

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 1029

AN ACT

To repeal section 162.821, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to education.

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

Section A. Section 162.821, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 162.192 and 162.821, to read as follows:

162.192. 1. For purposes of this section, "financial ledger" means a searchable, machine-readable, publicly accessible database maintained by a school district that:

(1) Sets forth all financial transactions conducted with school district funds, including, but not limited to, the school funds established pursuant to section 165.011;

(2) Is available without login credentials, registration, or fees;

(3) Is downloadable and exportable in formats including, but not limited to, comma-separated values (CSV) format and Microsoft Excel format;

(4) Records all transactions using Missouri financial accounting manual classification categories, as applicable; and

(5) Includes the following minimum required data fields for each financial transaction, and is searchable and filterable by such fields, at minimum:

(a) Transaction date;

(b) Transaction amount;

(c) Revenue or expenditure designation;

(d) Fund code;

(e) Function code;

- (f) Object code;
- (g) Vendor or payee name; and
- (h) Description or memo field.

2. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, each school district shall maintain a financial ledger on its publicly accessible website. The homepage of each public school's website shall include a direct link to the financial ledger of the school district that has oversight responsibility for that public school. The link shall make the financial ledger accessible within one click, shall be clearly labeled as a link to the school district's financial ledger, and shall be functional and mobile-responsive. The department may provide standardized language or icons that public schools may use for the purpose of ensuring compliance with this subsection.

3. A school district's financial ledger shall be updated at least monthly. Details of each calendar month's financial transactions shall be posted no later than forty-five days after the close of that calendar month.

4. For historical record keeping purposes, a school district shall maintain complete financial ledger data on its publicly accessible website for no fewer than five prior fiscal years.

5. A school district may redact protected personal information on the financial ledger only to the extent required by applicable law. Vendor names, amounts, and accounting codes shall not be redacted. Payroll data may be presented in aggregated form where disclosure of individual information is restricted.

6. Debt obligations shall be posted in a separate section of the financial ledger, with disclosure of the following information:

- (1) Outstanding debt balances;

- (2) Issuance dates;
- (3) Repayment schedules;
- (4) Annual debt service amounts; and
- (5) Debt service as a percentage of total expenditures.

7. The department may provide or approve standardized templates or platforms a school district may use to comply with the provisions of this section. A school district may use a third-party template or platform that is approved by the department.

8. The department may provide guidance to assist school districts in complying with the provisions of this section. Such guidance may include:

(1) High-level expenditure summaries by classification category under the Missouri financial accounting manual;

(2) Standardized definitions of terms to be used in the financial ledger; and

(3) Clear explanations of methodology and limitations applicable to the compilation and presentation of financial ledger data.

9. School districts shall annually certify compliance with this section to the department. The department shall promulgate rules establishing procedures and timelines for school districts to certify compliance.

10. If the department finds that any school district has violated a provision of this section, the department may withhold state aid to which the school district is entitled under chapter 163 until the school district proves to the satisfaction of the department that the school district is no longer in violation of this section.

11. The department shall establish a process for members of the public to file complaints with the department if they believe a school district has violated any provision of this section. The department may establish a public

compliance dashboard on the department's website to enable members of the public to check whether a particular school district is certified as in compliance with the provisions of this section.

12. The department shall promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2026, shall be invalid and void.

162.821. The district secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all annual and special elections of the voters of the district and of the proceedings of the board of education. He shall make copies of the election notices, contracts with teachers, certificates and all other papers relating to the business of the district, and securely keep the same. He shall maintain a correct plat of the district and shall promptly notify the department of elementary and secondary education and the county clerk of each county affected of all changes in the boundaries of the district. He shall transmit to the county commission and to the state department of elementary and secondary education, on or before the fifteenth day of August in each year, a report embracing the following items:

(1) The number of children, male and female, attending the public schools during the year;

- (2) Total number of days' attendance by all such children;
- (3) The number of days the public schools of the district have been maintained during the school year;
- (4) The number of teachers employed, male and female, and the wages per month of each;
- (5) Estimated value of school property owned and managed by the district;
- (6) Assessed valuation of the district;
- (7) Rate of school tax on the assessed valuation of the district;
- (8) Cash on hand at the beginning of the year;
- (9) Tuition fees received and credited to the teachers' fund of the district;
- (10) Public funds received by county treasurer;
- (11) District tax received by county (or township) treasurer;
- (12) Amount paid on teachers' wages;
- (13) Amount paid for incidental expenses;
- (14) Amount expended for purchasing site, erecting schoolhouses, rent and repairs;
- (15) Amount expended in cancelling bonded indebtedness and paying interest on same;
- (16) Amount expended for library;
- (17) Amount expended for legal services. If the report does not include the amount expended for legal services, then the attorney general may investigate the violation of this subdivision and may bring a civil action, including an action for injunctive relief, against the school district. Such action shall be brought in the county where the school district is located;
- (18) Cash on hand at the end of the year;

[(18)] (19) Such other information as may be required by the state board of education.