

# SENATE BILL NO. 1610

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR WASHINGTON.

5654S.011

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;

59           (5) Collaborate with high schools to identify homeless  
60 pupils to refer such pupils to appropriate support services  
61 after the admission of such pupils to an institution of  
62 higher education within this state;

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;

69           (8) Increase awareness among teachers, instructors,  
70 professors, and other staff members of institutions of  
71 higher education in this state who work with pupils on  
72 issues relating to homeless pupils, including, without  
73 limitation, identifying such pupils and referring such  
74 pupils to appropriate resources;

75           (9) Establish and maintain a database of food banks,  
76 clothing banks, and low-cost health care providers, to be  
77 provided, without limitation, to financial aid offices and  
78 student support services of institutions of higher education;

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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