

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 35

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ARTHUR.

0945S.01H

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary

## AN ACT

To amend chapter 161, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to competency-based education in elementary and secondary schools.

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

Section A. Chapter 161, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 161.385, to read as follows:

**161.385. 1. There is hereby established the "Competency-Based Education Task Force" to study and develop competency-based education programs in public schools. Task force members shall be chosen to represent the geographic diversity of the state. Task force members shall be appointed for a term of two years and may be reappointed. All task force members shall be appointed before December 31, 2021, and every other year thereafter by December thirty-first of that year. The task force members shall be appointed as follows:**

**(1) Two members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;**

**(2) Two members of the senate appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate;**

**(3) The commissioner of the department of elementary and secondary education or his or her designee; and**

17           (4) Four members appointed by the governor. Two  
18 members shall each represent a separate school district that  
19 offers competency-based education courses.

20           2. The members of the task force established under  
21 subsection 1 of this section shall elect a chair from among  
22 the membership of the task force. The task force shall meet  
23 as needed to complete its consideration of its objectives as  
24 established in subsections 4 and 5 of this section. Any  
25 vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the same manner  
26 as the original appointment. Members of the task force  
27 shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to  
28 reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in  
29 the performance of their official duties.

30           3. The department of elementary and secondary  
31 education shall provide such legal, research, clerical, and  
32 technical services as the task force may require in the  
33 performance of its duties.

34           4. The task force shall:

35           (1) Work toward implementing competency-based  
36 education courses statewide and devising a plan for Missouri  
37 to lead the way in competency-based education courses;

38           (2) Solicit input from individuals and organizations  
39 with information or expertise relevant to the task force's  
40 objective, including experts and educators with experience  
41 related to competency-based education programs;

42           (3) Hold at least three public hearings to provide an  
43 opportunity to receive public testimony including, but not  
44 limited to, testimony from educators, local school boards,  
45 parents, representatives from business and industry, labor  
46 and community leaders, members of the general assembly, and  
47 the general public;

48           (4) Identify promising competency-based education  
49 programs, including programs that:

50           (a) Afford students flexibility to progress and earn  
51 course credit upon demonstration of mastery, including  
52 through early high school graduation;

53           (b) Provide individual learning and assessment  
54 options, including through experiential and project-based  
55 learning, online or blended learning, additional remedial  
56 education time, and accelerated-pace curricula;

57           (c) Assess student proficiency through tasks developed  
58 both locally and at the state level, performance of which  
59 demonstrate mastery;

60           (5) Identify obstacles to implementing competency-  
61 based education programs in Missouri public schools;

62           (6) Develop comprehensive graduate profiles which  
63 describe meaningful and critical knowledge skills that  
64 students should have upon graduation that can be implemented  
65 into a diploma designation;

66           (7) Develop findings and recommendations for  
67 implementing competency-based education models and practices  
68 in Missouri public schools, including recommending changes  
69 to existing legislation, rules, and regulations;

70           (8) Develop findings and recommendations for  
71 implementing a competency-based performance assessment that:

72           (a) Is consistent with the most effective competency-  
73 based education programs identified by the task force  
74 pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection;

75           (b) Assesses students based on both locally-developed  
76 and common statewide performance tasks tied to grade and  
77 course competencies aligned with state content standards; and

78           (c) Complies with all applicable federal law,  
79 including 20 U.S.C. Section 6311(b)(1)(B). To the extent

80 that implementing a competency-based performance assessment  
81 would require the department of elementary and secondary  
82 education to obtain innovative assessment and accountability  
83 demonstration authority under 20 U.S.C. Section 6364, the  
84 task force shall develop findings and recommendations for  
85 obtaining such authority.

86 5. Beginning in 2022, the task force shall present its  
87 findings and recommendations to the speaker of the house of  
88 representatives, the president pro tempore of the senate,  
89 the joint committee on education, and the state board of  
90 education by December first annually.

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