

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 980

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR PEARCE.

Read 1st time February 22, 2010, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

5197S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 160.254, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to early childhood education.

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

Section A. Section 160.254, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 160.254, to read as follows:

160.254. 1. There is hereby established a joint committee of the general
2 assembly, which shall be known as the "Joint Committee on Education", which
3 shall be composed of seven members of the senate and seven members of the
4 house of representatives. The senate members of the committee shall be
5 appointed by the president pro tem of the senate and the house members by the
6 speaker of the house.

7 2. The committee shall meet at least twice a year. In the event of three
8 consecutive absences on the part of any member, such member may be removed
9 from the committee.

10 3. The committee shall select either a chairman or cochairmen, one of
11 whom shall be a member of the senate and one a member of the house. A
12 majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. Meetings of the committee
13 may be called at such time and place as the chairman or chairmen designate.

14 4. The committee shall:

15 (1) Review and monitor the progress of education in the state's public
16 schools and institutions of higher education;

17 (2) Receive reports from the commissioner of education concerning the
18 public schools and from the commissioner of higher education concerning
19 institutions of higher education;

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

- 20 (3) Conduct a study and analysis of the public school system;
- 21 (4) Make recommendations to the general assembly for legislative action;
- 22 (5) Conduct an in-depth study concerning all issues relating to the equity
23 and adequacy of the distribution of state school aid, teachers' salaries, funding
24 for school buildings, and overall funding levels for schools and any other
25 education funding-related issues the committee deems relevant;
- 26 (6) Monitor the establishment of performance measures as required by
27 section 173.1006, RSMo, and report on their establishment to the governor and
28 the general assembly;
- 29 (7) Conduct studies and analysis regarding:
- 30 (a) The higher education system, including financing public higher
31 education and the provision of financial aid for higher education; and
- 32 (b) The feasibility of including students enrolled in proprietary schools,
33 as that term is defined in section 173.600, RSMo, in all state-based financial aid
34 programs;
- 35 (8) Annually review the collection of information under section 173.093,
36 RSMo, to facilitate a more accurate comparison of the actual costs at public and
37 private higher education institutions;
- 38 (9) Within three years of August 28, 2007, review a new model for the
39 funding of public higher education institutions upon submission of such model by
40 the coordinating board for higher education;
- 41 (10) Within three years of August 28, 2007, review the impact of the
42 higher education student funding act established in sections 173.1000 to
43 173.1006;
- 44 (11) Beginning August 28, 2008, upon review, approve or deny any
45 expenditures made by the commissioner of education pursuant to section 160.530,
46 as provided in subsection 5 of section 160.530.
- 47 5. During the legislative interim between the first regular session of the
48 ninety-fifth general assembly through January 29, 2010, of the second regular
49 session of the ninety-fifth general assembly, the joint committee on education
50 shall study the issue of open enrollment for public school students across school
51 district boundary lines in this state. In studying this issue, the joint committee
52 may solicit input and information necessary to fulfill its obligation, including but
53 not limited to soliciting input and information from any state department, state
54 agency, school district, political subdivisions of this state, teachers, and the
55 general public. The joint committee shall prepare a final report, together with

56 its recommendations for any legislative action deemed necessary for submission
57 to the general assembly by December 31, 2009.

58 **6. The committee shall conduct a study on the issue of voluntary**
59 **prekindergarten in Missouri and prepare a final report, together with**
60 **any recommendations for legislative action, for submission to the**
61 **general assembly by December 1, 2010. The study should include:**

62 **(1) The current access three and four year olds have to publicly**
63 **and privately funded voluntary prekindergarten in Missouri;**

64 **(2) Existing analyses of public and private funding strategies for**
65 **prekindergarten within Missouri and other states, including strategies**
66 **for blending funding for prekindergarten, parenting education, and**
67 **infants and toddlers; and**

68 **(3) Current research from other states on the impact of state**
69 **early childhood education initiatives on school readiness outcomes and**
70 **any other immediate or long-term benefits.**

71 **7. The committee may make reasonable requests for staff assistance from**
72 **the research and appropriations staffs of the house and senate and the committee**
73 **on legislative research, as well as the department of elementary and secondary**
74 **education, the department of higher education, the coordinating board for higher**
75 **education, the coordinating board for early childhood, the state tax**
76 **commission, the department of economic development, all school districts and**
77 **other political subdivisions of this state, teachers and teacher groups, business**
78 **and other commercial interests and any other interested persons.**

79 **[7.] 8. Members of the committee shall receive no compensation but may**
80 **be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses associated with the**
81 **performance of their official duties.**

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