CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 86

AN ACT

To repeal section 115.646, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to school districts, with penalty provisions.

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

Section A. Section 115.646, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 115.646 and 135.715, to read as follows:

115.646. No contribution or expenditure of public funds shall be made directly by any officer, employee or agent of any political subdivision, including school districts and charter schools, to advocate, support, or oppose the passage or defeat of any ballot measure or the nomination or election of any candidate for public office, or to direct any public funds to, or pay any debts or obligations of, any committee supporting or opposing such ballot measures or candidates. This section shall not be construed to prohibit any public official of a political subdivision, including school districts and charter schools, from making public appearances or from issuing press releases concerning any such ballot measure. Any purposeful violation of this section shall be punished as a class four election offense.

135.715. 1. Notwithstanding any provision in section 135.713 to the contrary, the annual increase to the cumulative amount of tax credits under subsection 3 of section 135.713 shall cease when the amount of tax credits reaches fifty million dollars. The cumulative amount of tax credits that may be allocated to all taxpayers contributing

to educational assistance organizations in the first year of the program shall not exceed twenty-five million dollars.

2. The state treasurer shall limit the number of educational assistance organizations that are certified to administer scholarship accounts to no more than ten such organizations in any single school year, with no more than six of such organizations having their principal place of business in:

(1) A county of the first classification with more than two hundred sixty thousand but fewer than three hundred thousand inhabitants;

(2) A county with a charter form of government and with more than six hundred thousand but fewer than seven hundred thousand inhabitants;

(3) A county with a charter form of government and with more than three hundred thousand but fewer than four hundred fifty thousand inhabitants;

(4) A county with a charter form of government and with more than nine hundred fifty thousand inhabitants; or

(5) A city not within a county.

3. The state treasurer may delegate any duties assigned to the state treasurer under sections 135.712 to 135.719 and sections 166.700 to 166.720 to the Missouri empowerment scholarship accounts board, which is hereby established. The Missouri empowerment scholarship accounts board shall consist of the state treasurer, who shall serve as chair, the commissioner of the department of higher education and workforce development, the commissioner of education, the commissioner of the office of administration, one member appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate, one member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, and one member appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. The appointed

members shall serve terms of four years or until their successors have been appointed and qualified. The board shall have all powers and duties assigned to the state treasurer under sections 135.712 to 135.719 and sections 166.700 to 166.720 that are delegated to the board by the state treasurer. Members of the board shall not receive compensation for their service, but may receive reimbursement for necessary expenses.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 7 of section 135.716 to the contrary, four percent of the total qualifying contributions received by each educational assistance organization per calendar year shall be deposited in the Missouri empowerment scholarship accounts fund to be used by the state treasurer for marketing and administrative expenses or the costs incurred in administering the program, whichever is less.

5. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of section 135.712 to the contrary, the term "qualifying contribution" shall mean a donation of cash, including, but not limited to, checks drawn on a banking institution located in the continental United States in U.S. dollars (other than cashier checks, or third-party checks exceeding ten thousand dollars), money orders, payroll deductions, and electronic fund transfers. This term shall not include stocks, bonds, other marketable securities, or property.

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Dan Hegeman

Ben Baker