

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
[TRULY AGREED TO AND FINALLY PASSED]
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 160

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2025

1382S.06T

AN ACT

To repeal sections 172.280, 174.160, and 578.365, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof six new sections relating to educational institutions, with penalty provisions.

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

Section A. Sections 172.280, 174.160, and 578.365, RSMo,
2 are repealed and six new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to
3 be known as sections 160.082, 172.280, 173.1555, 173.1556,
4 174.160, and 578.365, to read as follows:

160.082. 1. This section shall be known and may be
2 cited as the "Missouri Creating a Respectful and Open World
3 for Natural Hair (Missouri CROWN) Act".

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

5 (1) "Educational institution", any public or private
6 prekindergarten program, public or private elementary or
7 secondary school, or public or private school board or other
8 school administrative body;

9 (2) "Protective hairstyles", includes, but is not
10 limited to, such hairstyles and coverings that are designed
11 to protect textured hair from damage so it may be worn in
12 its natural state as braids, locks, twists, and afros;

EXPLANATION-Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

(3) "Race", includes a perception that a person is of a particular racial group based upon shared physical traits associated with ancestral origin or ethnicity, shared cultural attributes, and similar physical characteristics such as skin color and facial features;

(4) "State financial assistance", any funds or other form of financial aid appropriated or authorized under the laws of this state, or under any federal law administered by any state agency, for the purpose of providing assistance to any educational institution for its own benefit or for the benefit of any pupils admitted to the educational institution. "State financial assistance" shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

- (a) Grants of state property, or any interest therein;
- (b) Provision of the services of state personnel; and
- (c) Funds provided by contract, tax rebate, appropriation, allocation, or formula;

(5) "State student financial aid", any funds or other form of financial aid appropriated or authorized under the laws of this state, or under any federal law administered by any state agency, for the purpose of providing assistance directly to any student admitted to an educational institution. "State student financial aid" shall include, but not be limited to, scholarships, loans, grants, or wages.

3. No person shall be subjected to discrimination based on the person's hair texture or protective hairstyle, if that protective hairstyle or texture is commonly associated with a particular race or origin, in any program or activity conducted by an educational institution that receives or benefits from state financial assistance or enrolls pupils who receive state student financial aid; provided, however, that such institution may require the use

of hair nets or coverings or may require that hair be secured for safety purposes in any career and technical training course or class to comply with safety regulations and standards of the course or class throughout the duration of the course or class.

4. The provisions of subsection 3 of this section shall not apply to an educational institution that is controlled by a religious organization if the application of such provision would not be consistent with the religious tenets of that organization.

172.280. The curators shall have the authority to confer, by diploma, under their common seal, on any person whom they may judge worthy thereof, such degrees as are known to and usually granted by any college or university. The University of Missouri is the state's only public research university [and the exclusive grantor of research doctorates]. As such, [except as provided in section 175.040,] the University of Missouri shall be the only state college or university that may offer **research doctorates**, doctor of philosophy degrees, or first-professional degrees, including dentistry, law, medicine, optometry, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine, **except as provided in sections 174.160 and 175.040.**

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

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

(2) "Belief-based student association" includes, but is not limited to, any political or ideological student association or any religious student association;

10 (3) "Benefit", recognition, registration, the use of
11 facilities of a public institution of higher learning for
12 meetings or speaking purposes, the use of channels of
13 communication of a public institution of higher learning, or
14 such other assistance, aid, or advantage as is made
15 available to student associations by a public institution of
16 higher learning;

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

173.1556. 1. (1) No public institution of higher
2 learning shall take any adverse action against a belief-
3 based student association or an applicant to be recognized
4 as such:

5 (a) Because such association is political,
6 ideological, or religious;

7 (b) On the basis of such association's viewpoint or
8 expression of the viewpoint by the association or the
9 association's members; or

10 (c) Based on such association's requirement that the
11 association's leaders be committed to furthering the
12 association's mission or that the association's leaders
13 adhere to the association's sincerely held beliefs, sincere
14 practice requirements, or sincere standards of conduct.

15 (2) Leaders referred to in paragraph (c) of
16 subdivision (1) of this subsection shall include, but not be
17 limited to, any person who holds a position within the
18 association that authorizes such person to participate in
19 the leadership or governance of the association or in

20 establishing criteria for the association's leadership or
21 governance.

22 (3) The mission, beliefs, practice requirements, and
23 standards of conduct referred to in paragraph (c) of
24 subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be interpreted as
25 defined by the association.

26 2. Any belief-based student association or applicant
27 to be recognized as such that has been aggrieved as a result
28 of a violation or threatened violation of subsection 1 of
29 this section may assert that violation or threatened
30 violation as a claim or defense in a judicial proceeding or
31 in an administrative proceeding involving the public
32 institution of higher learning and obtain appropriate relief.

33 3. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a
34 belief-based student association if there is substantial
35 evidence that such association's viewpoint or expression of
36 the viewpoint by the association or the association's
37 members would cause a material and substantial disruption to
38 the educational environment or interfere with the rights of
39 others on campus, in accordance with the United States
40 Supreme Court's decision in *Healy v. James*, 408 U.S. 169
41 (1972).

174.160. 1. The board of regents of each state
2 college and each state teachers college shall have power and
3 authority to confer upon students, by diploma under the
4 common seal, such degrees as are usually granted by such
5 colleges, and additional degrees only when authorized by the
6 coordinating board for higher education in circumstances in
7 which offering such degree would not unnecessarily duplicate
8 an existing program, collaboration is not feasible or a
9 viable means of meeting the needs of students and employers,
10 and the institution has the academic and financial capacity

11 to offer the program in a high-quality manner. In the case
12 of nonresearch doctoral degrees in allied health
13 professions, an institution may be authorized to offer such
14 degree independently if offering it in collaboration with
15 another institution would not increase the quality of the
16 program or allow it to be delivered more efficiently. Such
17 boards shall have the power and authority to confer degrees
18 in engineering only in collaboration with the University of
19 Missouri, provided that such collaborative agreements are
20 approved by the governing board of each institution and that
21 in these instances the University of Missouri will be the
22 degree-granting institution. Should the University of
23 Missouri decline to collaborate in the offering of such
24 programs, one of these institutions may seek approval of the
25 program through the coordinating board for higher
26 education's comprehensive review process when doing so would
27 not unnecessarily duplicate an existing program,
28 collaboration is not feasible or a viable means of meeting
29 the needs of students and employers, and the institution has
30 the academic and financial capacity to offer the program in
31 a high-quality manner.

32 **2. Notwithstanding sections 172.280 and 174.225 to the**
33 **contrary, the board of governors of Missouri State**
34 **University shall have the power and authority to grant**
35 **doctor of philosophy degrees in disciplines other than**
36 **engineering and to grant bachelor of science degrees in**
37 **veterinary technology.**

578.365. 1. **This section shall be known and may be**
2 **cited as "Danny's Law".**

3 **2. A person commits the offense of hazing if he or she**
4 **knowingly, actively, and not under duress participates in,**
5 **solicits another person to participate in, or causes or**

6 **plans** a willful act, occurring on or off the campus of a
7 public or private college or university, directed against a
8 student or a prospective member, **current member, or former**
9 **member** of an organization operating under the sanction of a
10 public or private college or university, that recklessly
11 endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a
12 student or prospective member, **current member, or former**
13 **member** for the purpose of initiation or admission into or
14 continued membership in any such organization to the extent
15 that such person is knowingly placed at probable risk of the
16 loss of life or probable bodily or psychological harm. Acts
17 of hazing include:

18 (1) Any activity which recklessly endangers the
19 physical health or safety of the student or prospective
20 member, **current member, or former member**, including but not
21 limited to physical brutality, whipping, beating, branding,
22 exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food,
23 liquor, drug or other substance, or forced smoking or
24 chewing of tobacco products;

25 (2) Any activity which recklessly endangers the mental
26 health of the student or prospective member, **current member,**
27 **or former member**, including but not limited to sleep
28 deprivation, physical confinement, or other extreme stress-
29 inducing activity; or

30 (3) Any activity that requires the student or
31 prospective member, **current member, or former member** to
32 perform a duty or task which involves a violation of the
33 criminal laws of this state or any political subdivision in
34 this state.

35 [2.] 3. Public or private colleges or universities in
36 this state shall adopt a written policy prohibiting hazing

37 by any organization operating under the sanction of the
38 institution.

39 [3.] 4. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted
40 as creating a new private cause of action against any
41 educational institution.

42 [4.] 5. Consent is not a defense to hazing. Section
43 565.010 does not apply to hazing cases or to homicide cases
44 arising out of hazing activity.

45 [5.] 6. The offense of hazing is a class A
46 misdemeanor, unless the act creates a substantial risk to
47 the life of the student [or], prospective member, **current**
48 **member, or former member**, in which case it is a class D
49 felony.

50 7. A person shall not be guilty of the offense of
51 hazing if the person establishes all of the following:

52 (1) That he was present at an event where, as a result
53 of hazing, a person appeared to be in need of immediate
54 medical assistance;

55 (2) That he was the first person to call 911 or campus
56 security to report the need for immediate medical assistance;

57 (3) That he provided his own name, the address where
58 immediate medical assistance was needed, and a description
59 of the medical issue to the 911 operator or campus security
60 at the time of the call; and

61 (4) That he remained at the scene with the person in
62 need of immediate medical assistance until medical
63 assistance, law enforcement, or campus security arrived and
64 that he cooperated with such personnel on the scene.

65 8. Notwithstanding subsection 7 of this section to the
66 contrary, a person shall be immune from prosecution under
67 this section if the person establishes that the person
68 rendered aid to the hazing victim before medical assistance,

69 law enforcement, or campus security arrived on the scene of
70 the hazing event. For purposes of this subsection, the term
71 "aid" includes, but is not limited to, rendering
72 cardiopulmonary resuscitation to the victim, clearing an
73 airway for the victim to breathe, using a defibrillator to
74 assist the victim, or rendering any other assistance to the
75 victim that the person intended in good faith to stabilize
76 or improve the victim's condition while waiting for medical
77 assistance, law enforcement, or campus security to arrive.

78 9. For purposes of this section, the term "former
79 member" means a person who is no longer affiliated with the
80 chapter of the organization operating under the sanction of
81 the public or private college or university, but who may be
82 affiliated with the national chapter of the organization.

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