

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 776
91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Reported from the Committee on Education - Higher, April 10, 2002, with recommendation that the House Committee Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 776 Do Pass.

TED WEDEL, Chief Clerk

3211L.03C

AN ACT

To repeal section 166.415, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to the Missouri higher education savings program.

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

Section A. Section 166.415, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 166.415 and 166.456, to read as follows:

166.415. 1. There is hereby created the "Missouri Higher Education Savings Program". The program shall be administered by the Missouri higher education savings program board which shall consist of the Missouri state treasurer who shall serve as chairman, the commissioner of the department of higher education, the commissioner of the office of administration, the director of the department of economic development and two persons having demonstrable experience and knowledge in the areas of finance or the investment and management of public funds, one of whom is selected by the president pro tem of the senate and one of whom is selected by the speaker of the house of representatives. The two appointed members shall be appointed to serve for terms of four years from the date of appointment, or until their successors shall have been appointed and shall have qualified. The members of the board shall be subject to the conflict of interest provisions of section 105.452, RSMo. Any member who violates the conflict of interest provisions shall be removed from the board. In order to establish and administer the savings program, the board, in addition to its other powers and authority, shall have the power and authority to:

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

(1) Develop and implement the Missouri higher education savings program and, notwithstanding any provision of sections 166.400 to 166.455 to the contrary, the savings programs and services consistent with the purposes and objectives of sections 166.400 to 166.455;

(2) Promulgate reasonable rules and regulations and establish policies and procedures to implement sections 166.400 to 166.455, to permit the savings program to qualify as a "qualified state tuition program" pursuant to Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code and to ensure the savings program's compliance with all applicable laws;

(3) Develop and implement educational programs and related informational materials for participants, either directly or through a contractual arrangement with a financial institution for investment services, and their families, including special programs and materials to inform families with young children regarding methods for financing education and training beyond high school;

(4) Enter into agreements with any financial institution, the state or any federal or other agency or entity as required for the operation of the savings program pursuant to sections 166.400 to 166.455;

(5) Enter into participation agreements with participants;

(6) Accept any grants, gifts, legislative appropriations, and other moneys from the state, any unit of federal, state, or local government or any other person, firm, partnership, or corporation for deposit to the account of the savings program;

(7) Invest the funds received from participants in appropriate investment instruments to achieve long-term total return through a combination of capital appreciation and current income;

(8) Make appropriate payments and distributions on behalf of beneficiaries pursuant to participation agreements;

(9) Make refunds to participants upon the termination of participation agreements pursuant to the provisions, limitations, and restrictions set forth in sections 166.400 to 166.455 and the rules adopted by the board;

(10) Make provision for the payment of costs of administration and operation of the savings program;

(11) Effectuate and carry out all the powers granted by sections 166.400 to 166.455, and have all other powers necessary to carry out and effectuate the purposes, objectives and provisions of sections 166.400 to 166.455 pertaining to the savings program; and

(12) Procure insurance, guarantees or other protections against any loss in connection with the assets or activities of the savings program.

2. Any member of the board may designate a proxy for that member who will enjoy the full voting privileges of that member for the one meeting so specified by that member. No more than three proxies shall be considered members of the board for the purpose of establishing a quorum.

3. Four members of the board shall constitute a quorum. No vacancy in the membership of the

board shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the rights and perform all the duties of the board. No action shall be taken by the board except upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present.

[3.] **4.** The board shall meet within the state of Missouri at the time set at a previously scheduled meeting or by the request of any four members of the board. Notice of the meeting shall be delivered to all other trustees in person or by depositing notice in a United States post office in a properly stamped and addressed envelope not less than six days prior to the date fixed for the meeting. The board may meet at any time by unanimous mutual consent. There shall be at least one meeting in each quarter.

[4.] **5.** The funds shall be invested only in those investments which a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with these matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims, as provided in section 105.688, RSMo. The board may delegate to duly appointed investment counselors authority to act in place of the board in the investment and reinvestment of all or part of the moneys and may also delegate to such counselors the authority to act in place of the board in the holding, purchasing, selling, assigning, transferring or disposing of any or all of the securities and investments in which such moneys shall have been invested, as well as the proceeds of such investments and such moneys. Such investment counselors shall be registered as investment advisors with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. In exercising or delegating its investment powers and authority, members of the board shall exercise ordinary business care and prudence under the facts and circumstances prevailing at the time of the action or decision. No member of the board shall be liable for any action taken or omitted with respect to the exercise of, or delegation of, these powers and authority if such member shall have discharged the duties of his or her position in good faith and with that degree of diligence, care and skill which a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with these matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims.

[5.] **6.** No investment transaction authorized by the board shall be handled by any company or firm in which a member of the board has a substantial interest, nor shall any member of the board profit directly or indirectly from any such investment.

[6.] **7.** No trustee or employee of the savings program shall receive any gain or profit from any funds or transaction of the savings program. Any trustee, employee or agent of the savings program accepting any gratuity or compensation for the purpose of influencing such trustee's, employee's or agent's action with respect to the investment or management of the funds of the savings program shall thereby forfeit the office and in addition thereto be subject to the penalties prescribed for bribery.

166.456. All personally identifiable information concerning participants and beneficiaries of accounts established within the Missouri higher education savings program pursuant to sections 166.400 to 166.455 shall be confidential, and any disclosure of such information shall be restricted to purposes directly connected with the administration of the program.