

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 897

90TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JACOB.

Read 1st time January 24, 2000, and 1,000 copies ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

3970S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 173.250, RSMo 1994, relating to the higher education academic scholarship program, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the same subject.

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

Section A. Section 173.250, RSMo 1994, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 173.250, to read as follows: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 173.205 shall be applicable to such terms as used in this section. The term "academic scholarship" means an amount of money paid by the state of Missouri to a qualified college or university student who has demonstrated superior academic achievement pursuant to the provisions of this section.

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

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

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. A student shall be eligible for initial or renewed academic scholarship if he or she is in compliance with the eligibility requirements set forth in section 173.215 excluding the requirement of financial need and undergraduate status, and in addition meets the following requirements:

(1) Initial academic scholarships shall be offered in the academic year immediately following graduation from high school to Missouri high school seniors whose composite scores on the American College Testing Program (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) of the College Board are in the top three percent of all Missouri students taking those tests during the school year in which the scholarship recipients graduate from high school. In the freshman year of college, scholarship recipients are required to maintain status as a full-time student;

(2) Academic scholarships are renewable if the recipient remains in compliance with the applicable provisions of section 173.215 and the recipient makes satisfactory academic degree progress as a full-time student.

5. A student who is enrolled or has been accepted for enrollment as a postsecondary student at an approved private or public institution beginning with the fall, 1987, term and who meets the other eligibility requirements for an academic scholarship shall, within the limits of the funds appropriated and made available, be offered an academic scholarship in the amount [of two thousand dollars] **specified in subsection 8 of this section** for the first academic year of study, which scholarship shall be renewable in the amount [of two thousand dollars] **specified in subsection 8 of this section** annually for the second, third and fourth academic years or as long as the recipient is in compliance with the applicable eligibility requirements set forth in section 173.215, provided those years of study are continuous and the student continues to meet eligibility requirements for the scholarship; provided, however, if a recipient ceases all attendance at an approved public or private 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, the recipient shall be eligible for a renewal scholarship upon return to any approved public or private institution, provided the recipient:

(1) Returns to full-time status within twenty-seven months;

(2) Provides verification in compliance with coordinating board for higher education rules 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 governmental agency or branch of the armed forces of the United States was satisfactorily completed; and

(3) Meets all other requirements established for eligibility to receive a renewal scholarship.

6. A recipient of academic scholarship awarded under this section may transfer from one

approved Missouri public or private institution to another without losing eligibility for the scholarship. If a recipient of the scholarship at any time withdraws from an approved private or public 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 scholarship for that term to the coordinating board for higher education.

7. Other provisions of this section to the contrary notwithstanding, if a recipient has been awarded an initial academic scholarship pursuant to the provisions of this section but is unable to use the scholarship during the first academic year because of illness, disability, pregnancy or other medical need or if a recipient ceases all attendance at an approved public or private institution because of illness, disability, pregnancy or other medical need, the recipient shall be eligible for an initial or renewal scholarship upon enrollment in or return to any approved public or private 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 initial or renewal scholarship during the time period for which it was originally offered; and
- (3) Meets all other requirements established for eligibility to receive an initial or a renewal scholarship.

8. The amount shall be:

- (1) Two thousand one hundred dollars for the 2000-2001 school year;**
- (2) Two thousand two hundred dollars for the 2001-2002 school year;**
- (3) Two thousand three hundred dollars for the 2002-2003 school year;**
- (4) Two thousand four hundred dollars for the 2003-2004 school year;**
- (5) Two thousand five hundred dollars for the 2004-2005 school year; and**
- (6) Shall be increased in the 2005-2006 school year and every school year thereafter above the previous year's amount based upon the average percent increase in tuition at the University of Missouri, as determined by the coordinating board for the second preceding school year to the preceding school year.**

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