

# SENATE AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Amend SS/House Bill No. 419, Page 3, Section 173.1153, Line 41,

2 by inserting after all of said line the following:

3 "173.2655. 1. This section and section 173.2660 shall  
4 be known and may be cited as the "Public Safety Recruitment  
5 and Retention Act".

6 2. For purposes of this section and section 173.2660,  
7 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the  
8 following terms mean:

9 (1) "Advanced emergency medical technician", as such  
10 term is defined in section 190.100;

11 (2) "Department", the department of higher education  
12 and workforce development;

13 (3) "Emergency medical technician", as such term is  
14 defined in section 190.100;

15 (4) "Firefighter", any officer or employee of a fire  
16 department who is employed for the purpose of fighting  
17 fires, excluding volunteer firefighters and anyone employed  
18 in a clerical or other capacity not involving fire-fighting  
19 duties;

20 (5) "Institution of higher education", a public  
21 community college, state college, or state university  
22 located in Missouri; or an approved private institution, as  
23 such term is defined in section 173.1102, that chooses to  
24 accept any tuition award money pursuant to subdivision (2)  
25 of subsection 7 of this section or an emergency medical  
26 services training entity accredited or certified by the

Missouri department of health and senior services pursuant to the provisions of section 190.131;

(6) "Legal dependent", as such term is defined by the United States Department of Education for purposes of the Free Application for Student Financial Aid;

(7) "Line of duty", any action that public safety personnel is authorized or obligated by law, rule, or regulation to perform, related to or as a condition of employment or service;

(8) "Open seat", a vacant position in a class, course, or program that is available for enrollment, and which may become available when a student drops out or transfers, or when a class, course, or program has unused capacity, allowing new students to register or enroll;

(9) "Paramedic", as such term is defined in section 190.100;

(10) "Police officer", any person who, by virtue of office or public employment, is vested by law with the power and duty to make arrests for violation of the laws of the state of Missouri or ordinances of any municipality thereof, while acting within the scope of his or her authority as an employee of a public law enforcement agency, as such term is defined in section 590.1040;

(11) "Public safety personnel", includes any police officer, firefighter, paramedic, telecommunicator first responder, emergency medical technician, or advanced emergency medical technician who is trained and authorized by law or rule to render emergency medical assistance or treatment;

(12) "Telecommunicator first responder", as such term is defined in section 650.320;

(13) "Tuition", the charges and cost of tuition as set by the governing body of an institution of higher education,

60 including fees such as course fees, activity fees,  
61 technology fees, and mandatory fees charged by such  
62 institution to all full-time students as a condition of  
63 enrollment, but excluding the costs of room, board, books,  
64 and any other educational materials, equipment, or supplies.

65 3. Subject to appropriation, public safety personnel  
66 with at least six years of service shall be entitled to an  
67 award worth up to one hundred percent of the resident  
68 tuition charges of an institution of higher education if the  
69 individual:

70 (1) Possesses one of the following:

71 (a) A current, valid license issued by the department  
72 of health and senior services authorizing such person to  
73 serve as an emergency medical technician, advanced emergency  
74 medical technician, or paramedic;

75 (b) A current, valid license issued by the peace  
76 officer standards and training commission authorizing such  
77 person to serve as a peace officer pursuant to the  
78 provisions of chapter 590;

79 (c) A current, valid certificate issued by the  
80 division of fire safety authorizing such person to serve as  
81 a firefighter; or

82 (d) A current, valid certificate confirming successful  
83 completion of any ongoing training requirements pursuant to  
84 section 650.340; and

85 (e) For all public safety personnel, a certificate of  
86 verification signed by the individual's supervisor or  
87 employer verifying that such individual is currently  
88 employed full-time as public safety personnel and trained  
89 and authorized by law or rule to render emergency medical  
90 assistance or treatment;

91 (2) Meets all admission requirements of the  
92 institution of higher education;

93           (3) Has not already earned a baccalaureate degree;

94           (4) Pursues studies leading to a license or  
95           certification issued by a training entity accredited or  
96           certified pursuant to the provisions of section 190.31, an  
97           associate degree or baccalaureate degree in one of the  
98           following academic subject areas:

99           (a) For police officers, eligible subjects include  
100           forensic science, fisheries and wildlife, political science,  
101           psychology, history, philosophy, sociology, anthropology,  
102           global studies, Spanish, journalism, advertising, public  
103           relations, nutrition and health sciences, communication  
104           sciences and disorders, and criminal justice;

105           (b) For firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical  
106           technicians, and advanced emergency medical technicians,  
107           eligible subjects include biology, chemistry, biochemistry,  
108           microbiology, nutrition and health sciences, communication  
109           sciences and disorders, Spanish, advertising, public  
110           relations, paramedicine, fire science, fire technology, fire  
111           administration, fire management, communications, homeland  
112           security, emergency management, disaster management, and  
113           crisis management; and

114           (c) For telecommunicator first responders, eligible  
115           subjects include any subject specified in paragraph (a) or  
116           (b) of this subdivision;

117           (5) Submits verification of the professional license  
118           or certificate and the certificate of verification required  
119           by subdivision (1) of this subsection to the department, in  
120           a form and manner as prescribed by the department;

121           (6) Files with the department documentation showing  
122           proof of employment as public safety personnel and proof of  
123           residence in Missouri each year such individual or such  
124           individual's legal dependent applies for and receives the  
125           tuition award;

126       (7) First applies for all other forms of federal and  
127 state student financial aid before applying for a tuition  
128 award, including, but not limited to, filing the United  
129 States Department of Education Free Application for Federal  
130 Student Aid and, if applicable, applying for financial  
131 assistance pursuant to the provisions of 38 U.S.C. Section  
132 3301, et seq.; and

133       (8) Submits a document to the department confirming  
134 that the public safety personnel has satisfied the  
135 provisions of subdivision (7) of this subsection, to be  
136 submitted in a form and manner as prescribed by the  
137 department.

138       4. Public safety personnel may receive the tuition  
139 award pursuant to subsection 3 of this section for up to  
140 five years if they otherwise continue to be eligible for the  
141 tuition award. The five years of tuition award eligibility  
142 starts once the individual applies for and receives the  
143 tuition award for the first time and is available to such  
144 individual for the next five consecutive years or the  
145 individual's achievement of one hundred twenty credit hours,  
146 whichever occurs first.

147       5. Subject to appropriation, a legal dependent of  
148 public safety personnel with at least ten years of service  
149 shall be entitled to a tuition award worth up to one hundred  
150 percent of the resident tuition charges of an institution of  
151 higher education for an associate or baccalaureate degree  
152 program if such public safety personnel satisfies the  
153 provisions of subdivisions (1), (5), and (6) of subsection 3  
154 of this section and the legal dependent:

155       (1) Executes an agreement with the department in  
156 accordance with the provisions of section 173.2660;

157       (2) Has not previously earned a baccalaureate degree;

158       (3) Meets all admission requirements of the  
159 institution of higher education;

160       (4) First applies for all other forms of federal and  
161 state student financial aid before applying for a tuition  
162 award, including, but not limited to, filing the United  
163 States Department of Education Free Application for Federal  
164 Student Aid and, if applicable, applying for financial  
165 assistance pursuant to the provisions of 38 U.S.C. Section  
166 3301, et seq.;

167       (5) Submits a document to the department confirming  
168 that the legal dependent has satisfied subdivision (4) of  
169 this subsection, to be submitted in a form and manner as  
170 prescribed by the department;

171       (6) Submits the verification required pursuant to  
172 subsection 8 of this section to the department; and

173       (7) Pursues studies leading to a license or  
174 certification issued by a training entity accredited or  
175 certified pursuant to the provisions of section 190.31, an  
176 associate degree or baccalaureate degree in any one of the  
177 subject areas specified in paragraphs (a) to (c) of  
178 subdivision (4) of subsection 3 of this section.

179       6. A legal dependent may receive the tuition award for  
180 up to five years if the public safety personnel and the  
181 legal dependent continue to be eligible for such tuition  
182 award. The five years of tuition award eligibility starts  
183 once the legal dependent applies for and receives the  
184 tuition award for the first time and is available to such  
185 legal dependent for the next five consecutive years or the  
186 legal dependent's achievement of one hundred twenty credit  
187 hours, whichever occurs first.

188       7. The tuition award shall be worth:

189       (1) Up to one hundred percent of the public safety  
190 personnel's or the legal dependent's tuition remaining due

191 after subtracting awarded federal financial aid grants and  
192 state scholarships and grants for the eligible public safety  
193 personnel or legal dependent during the time the public  
194 safety personnel or legal dependent is enrolled. To remain  
195 eligible, the public safety personnel or legal dependent  
196 shall comply with all requirements of the institution for  
197 continued attendance and award of an associate degree or a  
198 baccalaureate degree; or

199 (2) In the case of tuition at an approved private  
200 institution, up to one hundred percent of the public safety  
201 personnel's or the legal dependent's tuition remaining due  
202 after subtracting awarded federal financial aid grants and  
203 state scholarships and grants for the eligible public safety  
204 personnel or legal dependent during the time the public  
205 safety personnel or legal dependent is enrolled, up to a  
206 maximum amount that is equal to the total cost of tuition  
207 and mandatory fees charged to a Missouri resident at the  
208 public community college, state college, or state university  
209 with the highest combined tuition and mandatory fee cost in  
210 the state at the time a tuition grant is awarded, as  
211 determined by the department. A private institution that  
212 chooses to accept as a tuition payment any tuition award  
213 money pursuant to this subdivision shall not charge the  
214 recipient of the tuition award any tuition that exceeds the  
215 maximum combined tuition and mandatory fee cost as  
216 determined by the department prior to the application of the  
217 tuition award.

218 8. (1) An application for a tuition award shall  
219 include a verification of the public safety personnel's  
220 satisfaction of the requirements of subdivisions (1), (5),  
221 and (6) of subsection 3 of this section. The public safety  
222 personnel shall include such verification when he or she or

his or her legal dependent is applying to the department for  
a tuition waiver.

(2) The death of public safety personnel in the line  
of duty which occurs after submission of an application for  
a tuition award shall not disqualify such individual's  
otherwise eligible legal dependent from receiving the  
tuition award. In such case, in lieu of submitting the  
certificate of verification provided for in subdivision (1)  
of this subsection, the legal dependent shall submit a  
statement attesting that:

(a) At the time of death, such public safety personnel  
satisfied the requirements of subdivision (1) of this  
subsection; and

(b) Such public safety personnel died in the line of  
duty.

9. The department shall provide a tuition award to  
public safety personnel and legal dependents who satisfy the  
provisions of this section and section 173.2660, if  
applicable, and apply for an open seat at an institution of  
higher education, but shall not provide a tuition award if  
doing so would require the institution to create additional  
seats exceeding class, course, or program capacity.

10. All applicants for a tuition award shall submit  
their applications to the department no later than December  
fifteenth annually. No later than March first annually, the  
department shall send written notice of the applicant's  
eligibility or ineligibility for the tuition award and state  
whether the application has been approved or denied. If the  
applicant is determined not to be eligible for the tuition  
award, the notice shall include the reason or reasons for  
such determination. If the application is denied, the  
notice shall include the reason or reasons for the denial.



255       11. The department shall promulgate rules to implement  
256 the provisions of this section and section 173.2660. Any  
257 rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in  
258 section 536.010, that is created under the authority  
259 delegated in this section shall become effective only if it  
260 complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of  
261 chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This  
262 section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the  
263 powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter  
264 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove  
265 and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional,  
266 then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed  
267 or adopted after August 28, 2025, shall be invalid and void.

268       12. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury  
269 the "Public Safety Recruitment and Retention Fund", which  
270 shall consist of moneys appropriated by the general assembly  
271 or any gifts, donations, or bequests for the purpose of  
272 implementing the provisions of this section and section  
273 173.2660. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the  
274 fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the  
275 state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall  
276 be a dedicated fund and money in the fund shall be used  
277 solely by the department of higher education and workforce  
278 development for the purpose of granting tuition awards as  
279 provided in this section and section 173.2660.

280       (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080  
281 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end  
282 of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the  
283 general revenue fund.

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

288       13. In any year in which moneys in the public safety  
289 recruitment and retention fund are insufficient to fully  
290 fund tuition awards for all eligible applicants, tuition  
291 awards shall be awarded in the following order of priority;  
292 provided that, in the event of a tie in eligibility,  
293 available funds shall be distributed on a pro rata basis:

294       (1) Priority class one shall include public safety  
295 personnel, in the following order:

296       (a) Public safety personnel in departments located  
297 wholly or partially in counties or cities not within a  
298 county with the highest crime rate per capita, as determined  
299 by the most recent uniform crime reporting statistics from  
300 the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

301       (b) Public safety personnel with the most years of  
302 service; and

303       (2) Priority class two shall include dependents of  
304 public safety personnel, in the following order:

305       (a) Dependents of public safety personnel in  
306 departments located wholly or partially in counties or  
307 cities not within a county with the highest crime rate per  
308 capita, as determined by the most recent uniform crime  
309 reporting statistics from the Federal Bureau of  
310 Investigation; and

311       (b) Dependents of public safety personnel with the  
312 most years of service.

313       14. The tuition awards provided for in this section  
314 and section 173.2660 are subject to appropriation. If there  
315 are no moneys in the fund established in subsection 12 of  
316 this section, no tuition awards shall be granted.

317       173.2660. 1. Each legal dependent who is a tuition  
318 award recipient pursuant to the provisions of section  
319 173.2655 shall execute an agreement as provided in this

section. Such agreement shall include the following terms,  
as appropriate:

(1) The tuition award recipient agrees to reside  
within the state of Missouri for a period of five years  
following the use of the tuition award;

(2) Each year during the five-year period following  
use of the tuition award, the tuition award recipient agrees  
to file a state income tax return and provide a copy of such  
tax return to the department to document that such recipient  
still resides in the state of Missouri;

(3) If the tuition award recipient fails to annually  
file a tax return to prove residency in the state of  
Missouri for the five-year period following the use of the  
tuition award or fails to remain a resident of Missouri for  
the five-year period following the use of the tuition award,  
the tuition award recipient agrees that the tuition award  
shall be treated as a loan to such recipient, subject to the  
following conditions:

(a) Interest shall be charged on the unpaid balance of  
the amount received from the date the recipient ceases to  
reside in Missouri until the amount received is paid back to  
the state. The interest rate shall be adjusted annually and  
shall be equal to one percentage point over the prevailing  
United States prime rate in effect on January first of such  
year; and

(b) The servicer of such loans shall be the higher  
education loan authority of the state of Missouri created  
pursuant to sections 173.350 to 173.445; and

(4) Any residency, filing, or payment obligation  
incurred by the tuition award recipient under section  
173.2655 is canceled in the event of the tuition award  
recipient's total and permanent disability or death.

352       2. The five-year residency requirement begins once the  
353       legal dependent applies for and receives the tuition award  
354       for the first time and continues until the tuition award  
355       recipient's:  
356       (1) Completion of the five-year tuition award  
357       eligibility period;  
358       (2) Completion of a baccalaureate degree at an  
359       institution of higher education;  
360       (3) Completion of an associate degree at a public  
361       community college and notification to the department that  
362       such recipient does not intend to pursue a baccalaureate  
363       degree or additional associate degree using tuition awards  
364       pursuant to the public safety recruitment and retention act;  
365       or  
366       (4) Notification to the department that such recipient  
367       does not plan to use additional tuition awards pursuant to  
368       the public safety recruitment and retention act."; and  
369       Further amend the title and enacting clause accordingly.