

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 941

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATORS CURLS, RUPP AND SILVEY.

Read 1st time February 26, 2014, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

5948S.02I

AN ACT

To repeal section 173.670, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to course work leading to industry certification.

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

Section A. Section 173.670, RSMo, is repealed and three new sections
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 173.670, 173.675, and 173.680,
3 to read as follows:

173.670. 1. There is hereby established within the department of higher
2 education the "Missouri Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
3 Initiative". The department of higher education may award matching funds
4 through this initiative to public institutions of higher education as part of the
5 annual appropriations process.

6 2. The purpose of the initiative shall be to provide support to increase
7 interest among elementary, secondary, and university students in fields of study
8 related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and to increase the
9 number of Missouri graduates in these fields at Missouri's public two- and
10 four-year institutions of higher education.

11 3. There is hereby created a "Science, Technology, Engineering and
12 Mathematics Fund", which shall consist of money collected under this
13 section. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund and may approve
14 disbursements from the fund in accordance with sections 30.170 and
15 30.180. Upon appropriation, money in the fund shall be used solely for the
16 administration of this section. Any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of
17 the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund. The state
18 treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are
19 invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited

20 to the fund.

21 4. **As part of the initiative, the department of higher education**
22 **shall develop a process to award grants to Missouri public two- and**
23 **four-year institutions of higher education and school districts that have**
24 **entered into articulation agreements to offer information technology**
25 **certification through technical course work leading to postsecondary**
26 **academic credit through the program established in section 173.675.**

27 5. The general assembly may appropriate funds to the science, technology,
28 engineering, and mathematics fund to match institution funds to support the
29 following programs:

30 (1) Endowed teaching professor programs, which provide funds to support
31 faculty who teach undergraduate courses in science, technology, engineering, or
32 mathematics fields at public institutions of higher education;

33 (2) Scholarship programs, which provide financial aid or loan forgiveness
34 awards to Missouri students who study in the science, technology, engineering,
35 or mathematics fields or who plan to enter the teaching field in Missouri with an
36 emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics areas;

37 (3) Experiential youth programs at public colleges or universities,
38 designed to provide Missouri middle school, junior high, and high school students
39 with the opportunity to experience science, technology, engineering, and
40 mathematics fields through camps or other educational offerings;

41 (4) Career enhancement programs for current elementary and secondary
42 teachers and professors at Missouri public and private colleges and universities
43 in the science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields to improve the
44 quality of teaching.

173.675. 1. The department of higher education shall develop a
2 **program to offer information technology certification through technical**
3 **course work that leads to postsecondary academic credit. The program**
4 **shall be available to students enrolled in a public high school in**
5 **Missouri that has entered into an articulation agreement with a**
6 **Missouri public two- or four-year institution of higher education to**
7 **offer such course work. The program shall provide instruction on skills**
8 **and competencies essential for the workplace and requested by**
9 **employers and shall include the following components:**

10 (1) **A web-enabled online curriculum;**

11 (2) **Instructional software for classroom and student use;**

- 12 **(3) Training for teachers to advance technical education skills;**
13 **(4) Industry recognized skills certification; and**
14 **(5) Integration with existing education standards.**

15 **2. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section**
16 **536.010 that is created under the authority delegated in this section**
17 **shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of**
18 **the provisions of chapter 536, and, if applicable, section 536.028. This**
19 **section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers**
20 **vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, to review, to**
21 **delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are**
22 **subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking**
23 **authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2014, shall**
24 **be invalid and void.**

173.680. 1. The department of higher education shall conduct a
2 **study to identify the information technology industry certifications**
3 **most frequently requested by employers in Missouri. The department**
4 **of higher education may conduct the study with the assistance of other**
5 **state departments and agencies, the Missouri mathematics and science**
6 **coalition, and the governor's advisory council on science, technology,**
7 **engineering, and mathematical issues.**

8 **2. The department of higher education shall complete the study**
9 **no later than January 31, 2015. The department shall prepare the**
10 **findings in a report and provide it to:**

- 11 **(1) The president pro tempore of the senate;**
12 **(2) The speaker of the house of representatives;**
13 **(3) The joint committee on education;**
14 **(4) The governor;**
15 **(5) The coordinating board for higher education; and**
16 **(6) The state board of education.**

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