

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 268

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR PEARCE.

Read 1st time January 20, 2015, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

1473S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 173.670, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fund.

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

Section A. Section 173.670, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 173.670 and 620.3030, to read as
3 follows:

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

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

11 3. There is hereby created a "Science, Technology, Engineering and
12 Mathematics Fund", which shall consist of money collected under this
13 section. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund and may approve
14 disbursements from the fund in accordance with sections 30.170 and
15 30.180. Upon appropriation, money in the fund shall be used solely for the
16 administration of this section. Any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of
17 the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund. The state
18 treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are

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

19 invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited
20 to the fund.

21 4. As part of the initiative, the department of higher education shall
22 develop a process to award grants to Missouri public two- and four-year
23 institutions of higher education and school districts that have entered into
24 articulation agreements to offer information technology certification through
25 technical course work leading to postsecondary academic credit through the
26 program established in section 173.675.

27 5. The general assembly may appropriate funds to the science, technology,
28 engineering[,] and mathematics fund to match institution funds to support the
29 following programs:

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

33 (2) Scholarship programs, which provide financial aid or loan forgiveness
34 awards to Missouri students who study in the science, technology, engineering,
35 or mathematics fields or who plan to enter the teaching field in Missouri with an
36 emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics areas;

37 (3) Experiential youth programs at public colleges or universities,
38 designed to provide Missouri middle school, junior high, and high school students
39 with the opportunity to experience science, technology, engineering, and
40 mathematics fields through camps or other educational offerings;

41 (4) Career enhancement programs for current elementary and secondary
42 teachers and professors at Missouri public and private colleges and universities
43 in the science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields to improve the
44 quality of teaching.

45 **6. Any taxpayer hiring a person who is currently enrolled as a**
46 **student majoring in a field of study related to science, technology,**
47 **engineering, or mathematics, at any two-year or four-year public or**
48 **private Missouri college or university, to fill an internship position in**
49 **the fields of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics may**
50 **apply to have up to five thousand dollars of the taxpayer's state tax**
51 **liability transferred from the general revenue fund and placed in the**
52 **science, technology, engineering and mathematics fund established in**
53 **subsection 3 of this section, upon appropriation. For purposes of this**
54 **subsection, "state tax liability" means any liability incurred by a**

55 taxpayer under the provisions of chapter 143, excluding withholding
56 tax imposed by sections 143.191 to 143.265, or the tax imposed in
57 chapter 147, 148, or 153. The department of higher education shall
58 establish a procedure for approving applications under this
59 section. For purposes of this subsection, the taxpayer's state tax
60 liability shall be paid before a transfer under this subsection
61 occurs. The cumulative amount of taxes transferred to the science,
62 technology, engineering and mathematics fund under this subsection
63 and section 620.3030 shall not exceed an annual total of fifty thousand
64 dollars from all participating taxpayers. In the event a donation is
65 made to the fund from a third party, that donation shall not count
66 towards the fifty thousand dollar annual limit. In order to qualify for
67 purposes of this subsection, the internship shall be:

- 68 (1) Located within the state of Missouri; and
- 69 (2) For a duration of at least twelve weeks and consist of at least
70 fifteen hours of work per week.

71 7. The department of higher education may promulgate rules and
72 regulations for the administration of this section. Any rule or portion
73 of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created
74 under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective
75 only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter
76 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are
77 nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly
78 under chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to
79 disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional,
80 then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or
81 adopted after August 28, 2015, shall be invalid and void.

620.3030. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "Economic-Education Partnership Act".

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

4 (1) "Educational benefits", the funds provided by an employer to
5 a qualified individual or to an accredited educational institution for a
6 period of up to five years to pay any portion of the tuition or fees for
7 a qualified individual pursuing an associates degree, bachelors degree,
8 masters degree, or doctorate degree in a field of study related to health
9 care, engineering, or information technology related programs;

10 (2) "Employer", a business with facilities in Missouri that employs

11 a qualified individual upon the completion of the individual's degree
12 or training for at least the same length of time as the employer
13 provided educational benefits or training to the qualified individual;

14 (3) "Fund", the science, technology, engineering and mathematics
15 fund established in section 173.670;

16 (4) "Qualified individual", an individual:

17 (a) Who is a resident of this state;

18 (b) Who is employed by an employer in Missouri;

19 (c) Who has an annual individual gross income of two hundred
20 thousand dollars or less; and

21 (d) Who pursues an advanced certificate, associates degree,
22 bachelors degree, masters degree, or doctorate degree in a field of
23 study related to health care, engineering, or information technology
24 related programs;

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

29 3. An employer that provides educational benefits to a qualified
30 individual, or trains a qualified individual for an employment position
31 in the health care, engineering, or information technology fields for no
32 more than one year, may apply to have up to five thousand dollars of
33 the taxpayer's state tax liability transferred from the general revenue
34 fund and placed in the fund, upon appropriation. The department of
35 higher education shall establish a procedure for approving applications
36 under this section. For purposes of this section, the taxpayer's state
37 tax liability shall be paid before a transfer under this section
38 occurs. The cumulative amount of taxes transferred to the fund under
39 this section and subsection 5 of section 173.670 shall not exceed an
40 annual total of fifty thousand dollars from all participating taxpayers.
41 In the event a donation is made to the fund from a third party, that
42 donation shall not count towards the fifty thousand dollar annual limit.

43 4. The department of economic development may audit
44 employers to ensure compliance with the provisions of this section.

45 5. An employer that has provided educational benefits prior to
46 the effective date of this section shall only apply to have up to five
47 thousand dollars of the taxpayer's state tax liability removed from the

48 general revenue fund and placed in the fund under this section for
49 providing additional educational benefits.

50 6. The department of economic development and the department
51 of higher education may promulgate rules to implement the provisions
52 of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in
53 section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this
54 section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to
55 all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section
56 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of
57 the powers vested with the general assembly under chapter 536 to
58 review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule
59 are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking
60 authority, and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2015, shall
61 be invalid and void.

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Bill

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