

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 116

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR BRAY.

Pre-filed December 10, 2008, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

0255S.021

AN ACT

To amend chapter 160, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the persistence to graduation fund.

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

Section A. Chapter 160, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new
2 section, to be known as section 160.950, to read as follows:

160.950. 1. There is hereby created in the state treasury the
2 "Persistence to Graduation Fund", which shall consist of money
3 collected under this section. The state treasurer shall be custodian of
4 the fund and may approve disbursements from the fund in accordance
5 with sections 30.170 and 30.180, RSMo. Upon appropriation, money in
6 the fund shall be used solely for the administration of this section. Any
7 moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall revert
8 to the credit of the general revenue fund. The state treasurer shall
9 invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are
10 invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be
11 credited to the fund. The fund shall be administered by the department
12 of elementary and secondary education.

13 2. The department of elementary and secondary education shall
14 establish a procedure whereby seven-director, urban, and metropolitan
15 school districts may apply for grant awards from the Persistence to
16 Graduation Fund in order for such districts to implement drop-out
17 prevention strategies. Successful applicants under this section shall be
18 awarded grants for one to five consecutive years. Upon expiration of
19 the initial grant, the district may reapply for an extension of the grant
20 award for a period of time deemed appropriate by both the district and

21 the department. The department of elementary and secondary
22 education shall give preference to school districts that propose a
23 holistic approach to drop-out prevention, directed at a broad array of
24 students, from the pre-kindergarten level through early adulthood,
25 including the following characteristics:

26 (1) A collaborative approach between the school district and
27 various community organizations, including non-profit organizations,
28 local governmental organizations, law enforcement agencies, "approved
29 public institutions" and "approved private institutions" as such terms are
30 defined in section 173.1102, RSMo, and institutions able to deliver
31 proven, research-based intervention services;

32 (2) Early intervention strategies, including family engagement,
33 early childhood education, early literacy development, family literacy,
34 and mental health detection and treatment;

35 (3) Increased accountability measures that track at-risk students
36 that leave the district;

37 (4) The implementation or augmentation of the following basic
38 core strategies for drop-out prevention:

39 (a) Mentoring;

40 (b) Tutoring;

41 (c) Alternative Schooling;

42 (d) Career and Technical Education; and

43 (e) Before or After School Programs;

44 (5) The implementation of early intervention strategies for
45 students who display strong indicators that they will not persist to
46 graduation.

47 3. Grants awarded under this section shall be available to school
48 districts that have a student population of which sixty percent or
49 greater is eligible for a free and reduced lunch on the last Wednesday
50 in January for the preceding school year who were enrolled as students
51 of the district, as approved by the department of elementary and
52 secondary education in accordance with applicable federal regulations.

53 4. The department of elementary and secondary education shall
54 promulgate rules, no later than January 15, 2010, for the implementation
55 of this section, including:

56 (1) A procedure by which funds shall be allocated to the applying
57 school districts; and

58 **(2) A means to judge the effectiveness of the drop-out prevention**
59 **programs of the districts that receive grants under this program.**

60 **Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010,**
61 **RSMo, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall**
62 **become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the**
63 **provisions of chapter 536, RSMo, and, if applicable, section 536.028,**
64 **RSMo. This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable and if any**
65 **of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536,**
66 **RSMo, to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul**
67 **a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of**
68 **rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28,**
69 **2009, shall be invalid and void.**

70 **5. The department of elementary and secondary education may**
71 **cease award payments to any district at any time if the department**
72 **determines that such funds are being misused or if the district's drop-**
73 **out prevention program is deemed to be ineffectual. Any decision to**
74 **discontinue payments of such funds shall be presented to the applicable**
75 **district in writing at least thirty days prior to the cessation of fund**
76 **payments.**

77 **6. The department of elementary and secondary education shall**
78 **report to the general assembly and to the governor, no later than**
79 **January fifteenth annually:**

80 **(1) The recipients and amounts of the grants awarded under this**
81 **section; and**

82 **(2) The persistence to graduation data from the preceding five**
83 **years for each district awarded grants under this section.**

84 **7. The general assembly shall annually appropriate an amount**
85 **equivalent to one percent of state funding for elementary and secondary**
86 **education to fund the provisions of this section.**

87 **8. Pursuant to section 23.253, RSMo, of the Missouri sunset act:**

88 **(1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this**
89 **section shall sunset automatically six years after the effective date of**
90 **this section unless reauthorized by an act of the general assembly; and**

91 **(2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized**
92 **under this section shall sunset automatically twelve years after the**
93 **effective date of the reauthorization of this section; and**

94 **(3) This section shall terminate on September first of the calendar**

95 year immediately following the calendar year in which the program
96 authorized under this section is sunset.

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Unofficial

Bill

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