

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 314

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SMITH.

Read 1st time February 5, 2009, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

1720S.011

## AN ACT

To amend chapter 162, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the Missouri preschool plus grant program.

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

Section A. Chapter 162, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 162.1168, to read as follows:

**162.1168. 1. There is hereby established a pilot program within the Missouri preschool project to be known as the "Missouri Preschool Plus Grant Program", which shall serve up to one thousand two hundred fifty students with high quality early childhood educational services in order to improve school readiness outcomes. The program shall be administered by the department of elementary and secondary education in collaboration with the coordinating board for early childhood. Grants shall be awarded in this section for three years and shall be renewable. The program shall be funded through appropriations to the Missouri preschool plus grant program fund. Funds from the gaming commission fund created in section 313.835 shall not be used to fund the program.**

**2. For purposes of this section, the following terms shall mean:**

**(1) "Department", the department of elementary and secondary education;**

**(2) "Program", the Missouri preschool plus grant program.**

**3. Grantees shall include the following:**

**(1) School districts classified as unaccredited by the state board of education; or**

**(2) Nonsectarian community-based organizations located within**

21 a school district classified as unaccredited by the state board of  
22 education.

23 4. If a school district becomes classified as provisionally  
24 accredited or accredited by the state board of education, the school  
25 district may complete the length of an existing grant and shall be  
26 eligible for one additional renewal for three years.

27 5. To receive a preschool placement under this section, a child  
28 shall be one or two years away from kindergarten entry.

29 6. The Missouri preschool plus grant program shall comply with  
30 the standards developed under section 161.213, RSMo. Public school  
31 grantees shall employ teachers with a bachelor's degree. Nonsectarian  
32 community-based organizations may employ teachers with at least an  
33 associate's degree provided such teachers demonstrate they are on the  
34 path to obtaining a bachelor's degree within five years.

35 7. Families with incomes less than one hundred thirty percent of  
36 the federal poverty guidelines shall receive free services through  
37 eligible grantees. Families with incomes at or above one hundred  
38 thirty percent of the federal poverty guidelines may be charged a co-  
39 pay on a sliding scale, as established by the department.

40 8. At least fifty percent of the preschool placements funded by  
41 the program shall be offered through non-sectarian community-based  
42 organizations.

43 9. The department shall develop standards for teacher-pupil  
44 ratios, classroom size, teacher training and educational attainment, and  
45 curriculum.

46 10. Grantees participating in the program shall give admission  
47 preference to dependents of active duty military personnel.

48 11. School districts in which such pilot programs exist shall  
49 collect data about short-term and long-term student performance so  
50 that the program may be evaluated on quantitative measurements  
51 developed by the department. For purposes of this subsection, "long-  
52 term" shall mean from point of entry to graduation from high school.

53 12. Grantees shall coordinate preschool programs with the  
54 nearest parents as teachers site to ensure a continuum of care.

55 13. The department shall accept applications in a competitive bid  
56 process to begin implementation of the program for the 2010-2011

57 school year.

58 14. The department shall promulgate rules and regulations  
59 necessary to implement this section by January 1, 2010. Any rule or  
60 portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, RSMo, that  
61 is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become  
62 effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions  
63 of chapter 536, RSMo, and, if applicable, section 536.028, RSMo. This  
64 section and chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable and if any of the  
65 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  
69 28, 2009, shall be invalid and void.

70 15. The general assembly shall appropriate an amount sufficient  
71 to adequately fund the provisions of this section, which shall be a  
72 minimum of five million dollars in any fiscal year.

73 16. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Missouri  
74 Preschool Plus Grant Program Fund" which shall consist of general  
75 revenue appropriated to the program, funds received from the federal  
76 government, and voluntary contributions to support or match program  
77 activities. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund and may  
78 approve disbursements from the fund in accordance with sections  
79 30.170 and 30.180, RSMo. Upon appropriation, money in the fund shall  
80 be used solely for the administration of this section. Any moneys  
81 remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall revert to the  
82 credit of the general revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest  
83 moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are  
84 invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be  
85 credited to the fund.

86 17. Pursuant to section 23.253, RSMo, of the Missouri sunset act:

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

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

93           **(3) This section shall terminate on September first of the**  
94 **calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the**  
95 **program authorized under this section is sunset.**

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