

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 406

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR WASSON.

Read 1st time February 8, 2017, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

1731S.02I

AN ACT

To amend chapter 160, RSMo, by adding thereto six new sections relating to adult high schools.

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

Section A. Chapter 160, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto six new sections, to be known as sections 160.2700, 160.2705, 160.2710, 160.2715, 160.2720, and 160.2725, to read as follows:

160.2700. For purposes of sections 160.2700 to 160.2725, "adult high school" means a school that:

(1) Is for individuals who do not have a high school diploma and who are twenty-one years of age or older;

(2) Offers an industry certification program or programs and a high school diploma in a manner that allows students to earn a diploma at the same time that they earn an industry certification;

(3) Offers an on-site child care facility for children of enrolled students attending the school; and

(4) Is not eligible to receive funding under section 163.031.

160.2705. 1. The department of elementary and secondary education shall grant a license before January 1, 2018, to a Missouri-based nonprofit organization meeting the criteria under subsection 2 of this section to establish and operate four adult high schools, with:

(1) One adult high school to be located in a city not within a county;

(2) One adult high school to be located in a county of the third classification without a township form of government and with more than forty-one thousand but fewer than forty-five thousand inhabitants or a county contiguous to that county;

11 **(3) One adult high school to be located in a county of the first**
12 **classification with more than two hundred sixty thousand but fewer**
13 **than three hundred thousand inhabitants or a county contiguous to**
14 **that county; and**

15 **(4) One adult high school to be located in a county of the first**
16 **classification with more than one hundred fifty thousand but fewer**
17 **than two hundred thousand inhabitants.**

18 **2. The department of elementary and secondary education shall**
19 **grant the license described under subsection 1 of this section based on**
20 **a bid process conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations**
21 **governing purchasing through the office of administration. The**
22 **successful bidder shall:**

23 **(1) Demonstrate the ability to establish, within twenty-one**
24 **months of the receipt of the license, four adult high schools offering**
25 **high school diplomas, an industry certification program or programs,**
26 **and a drop-in day-care facility for children of the students attending**
27 **the high schools;**

28 **(2) Commit at least two million dollars in investment for the**
29 **purpose of establishing the necessary infrastructure to operate four**
30 **adult high schools;**

31 **(3) Demonstrate substantial and positive experience in providing**
32 **services, including industry certifications and job placement services,**
33 **to adults twenty-one years of age or older whose educational and**
34 **training opportunities have been limited by educational disadvantages,**
35 **disabilities, homelessness, criminal history, or similar circumstances;**

36 **(4) Establish a partnership with a state-supported postsecondary**
37 **education institution or more than one such partnership, if a**
38 **partnership or partnerships are necessary in order to meet the**
39 **requirements for an adult high school;**

40 **(5) Establish a comprehensive plan that sets forth how the adult**
41 **high schools will help address the need for a sufficiently trained**
42 **workforce in the surrounding region for each adult high school;**

43 **(6) Establish partnerships and strategies for engaging the**
44 **community and business leaders in carrying out the goals of each adult**
45 **high school;**

46 **(7) Establish the ability to meet quality standards through**
47 **certified teachers and programs that support each student in his or her**

48 goal to find a more rewarding job;

49 (8) Establish a plan for assisting students in overcoming barriers
50 to educational success including, but not limited to, educational
51 disadvantages, homelessness, criminal history, disability, including
52 learning disability such as dyslexia, and similar circumstances; and

53 (9) Establish a process for determining outcomes of the adult
54 high school, including outcomes related to a student's ability to find a
55 more rewarding job through the attainment of a high school diploma
56 and job training and certification.

57 3. (1) The department of elementary and secondary education
58 shall work directly with the successful bidder to assess the specific
59 requirements for students to obtain high school diplomas.

60 (2) Requirements for a high school diploma shall be based on an
61 adult student's prior high school achievement and the remaining
62 credits and coursework that would be necessary for the student to
63 receive a high school diploma if he or she were in a traditional high
64 school setting. The adult student shall meet the requirements with the
65 same level of academic rigor as would otherwise be necessary to attain
66 such credits, but the adult student shall not be required to meet any
67 additional requirements.

68 (3) The department of elementary and secondary education shall
69 award high school diplomas to students who successfully complete the
70 required credits through the adult high school. The department of
71 elementary and secondary education shall confer the diploma as though
72 the student earned the diploma at a traditional high school. The
73 diploma shall have no differentiating marks, titles, or other symbols.

74 (4) Students at adult high schools may complete required
75 coursework at their own pace and as available through the adult high
76 school. They shall not be required to satisfy any specific number of
77 class minutes. The adult high school may also make classes available
78 to students online as may be appropriate.

79 (5) The department of elementary and secondary education shall
80 not create additional regulations or burdens on the adult high school
81 or the students attending the adult high schools beyond certifying
82 necessary credits and ensuring that students have sufficiently mastered
83 the subject matter to make them eligible for credit.

160.2710. 1. Any person who is twenty-one years of age or older

2 may enroll in an adult high school if he or she has not earned a high
3 school diploma.

4 2. An adult high school shall give a preference in admission to
5 those students who receive any local, state, or federal assistance in
6 which a person or family is required not to exceed a certain income
7 level in order to qualify for the assistance.

160.2715. 1. An adult high school shall not receive state funding
2 under section 163.031 and shall not receive any local funding that is
3 intended to benefit traditional public schools in the state.

4 2. An adult high school may receive funding from public or
5 private sources, including from the nonprofit organization operating
6 the adult high school. If an adult high school receives funding from a
7 public source, it shall operate in a manner so as not to violate the
8 provisions of article IX, section 8, or article I, section 7, of the
9 Constitution of Missouri or the first amendment of the Constitution of
10 the United States.

11 3. The nonprofit organization operating an adult high school
12 shall ensure that funding for the adult high school enables it to operate
13 year-round.

14 4. The nonprofit organization operating an adult high school
15 shall set the following outcome expectations for the adult high school:

16 (1) Each year, at least seventy-five percent of the school's
17 students will graduate or continue working toward a high school
18 diploma and, if applicable, an industry certification;

19 (2) At least fifty percent of the school's graduates will attain an
20 industry certification or enroll in higher education or more advanced
21 skills training within six months of graduation;

22 (3) At least eighty-five percent of the school's graduates who do
23 not enroll in higher education or more advanced skills training will be
24 employed within six months of graduation; and

25 (4) The school's graduates who enter the workforce shall have,
26 on average, a wage rate at least twenty percent greater than the
27 average Missouri wage rate for individuals without high school
28 diplomas.

160.2720. 1. The nonprofit organization who receives the license
2 described under section 160.2705 shall submit to the department of
3 elementary and secondary education an annual report concerning

4 evaluations of the adult high schools, including the impact the adult
5 high schools have had in meeting industry needs in the state.

6 2. The department of elementary and secondary education shall
7 submit the report described under subsection 1 of this section to the
8 joint committee on education and the offices of the governor, speaker
9 of the house of representatives, and president pro tempore of the
10 senate before December first each year.

160.2725. The department of elementary and secondary education
2 may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of sections 160.2700
3 to 160.2720. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in
4 section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this
5 section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to
6 all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section
7 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any of
8 the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536
9 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule
10 are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking
11 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2017, shall
12 be invalid and void.

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