

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 1610

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR WASHINGTON.

5654S.01I

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to support for homeless pupils through the department of higher education and workforce development.

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 173.2541, to read as
3 follows:

173.2541. 1. As used in this section, the following

2 **terms mean:**

3 (1) "Homeless pupils", includes any person who
4 satisfies the definition of "homeless children and youths"
5 established in 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a(2) and any person
6 who satisfies the definition of "unaccompanied youth"
7 established in 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a(6);

8 (2) "Liaison", the liaison for postsecondary education
9 for homeless pupils established in this section.

10 2. There is hereby established the liaison for
11 postsecondary education for homeless pupils within the
12 department of higher education and workforce development.

13 3. There is hereby created in the state treasury the
14 "Liaison for Postsecondary Education for Homeless Pupils
15 Fund", which shall consist of moneys appropriated by the
16 general assembly or any gifts, donations, or bequests for
17 the purpose of implementing the provisions of this section.

18 The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In
19 accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state
20 treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall be a
21 dedicated fund and money in the fund shall be used solely by
22 the department of higher education and workforce development
23 for the purposes of implementing the provisions of this
24 section. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080
25 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end
26 of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the
27 general revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest
28 moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are
29 invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such
30 investments shall be credited to the fund.

31 4. The governor shall, subject to appropriations,
32 appoint the liaison for a term of four years. The
33 individual appointed:

34 (1) Shall be knowledgeable in the various issues
35 relating to homeless pupils, including, but not limited to,
36 the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987, 42
37 U.S.C. Section 11431, et seq.;

38 (2) Shall be independent of and have no pecuniary
39 interest in any other organization or entity that provides
40 services to homeless pupils;

41 (3) Shall devote all of such individual's time to the
42 business of such individual's office and shall not pursue
43 any other business or vocation or hold any other office of
44 profit; and

45 (4) Shall not be a member of any political party or a
46 member of any committee of any political party.

47 5. The governor may remove the liaison from office for
48 inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office.

49 6. Subject to appropriations, the liaison shall:

50 (1) Conduct an annual analysis of homeless pupils in
51 this state to assess the needs of such pupils;

52 (2) Develop a database to track, monitor, and analyze
53 trends in the rates of graduation and retention of homeless
54 pupils;

55 (3) Develop a model for college and career readiness
56 for homeless pupils;

57 (4) Collaborate with high school staff members
58 responsible for assisting homeless and unaccompanied pupils;

63 (6) Establish connections between and collaborate with
64 financial aid offices, student support services, and campus
65 housing services of institutions of higher education within
66 this state;

67 (7) Identify and refer homeless pupils to mentoring
68 programs;

79 (10) Identify and coordinate with food banks and
80 clothing banks or establish one or more food banks or
81 clothing banks on a campus of an institution of higher

82 education within this state to provide services to homeless
83 pupils;

84 (11) Establish a plan for housing homeless pupils when
85 campus housing is not available, including, without
86 limitation, establishing a list of host homes in the local
87 community and keeping one or more campus housing buildings
88 open; and

89 (12) Apply for and accept grants awarded through the
90 College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007, Pub. L. 110-
91 84.

92 7. Subject to appropriations, the liaison may:

93 (1) Employ such staff as is necessary to carry out the
94 liaison's duties and the functions of the liaison's office,
95 in accordance with any applicable personnel practices and
96 procedures established by the coordinating board for higher
97 education. The liaison has sole discretion to employ and
98 remove any member of the liaison's staff;

99 (2) Purchase necessary equipment;

100 (3) Lease or make other suitable arrangements for
101 office space, provided that any lease that extends beyond
102 the term of one year shall be reviewed and approved by the
103 commissioner of administration; and

104 (4) Perform such other functions and make such other
105 arrangements as may be necessary to carry out the liaison's
106 duties and the functions of the liaison's office.

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