

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 1056

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR WASSON.

Read 1st time February 28, 2018, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

6692S.01I

## AN ACT

To repeal section 173.670, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) initiative.

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

Section A. Section 173.670, RSMo, is repealed and one new section  
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 173.670, 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. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

12 (1) "Educational benefits", the funds provided by an employer to  
13 a qualified individual or to an accredited educational institution for a  
14 period of up to five years to pay any portion of the tuition or fees for  
15 a qualified individual pursuing an advanced certificate, associate's  
16 degree, bachelor's degree, master's degree, or doctorate degree in a  
17 field of study related to health care, engineering, or information  
18 technology related programs;

19 (2) "Full-time position", an occupation lasting at least one year

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

20 that consists of at least thirty hours of work per week;

21 (3) "Internship", a program lasting at least eight weeks that  
22 consists of at least fifteen hours of work per week;

23 (4) "State tax liability", any liability incurred by a taxpayer  
24 under the provisions of chapter 143, excluding withholding tax imposed  
25 by sections 143.191 to 143.265, or the tax imposed in chapter 147, 148,  
26 or 153;

27 (5) "STEM field", a field involving science, technology,  
28 engineering, or mathematics.

29 4. There is hereby created a "Science, Technology, Engineering and  
30 Mathematics Fund", which shall consist of money collected under this  
31 section. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund and may approve  
32 disbursements from the fund in accordance with sections 30.170 and  
33 30.180. Upon appropriation, money in the fund shall be used solely for the  
34 administration of this section. Any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of  
35 the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund. The state  
36 treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are  
37 invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited  
38 to the fund.

39 [4.] 5. As part of the initiative, the department of higher education shall  
40 develop a process to award grants to Missouri public two- and four-year  
41 institutions of higher education and school districts that have entered into  
42 articulation agreements to offer information technology certification through  
43 technical course work leading to postsecondary academic credit through the  
44 program established in section 173.675.

45 [5.] 6. The general assembly may appropriate funds to the science,  
46 technology, engineering[,] and mathematics fund to match institution funds to  
47 support the following programs, **as recommended by the department of**  
48 **higher education:**

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

52 (2)] Scholarship programs, which provide financial aid or loan forgiveness  
53 awards to Missouri students who study in the science, technology, engineering,  
54 or mathematics fields or who plan to enter the teaching field in Missouri with an  
55 emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics areas; **and**

56           [(3)] (2) Experiential youth programs [at public colleges or universities,]  
57 designed to provide Missouri middle school, junior high, and high school students  
58 with the opportunity to experience science, technology, engineering, and  
59 mathematics fields through camps or other educational offerings[;

60           (4) Career enhancement programs for current elementary and secondary  
61 teachers and professors at Missouri public and private colleges and universities  
62 in the science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields to improve the  
63 quality of teaching].

64           **7. Any taxpayer in the state of Missouri who provides**  
65 **educational benefits or selects a student majoring in a STEM field who**  
66 **is attending a two-year or four-year public or private Missouri college**  
67 **or university for an internship located in the state of Missouri, or who**  
68 **selects a student who recently graduated with a degree in a STEM field**  
69 **from any two-year or four-year public or private Missouri college or**  
70 **university for a full-time position in a STEM field located in the state**  
71 **of Missouri, may apply to have ten thousand dollars of the taxpayer's**  
72 **state tax liability transferred from the general revenue fund and placed**  
73 **in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fund**  
74 **established in subsection 4 of this section, upon approval by the**  
75 **department of higher education and appropriation by the general**  
76 **assembly. The department of higher education shall establish a**  
77 **procedure for approving applications under this section. For purposes**  
78 **of this subsection, the taxpayer's state tax liability shall be paid before**  
79 **a transfer under this subsection occurs. The cumulative amount of**  
80 **taxes transferred to the science, technology, engineering and**  
81 **mathematics fund under this subsection shall not exceed an annual**  
82 **total of two hundred thousand dollars from all participating taxpayers**  
83 **in tax year 2019, with such amount adjusted annually for inflation as**  
84 **determined by the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers for**  
85 **the United States as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, or its**  
86 **successor index. In the event a donation is made to the fund from a**  
87 **third party, that donation shall not count towards such annual limit.**

88           **8. The department of higher education may promulgate all**  
89 **necessary rules and regulations for the administration of this**  
90 **section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section**  
91 **536.010 that is created under the authority delegated in this section**  
92 **shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of**

93 the provisions of chapter 536, and, if applicable, section 536.028. This  
94 section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers  
95 vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, to review, to  
96 delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are  
97 subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking  
98 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2018, shall  
99 be invalid and void.

✓  
Unofficial

Bill

Copy