

SENATE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 150
AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the career-tech certificate program.

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 one new section, to be known as section 173.836, to read as
3 follows:

173.836. 1. This section shall be known and may be
2 cited as the "Career-Tech Certificate (CTC) Program".

3 2. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

4 (1) "Approved institution", an institution of
5 postsecondary education that is subject to the coordinating
6 board for higher education under section 173.005, offers
7 eligible programs of study or training programs, and is at
8 least one of the following:

9 (a) A public community college or vocational or
10 technical school as provided under subsection 8 of section
11 160.545;

12 (b) A two-year private vocational or technical school
13 authorized to obtain reimbursements under subsection 8 of
14 section 160.545 as provided under subsection 10 of section
15 160.545;

16 (c) An approved virtual institution, as defined in
17 section 173.1102; or

18 (d) An eligible training provider;

19 (2) "Department", the department of higher education
20 and workforce development;

21 (3) "Eligible program of study", a program of
22 instruction for which the required length for completion of
23 such program does not exceed the equivalent of sixty credit
24 hours or the equivalent under a different measure of student
25 progress and that results in the award of a non-graduate-
26 level certificate or other industry-recognized credential
27 below the graduate level that has been designated by the
28 coordinating board for higher education as preparing
29 students to enter an area of occupational shortage as
30 determined and updated annually by such board under
31 subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of section 173.2553;

32 (4) "Eligible student", any student that meets the
33 eligibility requirements for reimbursement of tuition,
34 books, and fees under the "A+ Schools Program" created in
35 section 160.545, or any student who has earned a career and
36 technical education (CTE) certificate pursuant to the
37 provisions of section 170.029 and in accordance with
38 criteria outlined by the department of elementary and
39 secondary education, provided that such student has not
40 received a reimbursement for tuition, books, or fees under
41 section 160.545;

42 (5) "Eligible training provider", a training
43 organization listed in the state of Missouri eligible
44 training provider system maintained by the office of
45 workforce development in the department of higher education
46 and workforce development that is not a four-year
47 institution of higher education;

48 (6) "Training program", a program of study that leads
49 to a certificate or degree and is offered by an approved
50 institution but that does not meet the length-of-program
51 requirements for an eligible program under 34 CFR 668.8, as
52 amended. The term includes, but is not limited to:

53 (a) Certified nurse assistant (CNA) programs;

(b) Certified medication technician (CMT) programs;
(c) Level 1 medication aide (L1MA) programs;
(d) Insulin administration programs;
(e) Emergency medical technician (EMT) programs;
(f) Advanced emergency medical technician (AEMT)
programs;

(g) Paramedic programs as described in chapter 190; or
(h) Commercial driver's license (CDL) programs.

3. (1) Beginning in the 2026-27 academic year and for
all subsequent academic years, the department shall, by
rule, establish a procedure for the reimbursement of the
costs of tuition, books, and fees from the career-tech
certificate (CTC) program fund to the approved institution
at which an eligible student is enrolled in an eligible
program of study or a training program.

(2) No tuition reimbursements in excess of the tuition
rate charged by a public community college for coursework
offered by a two-year private vocational or technical
school, approved virtual institution as defined under
section 173.1102, or eligible training provider within the
service area of such college shall be reimbursed under this
section.

(3) (a) If a public community college or vocational
or technical school offers the same or a substantially
similar eligible program of study or training program as a
private vocational or technical school, virtual institution,
or eligible training provider at which an eligible student
intends to enroll and the school or provider is located in
the service region of the public community college or
vocational or technical school that offers the same or
similar program of study or training program, no tuition
reimbursement shall be provided under this section for such
eligible student unless, before the eligible student enrolls:

87 a. The private vocational or technical school, virtual
88 institution, or eligible training provider requests
89 authorization from the department for such tuition
90 reimbursement; and

91 b. The department authorizes such request.

92 (b) The department shall:

93 a. Develop and adopt a tuition reimbursement
94 authorization request form and a procedure for submitting
95 such request;

96 b. Review and either authorize or deny such request
97 within twenty business days of receiving an accurate,
98 complete, and properly submitted request; and

99 c. If the department denies such request, provide the
100 educational entity and the eligible student with the reasons
101 for such denial.

102 (c) The department shall not deny a tuition
103 reimbursement authorization request without good cause, as
104 determined by the department on a case-by-case basis.

105 (4) The reimbursements provided under this section to
106 a two-year private vocational or technical school, approved
107 virtual institution as defined under section 173.1102, or
108 eligible training provider shall not violate the provisions
109 of Article IX, Section 8, or Article I, Section 7, of the
110 Constitution of Missouri or the First Amendment to the
111 Constitution of the United States.

112 4. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury
113 the "Career-Tech Certificate (CTC) Program Fund", which
114 shall consist of any moneys appropriated annually by the
115 general assembly, gifts, bequests, grants, public or private
116 donations, or transfers. The state treasurer shall be
117 custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170
118 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve disbursements.
119 The fund shall be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation,

120 moneys in this fund shall be used solely for reimbursements
121 as provided in this section.

122 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080
123 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end
124 of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the
125 general revenue fund.

126 (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the
127 fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any
128 interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be
129 credited to the fund.

130 5. No rule promulgated by the department under this
131 section shall prohibit students enrolled in an eligible
132 program of study or a training program from qualifying for
133 tuition reimbursement under this section solely because the
134 eligible program of study or training program does not meet
135 the length-of-program requirements for an eligible program
136 under 34 CFR 668.8, as amended, or because the eligible
137 training provider at which a student enrolls does not
138 participate in federal student aid programs.

139 6. Eligibility for tuition, books, and fees
140 reimbursement to an approved institution as provided under
141 this section shall expire upon the earliest of:

142 (1) Receipt of the reimbursement for the required
143 length for completion of such program as determined by the
144 department;

145 (2) A student's successful completion of an eligible
146 program of study or training program; or

147 (3) A student's completion of one hundred fifty
148 percent of the time usually required to complete an eligible
149 program of study or training program.

150 7. The department may promulgate all necessary rules
151 and regulations for the implementation and administration of
152 this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term

153 is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the
154 authority delegated in this section shall become effective
155 only if it complies with and is subject to all of the
156 provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section
157 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and
158 if any of the powers vested with the general assembly
159 pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective
160 date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently
161 held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking
162 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after the
163 effective date of this act shall be invalid and void.