

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

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

Amend SS/SCS/House Bill No. 225, Pages 15-23, Section 173.2655, Line \_\_\_\_\_,

2 by striking all of said section from the bill; and

3 Further amend said bill, pages 23-25, section 173.2660,  
4 by striking all of said section from the bill and inserting  
5 in lieu thereof the following:

6 "173.2655. 1. This section and section 173.2660 shall  
7 be known and may be cited as the "Public Safety Recruitment  
8 and Retention Act".

9 2. For purposes of this section and section 173.2660,  
10 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the  
11 following terms mean:

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

14 (2) "Department", the department of higher education  
15 and workforce development;

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

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

23 (5) "Institution of higher education", a public  
24 community college, state college, or state university  
25 located in Missouri; or an approved private institution, as  
26 such term is defined in section 173.1102, that chooses to

27 accept any tuition award money pursuant to subdivision (2)  
28 of subsection 7 of this section; or an emergency medical  
29 services training entity accredited or certified by the  
30 Missouri department of health and senior services pursuant  
31 to the provisions of section 190.131;

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

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

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

44 (9) "Paramedic", as such term is defined in section  
45 190.100;

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

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

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

61       (13) "Tuition", the charges and cost of tuition as set  
62 by the governing body of an institution of higher education,  
63 including fees such as course fees, activity fees,  
64 technology fees, and mandatory fees charged by such  
65 institution to all full-time students as a condition of  
66 enrollment, but excluding the costs of room, board, books,  
67 and any other educational materials, equipment, or supplies.

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

73       (1) Possesses one of the following:

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

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

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

85       (d) A current, valid certificate confirming successful  
86 completion of any ongoing training requirements pursuant to  
87 section 650.340; and

88       (e) For all public safety personnel, a certificate of  
89 verification signed by the individual's supervisor or  
90 employer verifying that such individual is currently  
91 employed full-time as public safety personnel and trained

and authorized by law or rule to render emergency medical assistance or treatment;

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

(3) Has not already earned a baccalaureate degree;

(4) Pursues studies leading to a license or certification issued by a training entity accredited or certified pursuant to the provisions of section 190.131, an associate degree or baccalaureate degree in one of the following academic subject areas:

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

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

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

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

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

129       (7) First applies for all other forms of federal and  
130 state student financial aid before applying for a tuition  
131 award, including, but not limited to, filing the United  
132 States Department of Education Free Application for Federal  
133 Student Aid and, if applicable, applying for financial  
134 assistance pursuant to the provisions of 38 U.S.C. Section  
135 3301, et seq.; and

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

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

150       5. Subject to appropriation, a legal dependent of  
151 public safety personnel with at least ten years of service  
152 shall be entitled to a tuition award worth up to one hundred  
153 percent of the resident tuition charges of an institution of  
154 higher education for an associate or baccalaureate degree  
155 program if such public safety personnel satisfies the

provisions of subdivisions (1), (5), and (6) of subsection 3 of this section and the legal dependent:

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

(2) Has not previously earned a baccalaureate degree;

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

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

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

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

(7) Pursues studies leading to a license or certification issued by a training entity accredited or certified pursuant to the provisions of section 190.131, an associate degree or baccalaureate degree in any one of the subject areas specified in paragraphs (a) to (c) of subdivision (4) of subsection 3 of this section.

6. A legal dependent may receive the tuition award for up to five years if the public safety personnel and the legal dependent continue to be eligible for such tuition award. The five years of tuition award eligibility starts once the legal dependent applies for and receives the tuition award for the first time and is available to such legal dependent for the next five consecutive years or the

189 legal dependent's achievement of one hundred twenty credit  
190 hours, whichever occurs first.

191 7. The tuition award shall be worth:

192 (1) Up to one hundred percent of the public safety  
193 personnel's or the legal dependent's tuition remaining due  
194 after subtracting awarded federal financial aid grants and  
195 state scholarships and grants for the eligible public safety  
196 personnel or legal dependent during the time the public  
197 safety personnel or legal dependent is enrolled. To remain  
198 eligible, the public safety personnel or legal dependent  
199 shall comply with all requirements of the institution for  
200 continued attendance and award of an associate degree or a  
201 baccalaureate degree; or

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

221       8. (1) An application for a tuition award shall  
222 include a verification of the public safety personnel's  
223 satisfaction of the requirements of subdivisions (1), (5),  
224 and (6) of subsection 3 of this section. The public safety  
225 personnel shall include such verification when he or she or  
226 his or her legal dependent is applying to the department for  
227 a tuition waiver.

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

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

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

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

248       10. All applicants for a tuition award shall submit  
249 their applications to the department no later than December  
250 fifteenth annually. No later than March first annually, the  
251 department shall send written notice of the applicant's  
252 eligibility or ineligibility for the tuition award and state  
253 whether the application has been approved or denied. If the



254 applicant is determined not to be eligible for the tuition  
255 award, the notice shall include the reason or reasons for  
256 such determination. If the application is denied, the  
257 notice shall include the reason or reasons for the denial.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

304       (b) Public safety personnel with the most years of  
305 service; and

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

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

314       (b) Dependents of public safety personnel with the  
315 most years of service.

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

320       173.2660. 1. Each legal dependent who is a tuition  
321 award recipient pursuant to the provisions of section  
322 173.2655 shall execute an agreement as provided in this  
323 section. Such agreement shall include the following terms,  
324 as appropriate:

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

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

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

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

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

351       (4) Any residency, filing, or payment obligation  
352 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.

2. The five-year residency requirement begins once the  
legal dependent applies for and receives the tuition award  
for the first time and continues until the tuition award  
recipient's:

(1) Completion of the five-year tuition award  
eligibility period;

(2) Completion of a baccalaureate degree at an  
institution of higher education;

(3) Completion of an associate degree at a public  
community college and notification to the department that  
such recipient does not intend to pursue a baccalaureate  
degree or additional associate degree using tuition awards  
pursuant to the public safety recruitment and retention act;  
or

(4) Notification to the department that such recipient  
does not plan to use additional tuition awards pursuant to  
the public safety recruitment and retention act."; and

Further amend the title and enacting clause accordingly.