

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

[P E R F E C T E D]

SENATE BILL NO. 997

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR PEARCE.

Read 1st time February 1, 2016, and ordered printed.

Read 2nd time February 4, 2016, and referred to the Committee on Education.

Reported from the Committee February 25, 2016, with recommendation that the bill do pass.

Taken up for Perfection March 1, 2016. Bill declared Perfected and Ordered Printed, as amended.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

6305S.01P

AN ACT

To repeal section 173.234, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof six new sections relating to higher education, with an emergency clause for a certain section.

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

Section A. Section 173.234, RSMo, is repealed and six new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 173.234, 173.2500, 173.2505, 173.2510, 173.2515, and 173.2520, to read as follows:

173.234. 1. As used in this section, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following terms mean:

- (1) "Board", the coordinating board for higher education;
- (2) "Books", any books required for any course for which tuition was paid by a grant awarded under this section;
- (3) "Eligible student", the natural, adopted, or stepchild of a qualifying military member, who is less than twenty-five years of age and who was a dependent of a qualifying military member at the time of death or injury **or within five years subsequent to the injury**, or the spouse of a qualifying military member which was the spouse of a veteran at the time of death or injury **or within five years subsequent to the injury**;
- (4) "Grant", the veteran's survivors grant as established in this section;
- (5) "Institution of postsecondary education", any approved Missouri public institution of postsecondary education, as defined in subdivision (3) of section 173.1102;

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

16 (6) "Qualifying military member", any member of the military of the
17 United States, whether active duty, reserve, or National Guard, who served in the
18 military after September 11, 2001, during time of war and for whom the following
19 criteria apply:

20 (a) A veteran was a Missouri resident when first entering the military
21 service or at the time of death or injury;

22 (b) A veteran died or was injured as a result of combat action or a
23 veteran's death or injury was certified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs
24 medical authority to be attributable to an illness or accident that occurred while
25 serving in combat, or became eighty percent disabled as a result of injuries or
26 accidents sustained in combat action after September 11, 2001; and

27 (c) "Combat veteran", a Missouri resident who is discharged for active
28 duty service having served since September 11, 2001, and received a DD214 in
29 a geographic area entitled to receive combat pay tax exclusion exemption,
30 hazardous duty pay, or imminent danger pay, or hostile fire pay;

31 (7) "Survivor", an eligible student of a qualifying military member;

32 (8) "Tuition", any tuition or incidental fee, or both, charged by an
33 institution of postsecondary education for attendance at the institution by a
34 student as a resident of this state. The tuition grant shall not exceed the amount
35 of tuition charged a Missouri resident at the University of Missouri-Columbia for
36 attendance.

37 2. Within the limits of the amounts appropriated therefor, the
38 coordinating board for higher education shall award annually up to twenty-five
39 grants to survivors of qualifying military members to attend institutions of
40 postsecondary education in this state, which shall continue to be awarded
41 annually to eligible recipients as long as the recipient achieves and maintains a
42 cumulative grade point average of at least two and one-half on a four-point scale,
43 or its equivalent. If the waiting list of eligible survivors exceeds fifty, the
44 coordinating board may petition the general assembly to expand the quota. If the
45 quota is not expanded, then the eligibility of survivors on the waiting list shall
46 be extended.

47 3. A survivor may receive a grant under this section only so long as the
48 survivor is enrolled in a program leading to a certificate, or an associate or
49 baccalaureate degree. In no event shall a survivor receive a grant beyond the
50 completion of the first baccalaureate degree, regardless of age.

51 4. The coordinating board for higher education shall:

52 (1) Promulgate all necessary rules and regulations for the implementation
53 of this section; and

54 (2) Provide the forms and determine the procedures necessary for a
55 survivor to apply for and receive a grant under this section.

56 5. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010,
57 that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective
58 only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and,
59 if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and
60 if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to
61 review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are
62 subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and
63 any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2008, shall be invalid and void.

64 6. In order to be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a survivor
65 shall be certified as eligible by the Missouri veterans' commission.

66 7. A survivor who is enrolled or has been accepted for enrollment as an
67 undergraduate postsecondary student at an approved institution of postsecondary
68 education, and who is selected to receive a grant under this section, shall receive
69 the following:

70 (1) An amount not to exceed the actual tuition charged at the approved
71 institution of postsecondary education where the survivor is enrolled or accepted
72 for enrollment;

73 (2) An allowance of up to two thousand dollars per semester for room and
74 board; and

75 (3) The actual cost of books, up to a maximum of five hundred dollars per
76 semester.

77 8. A survivor who is a recipient of a grant may transfer from one approved
78 public institution of postsecondary education to another without losing his or her
79 entitlement under this section. The board shall make necessary adjustments in
80 the amount of the grant. If a grant recipient at any time withdraws from the
81 institution of postsecondary education so that under the rules and regulations of
82 that institution he or she is entitled to a refund of any tuition, fees, room and
83 board, books, or other charges, the institution shall pay the portion of the refund
84 to which he or she is entitled attributable to the grant for that semester or
85 similar grading period to the board.

86 9. If a survivor is granted financial assistance under any other student
87 aid program, public or private, the full amount of such aid shall be reported to

88 the board by the institution and the eligible survivor.

89 10. Nothing in this section shall be construed as a promise or guarantee
90 that a person will be admitted to an institution of postsecondary education or to
91 a particular institution of postsecondary education, will be allowed to continue to
92 attend an institution of postsecondary education after having been admitted, or
93 will be graduated from an institution of postsecondary education.

94 11. The benefits conferred by this section shall be available to any
95 academically eligible student of a qualifying military member. Surviving children
96 who are eligible shall be permitted to apply for full benefits conferred by this
97 section until they reach twenty-five years of age.

98 12. Pursuant to section 23.253 of the Missouri sunset act:

99 (1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this section shall
100 [sunset automatically six years after August 28, 2008] **be reauthorized as of**
101 **the effective date of this act and shall expire on August 28, 2020**, unless
102 reauthorized by an act of the general assembly; and

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

106 (3) This section shall terminate on September first of the calendar year
107 immediately following the calendar year in which the program authorized under
108 this section is sunset.

173.2500. 1. As used in this section, the following terms shall
2 mean:

3 (1) "Approved dual credit provider", a board approved,
4 accredited Missouri higher education institution that provides dual
5 credit courses;

6 (2) "Board", coordinating board for higher education;

7 (3) "Department", department of higher education;

8 (4) "Dual credit courses", college level coursework delivered by
9 a postsecondary education institution and taught in the high school by
10 instructors with appropriate academic credentials to high school
11 students who are earning high school and college credit
12 simultaneously.

13 2. Each institution of higher education desiring to become or
14 remain an approved dual credit provider in this state shall annually
15 make written application to the board on forms furnished by the

16 board. Such application shall include at a minimum the identification
17 of all locations where the institution will offer dual credit courses, the
18 courses the institution plans to offer, and the fee the institution will
19 charge students per credit hour.

20 3. The department shall review the application and may conduct
21 an investigation of the applicant to ensure compliance with the rules
22 and regulations promulgated under this section. A dual credit course
23 may not be advertised or represented as being delivered by an
24 approved dual credit provider in the absence of approval of the
25 application by the board.

26 4. The department shall maintain a listing of all approved dual
27 credit providers and shall make that listing publicly available,
28 including through appropriate electronic media.

29 5. The board may promulgate administrative rules to implement
30 this section, including parameters for the approval of dual credit
31 providers and establishing appropriate fees as needed to generate
32 funding sufficient to cover the entirety of costs associated with
33 operation of the dual credit provider certification process established
34 in this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in
35 section 536.010 that is created under the authority delegated in this
36 section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to
37 all of the provisions of chapter 536, and, if applicable, section
38 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of
39 the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536,
40 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule
41 are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking
42 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2016, shall
43 be invalid and void.

44 6. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Dual
45 Credit Certification Fund", which shall consist of money collected
46 under this section. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund.
47 In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may
48 approve disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and money
49 in the fund shall be used solely by the department for the purpose of
50 funding the costs associated with the operation of the dual credit
51 certification process authorized by this section.

52 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the

53 contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium
54 shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund.

55 (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the
56 same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys
57 earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.

173.2505. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "Dual Credit Scholarship Act".

3 2. To be eligible to receive the dual credit scholarship, a student
4 shall:

5 (1) Be a United States citizen or permanent resident;

6 (2) Be a Missouri resident as defined by the coordinating board
7 for higher education pursuant to section 173.005;

8 (3) Be enrolled in a dual credit program offered by an approved
9 dual credit provider, as defined in section 173.2500;

10 (4) Have a cumulative high school grade point average of at least
11 two and a half on a four point scale or equivalent; and

12 (5) Meet one or more of the following indicators of economic
13 need:

14 (a) Be individually eligible to be enrolled in a federal free or
15 reduced-price lunch program, based on income levels established by the
16 United States Department of Agriculture;

17 (b) Reside in a foster home, be a ward of the state, or be
18 homeless; or

19 (c) Receive low-income public assistance, such as the
20 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or the Special
21 Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children
22 (WIC), or live in federally subsidized public housing.

23 3. The dual credit scholarship is hereby created to provide
24 financial assistance to high school students enrolling in dual credit
25 courses offered by an approved dual credit provider as defined in
26 section 173.2500. The coordinating board may promulgate rules for the
27 administration of the program including establishing the application,
28 eligibility, and payment procedures. Any rule or portion of a rule, as
29 that term is defined in section 536.010 that is created under the
30 authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it
31 complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, and,
32 if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are

33 nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly
34 pursuant to chapter 536, to review, to delay the effective date, or to
35 disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional,
36 then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or
37 adopted after August 28, 2016, shall be invalid and void.

38 4. Subject to appropriation, the dual credit scholarship shall
39 reimburse eligible students for up to fifty percent of the tuition cost
40 paid by the student to enroll in a dual credit course offered by an
41 approved dual credit provider.

42 5. No student shall receive in excess of five hundred dollars
43 annually for all dual credit courses taken by such student.

44 6. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Dual Credit
45 Scholarship Fund", which shall consist of moneys appropriated to the
46 fund by the General Assembly and private donations made to the
47 fund. The state treasurer shall be the custodian of the fund and shall
48 invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are
49 invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be
50 credited to the fund. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080
51 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the
52 biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund.

173.2510. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "15 to Finish Act".

3 2. The coordinating board for higher education, in cooperation
4 with public institutions of higher education in this state, shall develop
5 policies that promote the on-time completion of degree programs by
6 students. The policies shall include, but not be limited to:

7 (1) Defining on-time completion for specific levels of
8 postsecondary credentials;

9 (2) Providing financial incentives to students during their senior
10 year of undergraduate study who are on pace to graduate in no more
11 than eight semesters;

12 (3) Implementing banded tuition, whereby the total tuition cost
13 for up to seventeen credit hours is the same as for twelve credit hours;
14 and

15 (4) Reducing, when feasible and permitted by accreditation or
16 occupational licensure, the number of credit hours required to earn a
17 degree.

18 **3. By December 1, 2017, the department of higher education shall**
19 **provide a report to the governor and the general assembly describing**
20 **the actions taken to implement these provisions.**

173.2515. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the
2 **"Guided Pathways to Success Act".**

3 **2. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:**

4 **(1) "Degree maps", a list of all course sequences available to**
5 **fulfill the requirements for a specific degree program;**

6 **(2) "Meta-majors", a collection of academic programs that have**
7 **common or related courses;**

8 **(3) "Proactive advising", an advising model in which advisors**
9 **reach out to students in anticipation of their needs, connect students**
10 **with resources and support early in their studies, and motivate**
11 **students to succeed;**

12 **(4) "Structured schedule", a specific sequence of required and**
13 **elective courses each semester that, when taken as prescribed,**
14 **represent a direct path to complete a chosen program of study.**

15 **3. The coordinating board for higher education, in cooperation**
16 **with the state's colleges and universities, shall develop a guided**
17 **pathways to success pilot program. Guided pathways to success shall**
18 **include at least two of the following components:**

19 **(1) Majors organized into semester-by-semester sets of courses**
20 **that lead to on-time completion, which shall have the same meaning as**
21 **described pursuant to section 173.2510;**

22 **(2) Degree-based transfer pathways between participating**
23 **institutions to assist students who enroll in multiple institutions to**
24 **complete their degree;**

25 **(3) Available meta-majors to minimize the loss of credit due to**
26 **changes by students in their degree majors;**

27 **(4) Student commitment to a structured schedule of courses and**
28 **electives; and**

29 **(5) Clear degree maps, proactive advising and guarantees that**
30 **required courses are available when needed by students.**

31 **4. The department shall develop and publicly maintain materials**
32 **that describe the elements of Missouri's guided pathways to success**
33 **project and assist students in understanding the operation of each**
34 **component.**

35 5. By January 1, 2020, the coordinating board shall report to the
36 governor and the general assembly on the outcomes of the pilot
37 program created in this section.

38 6. Based on the outcomes of the pilot program created in this
39 section, the coordinating board may request funding to provide
40 competitive grants to institutions of higher education to assist in
41 defraying the costs incurred to implement guided pathways to success
42 on a statewide basis.

43 7. The coordinating board for higher education shall establish by
44 administrative rule criteria and procedures for the application for, and
45 awarding of, grants authorized by this section. Any rule or portion of
46 a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010 that is created under
47 the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it
48 complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, and,
49 if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are
50 nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly
51 pursuant to chapter 536, to review, to delay the effective date, or to
52 disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional,
53 then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or
54 adopted after August 28, 2016, shall be invalid and void.

173.2520. 1. As used in this section, the term "concurrent
2 postsecondary enrollment" shall mean coordinated enrollment in
3 coursework at both a four-year and a two-year postsecondary
4 institution at the same time and for which the coursework is officially
5 recorded by both institutions.

6 2. The coordinating board for higher education shall establish a
7 concurrent enrollment pilot program for the purpose of providing
8 students with a broader range of academic and student support
9 services while streamlining the path to degree completion. The pilot
10 project will be implemented in one or more public four-year
11 institutions and one or more public two-year institutions. The pilot
12 program is intended to determine the feasibility of extending a
13 concurrent enrollment option to other institutions in the state.

14 3. By January 1, 2020, the coordinating board shall provide a
15 report to the governor and the general assembly on the outcomes of the
16 pilot program and provide a recommendation regarding the expansion
17 of the program statewide.

Section B. Because of the importance of providing educational assistance
2 to members of the military and their families, the repeal and reenactment of
3 section 173.234 of this act is deemed necessary for the immediate preservation of
4 the public health, welfare, peace, and safety, and is hereby declared to be an
5 emergency act within the meaning of the constitution, and the repeal and
6 reenactment of section 173.234 of this act shall be in full force and effect upon its
7 passage and approval.

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Unofficial

Bill

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