

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 332

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR BURLISON.

1506S.01I

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto two new sections relating to student associations at public institutions of higher learning.

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

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto
2 two new sections, to be known as sections 173.1555 and 173.1556,
3 to read as follows:

173.1555. As used in this section and section
2 173.1556, the following terms mean:

3 (1) "Adverse action", any action or policy that denies
4 a belief-based student association any benefit available to
5 other student associations or organizations or that
6 otherwise discriminates with respect to any such benefit;

7 (2) "Belief-based student association" includes, but
8 shall not be limited to, any political or ideological
9 student association or any religious student organization;

10 (3) "Benefit", recognition, registration, the use of
11 facilities of a public institution of higher learning for
12 meetings or speaking purposes, and the use of channels of
13 communication of a public institution of higher learning;

14 (4) "Public institution of higher learning", any state
15 postsecondary educational institution governed or supervised
16 by a board erected under chapter 172, 174, 175, or 178; a
17 board of trustees of a community college; or any state board
18 for any other technical school.

173.1556. 1. No public institution of higher learning shall take any adverse action against a belief-based student association based on such association's requirement that its leaders be committed to furthering the association's mission, or to adhere to the association's sincerely held beliefs, sincere practice requirements, or sincere standards of conduct. Such leaders shall include, but shall not be limited to, any person who holds a position within the association that authorizes them to participate in the leadership or governance of the association or in establishing criteria for the association's leadership or governance. Such missions, beliefs, practice requirements, and standards of conduct shall be defined by the association and the beliefs upon which the association is based.

2. Any belief-based student association that has been aggrieved as a result of a violation or threatened violation of subsection 1 of this section may assert that violation or threatened violation as a claim or defense in a judicial proceeding or in an administrative proceeding against the public institution of higher learning and obtain appropriate relief.

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