SECOND REGULAR SESSION SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 772

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Reported from the Committee on Financial and Governmental Organizations and Elections, February 11, 2010, with recommendation that the Senate Committee Substitute do pass and be placed on the Consent Calendar.

3986S.02C TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

AN ACT

To repeal sections 166.420 and 166.532, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to higher education savings programs.

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

Section A. Sections 166.420 and 166.532, RSMo, are repealed and one new

- section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 166.420, to read as follows:
 - 166.420. 1. The board may enter into savings program participation
- 2 agreements with participants on behalf of beneficiaries pursuant to the provisions
- 3 of sections 166.400 to 166.455, including the following terms and conditions:
- 4 (1) A participation agreement shall stipulate the terms and conditions of
- 5 the savings program in which the participant makes contributions;
- 6 (2) A participation agreement shall specify the method for calculating the 7 return on the contribution made by the participant;
- 8 (3) The execution of a participation agreement by the board shall not
- 9 guarantee that the beneficiary named in any participation agreement will be
- 10 admitted to an eligible educational institution, be allowed to continue to attend
- 11 an eligible educational institution after having been admitted or will graduate
- 12 from an eligible educational institution;
- 13 (4) A participation agreement shall clearly and prominently disclose to
- 14 participants the risk associated with depositing moneys with the board;
- 15 (5) Participation agreements shall be organized and presented in a way
- 16 and with language that is easily understandable by the general public; and
- 17 (6) A participation agreement shall clearly and prominently disclose to
- 18 participants the existence of any load charge or similar charge assessed against

19 the accounts of the participants for administration or services.

20 2. The board shall establish the maximum amount which may be 21 contributed annually by a participant with respect to a beneficiary.

- 3. The board shall establish a total contribution limit for savings accounts established under the savings program with respect to a beneficiary to permit the savings program to qualify as a "qualified state tuition program" pursuant to Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. No contribution may be made to a savings account for a beneficiary if it would cause the balance of all savings accounts of the beneficiary to exceed the total contribution limit established by the board. The board may establish other requirements that it deems appropriate to provide adequate safeguards to prevent contributions on behalf of a beneficiary from exceeding what is necessary to provide for the qualified higher education expenses of the beneficiary.
 - 4. The board shall establish the minimum length of time that contributions and earnings must be held by the savings program to qualify pursuant to section 166.435[, provided that the minimum length of time shall be at least twelve months for the amount of any single contribution]. Any contributions or earnings that are withdrawn or distributed from a savings account prior to the expiration of the minimum length of time, as established by the board, shall be subject to a penalty pursuant to section 166.430.

[166.532. Pursuant to section 23.253, RSMo, of the Missouri sunset act:

- (1) The provisions of the new program authorized under sections 166.500 to 166.532 shall automatically sunset six years after August 28, 2004, unless reauthorized by an act of the general assembly; and
- (2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized under sections 166.500 to 166.532 shall automatically sunset twelve years after the effective date of the reauthorization of sections 166.500 to 166.532; and
- (3) Sections 166.500 to 166.532 shall terminate on September first of the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the program authorized under sections 166.500 to 166.532 is sunset.]

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