

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

Relating to the Seal of Civic Recognition award.

Whereas, the state of Missouri recognizes the core importance of education focused on patriotism, ethics, morality, and civics; and

Whereas, the state celebrates commitment on a local, state, and national level on the part of our state's graduating seniors; and

Whereas, the state desires to support such education and graduating seniors by awarding a "State of Missouri Seal of Civic Recognition" to each senior who graduates from a public school, private school, parochial school, or home school and who meets the specific criteria for various levels of the Seal of Civic Recognition; and

Whereas, the state hopes and expects that such award will garner recognition of such student's efforts in the form of scholarships, financial assistance, internships, apprenticeships, and other similar awards to aid such student's pursuit of future education and vocational or professional career opportunities; and

Whereas, to further support the state's matriculating students' embrace of a strong ethical civic education, the state exhorts nominating entities and individuals to assist recipients of a Seal of Civic Recognition in efforts to further vocational or professional preparedness; and

Whereas, the state of Missouri desires to commend a commitment to our beautiful state and this nation through service in the Armed Forces of the United States, with the full and joyous expectation that, after such student's term of service to this state and our nation, the student will be

heartily welcomed home with open arms by a grateful citizenry:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, One Hundred Third General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby create the "State of Missouri Seal of Civic Recognition" program; and

Be It Further Resolved that nominations for consideration for a Seal of Civic Recognition may be submitted to the Office of College and Career Readiness at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education:

(1) By civic or veteran organizations, businesses, or interested individuals;

(2) By a school after a student's progression from grade six upward in participating public schools, private schools, parochial schools, or home schools;

(3) Before such student's graduation from grade twelve in a participating school; and

(4) By the nominating entity's or individual's submission of documentation that the student qualifies for a Seal of Civic Recognition under the program; and

Be It Further Resolved that a graduating senior shall be eligible for a designated level of the Seal of Civic Recognition if such senior accomplishes the following:

(1) Complete at least two, four, or six school years of documented combined academic instruction in functional moral and ethical local, state, and national governance, national and world history, or curriculum selected by the Office of College and Career Readiness at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education;

(2) Engage in active participation in school governance and community civic engagement through civic, veteran, and other community organizations;

(3) Participate in mentorship programming offered by local, state, and other government officials and civil servants;

(4) Participate in a school-, community-, or church-sponsored "Seal of Civic Recognition Club or Team" focused on reinforcing and building on such educational instruction and participatory activities, such as FFA, American Legion, Kiwanis, Adoremus, and similar clubs and organizations; and

(5) Make a formal commitment to, upon graduation, participate for at least one year in some form of community or national civic or military service; and

Be It Further Resolved that a graduating senior who accomplishes the requirements to be eligible for a Seal of Civic Recognition shall be awarded such Seal by the Office of College and Career Readiness at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in the following designations:

(1) For completing at least two but fewer than four school years of the required instruction, a Bronze Seal of Civic Recognition;

(2) For completing at least four but fewer than six school years of the required instruction, a Silver Seal of Civic Recognition; and

(3) For completing at least six school years of the required instruction, a Gold Seal of Civic Recognition; and

Be It Further Resolved that a Seal of Civic Recognition shall accompany such student's high school diploma; and

Be It Further Resolved that the state encourages entities that nominated a student who receives a Seal of

Civic Recognition to provide some level of agreed-upon and stipulated support for such student's future vocational or professional preparedness after the student's matriculation, which support may be in the form of direct scholarship assistance, mentoring, accommodations, apprenticeships, internships, or other similar incentives to aid such student's progress toward professional or vocational advancement; and

Be It Further Resolved that a student who is a recipient of a Seal of Civic Recognition and who commits to serve our nation in military service directly or through enlistment in a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program will receive a "Letter of Congratulations, Commendation, and State Gratitude" signed by the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Lieutenant Governor of the state of Missouri; and

Be It Further Resolved that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.