent score on the SAT;**

(7) “Recipient,” an eligible or renewal student who receives an academic scholarship pursuant to this section;

(8) “Renewal student,” an eligible student who remains in compliance with the provisions of section 173.1104, maintains continuous enrollment, and makes satisfactory academic degree progress; and

(9) “SAT,” the Scholastic Aptitude Test.

3. The coordinating board for higher education shall be the administrative agency for the implementation of the program established by this section, and shall:

(1) Promulgate reasonable rules and regulations for the exercise of its functions and the effectuation of the purposes of this section, including regulations for granting scholarship deferments;

(2) Prescribe the form and the time and method of awarding academic scholarships, and shall supervise the processing thereof; and

(3) Select qualified recipients to receive academic scholarships, make such awards of academic scholarships to qualified recipients and determine the manner and method of payment to the recipient.

4. Eligible students shall be offered academic scholarships in the following amounts and in the following order of priority, within the limits of the funds appropriated and made available:

(1) Each eligible student with a qualifying score [~~in the top three percent of all Missouri test takers~~] **of a score of 32 or above on the ACT or an equivalent score on the SAT** shall be offered an academic scholarship of up to [~~three~~] **four** thousand dollars per year. All students in [~~the top three percent~~] **this award category** shall receive awards of [~~three~~] **four** thousand dollars before any student in the [~~top fourth and fifth percentiles~~] **next award category** receives any award;

(2) Provided sufficient funds are appropriated, each eligible student with a qualifying score [~~in the top fourth and fifth percentiles~~] **of a 31 on the ACT or an equivalent score on the SAT** shall be offered an academic scholarship of up to [~~one~~] **two** thousand dollars per year.

5. Eligible students may renew academic scholarships for their second, third, and fourth years of postsecondary education, or as long as the recipient is in compliance with the criteria to be a renewal student.

6. If an eligible student is unable to enroll during the first academic year or a renewal student ceases attendance at an approved institution for the purpose of providing service to a nonprofit organization, a state or federal government agency, or any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, such student shall be offered an academic scholarship upon enrollment in any approved institution after the completion of their service, if the student meets all other requirements for an initial or renewal award and if the following criteria are met:

(1) For an eligible student who cannot attend an approved institution as a result of service to a nonprofit organization or the state or federal government, the student returns to full-time status within twenty-seven months and provides verification to the coordinating board for higher education that the service to the nonprofit organization was satisfactorily completed and was not compensated other than for expenses, or that the service to the state or federal government was satisfactorily completed; or

(2) For an eligible student who cannot attend an approved institution as a result of military service in the Armed Forces of the United States, the student returns to full-time status within six months after the eligible student first ceases service to the Armed Forces and provides verification to the coordinating board for higher education that the military service was satisfactorily completed.

7. A recipient of an academic scholarship awarded under this section may transfer from one approved institution to another without losing eligibility for the academic scholarship.

8. If a recipient of an academic scholarship at any time withdraws from an approved institution so that under the rules and regulations of that institution he or she is entitled to a refund of any tuition, fees or other charges, the institution shall pay the portion of the refund attributable to the academic scholarship for that term to the coordinating board for higher education.

9. Other provisions of this section to the contrary notwithstanding, if an eligible student has been awarded an initial academic scholarship pursuant to the provisions of this section but is unable to attend an approved institution during the first academic year because of illness, disability, pregnancy or other medical need or if a renewal student ceases all attendance at an approved institution because of illness, disability, pregnancy or other medical need, the recipient shall be eligible for an initial or renewal academic scholarship upon enrollment in or return to any approved institution, provided the recipient:

(1) Enrolls in or returns to full-time status within twenty-seven months;

(2) Provides verification in compliance with coordinating board for higher education rules of sufficient medical evidence documenting an illness, disability, pregnancy or other medical need of such

person to require that that person will not be able to use the academic scholarship during the time period for which it was originally offered; and

(3) Meets all other requirements established for eligibility to receive an academic scholarship.