

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 735

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATORS NIEVES AND ENGLER.

Read 1st time February 1, 2012, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

4190S.031

AN ACT

To repeal section 162.1250, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to virtual schools.

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

Section A. Section 162.1250, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 162.1250, to read as follows:

162.1250. 1. School districts shall receive state school funding under
2 sections 163.031, 163.043, and 163.087 for resident students who are enrolled in
3 the school district and who are taking a virtual course or full-time virtual
4 program offered by the school district. The school district may offer instruction
5 in a virtual setting using technology, intranet, and Internet methods of
6 communications that could take place outside of the regular school district
7 facility. The school district may develop a virtual program for any grade level,
8 kindergarten through twelfth grade, with the courses available in accordance with
9 district policy to any resident student of the district who is enrolled in the school
10 district. Nothing in this section shall preclude a private, parochial, or home
11 school student residing within a school district offering virtual courses or virtual
12 programs from enrolling in the school district in accordance with the combined
13 enrollment provisions of section 167.031 for the purposes of participating in the
14 virtual courses or virtual programs.

15 2. Charter schools shall receive state school funding under section 160.415
16 for students enrolled in the charter school who are completing a virtual course or
17 full-time virtual program offered by the charter school. Charter schools may offer
18 instruction in a virtual setting using technology, intranet, and Internet methods
19 of communications. The charter school may develop a virtual program for any

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

20 grade level, kindergarten through twelfth grade, with the courses available in
21 accordance with school policy and the charter school's charter to any student
22 enrolled in the charter school.

23 3. For purposes of calculation and distribution of state school funding,
24 attendance of a student enrolled in a district or charter school virtual class shall
25 equal, upon course completion, ninety-four percent of the hours of attendance
26 possible for such class delivered in the nonvirtual program in the student's
27 resident district or charter school. Course completion shall be calculated in two
28 increments, fifty percent completion and one hundred percent completion, based
29 on the student's completion of defined assignments and assessments, with
30 distribution of state funding to a school district or charter school at each
31 increment equal to forty-seven percent of hours of attendance possible for such
32 course delivered in the nonvirtual program in a student's school district of
33 residence or charter school.

34 4. **Any student who is a resident of this state may enroll in a**
35 **school district other than his or her school district of residence or in**
36 **a charter school for the purpose of attending virtual courses or**
37 **programs. For purposes of this subsection, "virtual nonresident**
38 **students" shall mean nonresident students who enroll in a school**
39 **district or charter school for the purpose of attending virtual courses**
40 **or programs. School districts or charter schools may enroll any virtual**
41 **nonresident student. School districts and charter schools shall admit**
42 **students under this subsection based on the time of submission of an**
43 **application for enrollment until full capacity is reached. A school**
44 **district or charter school shall give a preference to a sibling of a**
45 **student already enrolled. A student who enrolls in another school**
46 **district or charter school under this subsection may remain enrolled**
47 **until he or she has completed all grade levels offered or he or she**
48 **withdraws from the school. For purposes of calculation and**
49 **distribution of state school funding for virtual nonresident students,**
50 **the virtual nonresident student shall be included in the average daily**
51 **attendance of his or her school district of residence. The virtual**
52 **nonresident student's district of residence shall pay the school district**
53 **or charter school providing such virtual education an amount equal to**
54 **seventy-two and one-half percent of the previous year's statewide**
55 **average current expenditure per average daily attendance but not to**

56 exceed the school district's current expenditure per average daily
57 attendance, provided that the total amount paid by any district shall
58 not exceed the total amount due to the district under subsections 1 and
59 2 of section 163.031.

60 5. In addition to those entities which may sponsor charter
61 schools under section 160.400, any institution of higher education with
62 its primary campus located in Missouri with an approved teacher
63 education program may sponsor virtual charter schools. Virtual
64 charter schools are charter schools and subject to all of the applicable
65 provisions of sections 160.400 to 160.420 and this section. Virtual
66 charter schools may only offer instruction in a virtual setting using
67 technology, intranet and internet methods of communication.

68 6. When courses are purchased from an outside vendor, the district or
69 charter school shall ensure that they are aligned with the show-me curriculum
70 standards and comply with state requirements for teacher certification. The state
71 board of education reserves the right to request information and materials
72 sufficient to evaluate the online course. Online classes should be considered like
73 any other class offered by the school district or charter school.

74 [5.] 7. Any school district or charter school that offers instruction in a
75 virtual setting, develops a virtual course or courses, or develops a virtual program
76 of instruction shall ensure that the following standards are satisfied:

77 (1) The virtual course or virtual program utilizes appropriate
78 content-specific tools and software;

79 (2) Orientation training is available for teachers, instructors, and students
80 as needed;

81 (3) Privacy policies are stated and made available to teachers, instructors,
82 and students;

83 (4) Academic integrity and Internet etiquette expectations regarding
84 lesson activities, discussions, electronic communications, and plagiarism are
85 stated to teachers, instructors, and students prior to the beginning of the virtual
86 course or virtual program;

87 (5) Computer system requirements, including hardware, web browser, and
88 software, are specified to participants;

89 (6) The virtual course or virtual program architecture, software, and
90 hardware permit the online teacher or instructor to add content, activities, and
91 assessments to extend learning opportunities;

92 (7) The virtual course or virtual program makes resources available by
93 alternative means, including but not limited to, video and podcasts;

94 (8) Resources and notes are available for teachers and instructors in
95 addition to assessment and assignment answers and explanations;

96 (9) Technical support and course management are available to the virtual
97 course or virtual program teacher and school coordinator;

98 (10) The virtual course or virtual program includes assignments, projects,
99 and assessments that are aligned with students' different visual, auditory, and
100 hands-on learning styles;

101 (11) The virtual course or virtual program demonstrates the ability to
102 effectively use and incorporate subject-specific and developmentally appropriate
103 software in an online learning module; and

104 (12) The virtual course or virtual program arranges media and content to
105 help transfer knowledge most effectively in the online environment.

106 [6.] 8. Any special school district shall count any student's completion of
107 a virtual course or program in the same manner as the district counts completion
108 of any other course or program for credit.

109 [7.] 9. A school district or charter school may contract with multiple
110 providers of virtual courses or virtual programs, provided they meet the criteria
111 for virtual courses or virtual programs under this section.

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