

SENATE AMENDMENT NO. _____

Offered by _____ Of _____

Amend SS/HCS/House Bill Nos. 2097 & 1905, Page 32, Section 166.715, Line 10,

2 by inserting after all of said line the following:

3 "173.831. 1. As used in this section, the following
4 terms mean:

5 (1) "Academic skill intake assessment", a criterion-
6 referenced assessment of numeracy and literacy skills with
7 high reliability and validity as determined by third-party
8 research;

9 (2) "Accredited", holding an active accreditation from
10 one of the seven United States regional accreditors
11 including, but not limited to, the Middle States Commission
12 on Higher Education, the New England Association of Schools
13 and Colleges, the Higher Learning Commission, the Northwest
14 Commission on Colleges and Universities, the Southern
15 Association of Colleges and Schools, the Western Association
16 of Schools and Colleges, and the Accrediting Commission for
17 Community and Junior Colleges, as well as any successor
18 entities or consolidations of the above including, but not
19 limited to, AdvancEd or Cognia;

20 (3) "Adult dropout recovery services" includes, but is
21 not limited to, sourcing, recruitment, and engagement of
22 eligible students, learning plan development, active
23 teaching, and proactive coaching and mentoring, resulting in
24 an accredited high school diploma and pathway to post
25 secondary education opportunities;

26 (4) "Approved program provider", a public, not-for-
27 profit, or other entity that meets the requirements of
28 subdivision (2) of subsection 3 of this section or any
29 consortium of such entities;

30 (5) "Average cost per graduate", the amount of the
31 total program funding reimbursed to an approved program
32 provider for each cohort during the period of time from the
33 beginning of the same cohort through the subsequent twelve
34 months after the close of the same cohort, divided by the
35 total number of students who graduated from the same cohort
36 within twelve months after the close of the same cohort or
37 enrollment in postsecondary education;

38 (6) "Career pathways coursework", one or more courses
39 that align with the skill needs of industries in the economy
40 of the state or region that help an individual enter or
41 advance within a specific occupation or occupational cluster;

42 (7) "Career placement services", services designed to
43 assist students in obtaining employment, such as career
44 interest self-assessments and job search skills such as
45 resume development and mock interviews;

46 (8) "Coaching", proactive communication between the
47 approved program provider and the student related to the
48 student's pace and progress through the student's learning
49 plan;

50 (9) "Cohort", students who enter the program between
51 July first and June thirtieth of each program year;

52 (10) "Department", the department of elementary and
53 secondary education;

54 (11) "Employability skills certification", a
55 certificate earned by demonstrating professional
56 nontechnical skills through assessment, portfolio, or
57 observation;

58 (12) "Graduate", a student who has successfully
59 completed all of the state and approved program provider
60 requirements in order to obtain a high school diploma;

61 (13) "Graduation rate", the total number of graduates
62 from a cohort who graduated within twelve months after the
63 close of the cohort divided by the total number of students
64 included in the same cohort;

65 (14) "Graduation requirements", course and credit
66 requirements for the approved program provider's accredited
67 high school diploma;

68 (15) "High school diploma", a diploma issued by an
69 accredited institution;

70 (16) "Industry-recognized credential", an education-
71 related credential or work-related credential that verifies
72 an individual's qualification or competence issued by a
73 third party with the relevant authority to issue such
74 credential;

75 (17) "Learning plan", a documented plan for courses or
76 credits needed for each individual in order to complete
77 program and approved program provider graduation
78 requirements;

79 (18) "Mentoring", a direct relationship between a
80 coach and a student to facilitate the completion of the
81 student's learning plan designed to prepare the student to
82 succeed in the program and the student's future endeavors;

83 (19) "Milestones", objective measures of progress for
84 which payment is made to an approved program provider under
85 this section such as earned units of high school credit,
86 attainment of an employability skills certificate,
87 attainment of an industry-recognized credential, attainment
88 of a technical skills assessment, and attainment of an
89 accredited high school diploma;

90 (20) "Program", the workforce diploma program
91 established in this section;

92 (21) "Request for qualifications", a request for
93 interested potential program providers to submit evidence
94 that they meet the qualifications established in subsection
95 3 of this section;

96 (22) "Stackable credential", a third-party credential
97 that is part of a sequence of credentials that can be
98 accumulated over time to build up an individual's
99 qualifications to advance along a career pathway;

100 (23) "Student", a participant in the program
101 established in this section who is twenty-one years of age
102 or older, who is a resident of Missouri, and who has not yet
103 earned a high school diploma;

104 (24) "Technical skills assessment", a criterion-
105 referenced assessment of an individual's skills required for
106 an entry-level career, or additional training in a technical
107 field, or other postsecondary opportunities;

108 (25) "Transcript evaluation", a documented summary of
109 credits earned in previous public or private accredited high
110 schools compared with the program and approved program
111 provider graduation requirements;

112 (26) "Unit of high school credit", credit awarded
113 based on a student's demonstration that the student has
114 successfully met the content expectations for the credit
115 area as defined by subject area standards, expectations, or
116 guidelines.

117 2. There is hereby established the "Workforce Diploma
118 Program" within the department of elementary and secondary
119 education to assist students with obtaining a high school
120 diploma and developing employability and career technical
121 skills. The program may be delivered in campus-based,
122 blended, or online modalities.

123 3. (1) Before September 1, 2022, and annually
124 thereafter, the department shall issue a request for
125 qualifications for interested program providers to become
126 approved program providers and participate in the program.

127 (2) Each approved program provider shall meet all of
128 the following qualifications:

129 (a) Be an accredited high school diploma-granting
130 entity;

131 (b) Have a minimum of two years of experience
132 providing adult dropout recovery services;

133 (c) Provide academic skill intake assessments and
134 transcript evaluations to each student. Such academic skill
135 intake assessments may be administered in person or online;

136 (d) Develop a learning plan for each student that
137 integrates graduation requirements and career goals;

138 (e) Provide a course catalog that includes all courses
139 necessary to meet graduation requirements;

140 (f) Offer remediation opportunities in literacy and
141 numeracy, as applicable;

142 (g) Offer employability skills certification, as
143 applicable;

144 (h) Offer career pathways coursework, as applicable;

145 (i) Ability to provide preparation for industry-
146 recognized credentials or stackable credentials, a technical
147 skills assessment, or a combination thereof; and

148 (j) Offer career placement services, as applicable.

149 (3) Upon confirmation by the department that an
150 interested program provider meets all of the qualifications
151 listed in subdivision (2) of this subsection, an interested
152 program provider shall become an approved program provider.

153 4. (1) The department shall announce the approved
154 program providers before October sixteenth annually, with

155 authorization for the approved program providers to begin
156 enrolling students before November fifteenth annually.

157 (2) Approved program providers shall maintain approval
158 without reapplying annually if the approved program provider
159 has not been removed from the approved program provider list
160 under this section.

161 5. All approved program providers shall comply with
162 requirements as provided by the department to ensure:

163 (1) An accurate accounting of a student's accumulated
164 credits toward a high school diploma;

165 (2) An accurate accounting of credits necessary to
166 complete a high school diploma; and

167 (3) The provision of coursework aligned to the
168 academic performance standards of the state.

169 6. (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this
170 subsection, the department shall pay an amount as set by the
171 department to approved program providers for the following
172 milestones provided by the approved program provider:

173 (a) Completion of each half unit of high school credit;

174 (b) Attainment of an employability skills
175 certification;

176 (c) Attainment of an industry-recognized credential,
177 technical skills assessment, or stackable credential
178 requiring no more than fifty hours of training;

179 (d) Attainment of an industry-recognized credential or
180 stackable credential requiring at least fifty-one but no
181 more than one hundred hours of training;

182 (e) Attainment of an industry-recognized credential or
183 stackable credential requiring more than one hundred hours
184 of training; and

185 (f) Attainment of an accredited high school diploma.

186 (2) No approved program provider shall receive funding
187 for a student under this section if the approved program

188 provider receives federal or state funding or private
189 tuition for that student. No approved program provider
190 shall charge student fees of any kind including, but not
191 limited to, textbook fees, tuition fees, lab fees, or
192 participation fees unless the student chooses to obtain
193 additional education offered by the approved program
194 provider that is not included in the state-funded program.

195 (3) Payments made under this subsection shall be
196 subject to an appropriation made to the department for such
197 purposes.

198 7. (1) Approved program providers shall submit
199 monthly invoices to the department before the eleventh
200 calendar day of each month for milestones met in the
201 previous calendar month.

202 (2) The department shall pay approved program
203 providers in the order in which invoices are submitted until
204 all available funds are exhausted.

205 (3) The department shall provide a written update to
206 approved program providers by the last calendar day of each
207 month. The update shall include the aggregate total dollars
208 that have been paid to approved program providers to date
209 and the estimated number of enrollments still available for
210 the program year.

211 8. Before July sixteenth of each year, each provider
212 shall report the following metrics to the department for
213 each individual cohort, on a cohort-by-cohort basis:

214 (1) The total number of students who have been funded
215 through the program;

216 (2) The total number of credits earned;

217 (3) The total number of employability skills
218 certifications issued;

219 (4) The total number of industry-recognized
220 credentials, stackable credentials, and technical skills
221 assessments earned for each tier of funding;

222 (5) The total number of graduates;

223 (6) The average cost per graduate once the stipulated
224 time to make such a calculation has passed; and

225 (7) The graduation rate once the stipulated time to
226 make such a calculation has passed.

227 9. (1) Before September sixteenth of each year, each
228 approved program provider shall conduct and submit to the
229 department the aggregate results of a survey of each
230 individual cohort, on a cohort-by-cohort basis, who
231 graduated from the program of the approved program provider
232 under this section. The survey shall be conducted in the
233 year after the year in which the individuals graduate and
234 the next four consecutive years.

235 (2) The survey shall include at least the following
236 data collection elements for each year the survey is
237 conducted:

238 (a) The individual's employment status, including
239 whether the individual is employed full time or part time;

240 (b) The individual's hourly wages;

241 (c) The individual's access to employer-sponsored
242 health care; and

243 (d) The individual's postsecondary enrollment status,
244 including whether the individual has completed a
245 postsecondary certificate or degree program.

246 10. (1) Beginning at the end of the second fiscal
247 year of the program, the department shall review data from
248 each approved program provider to ensure that each is
249 achieving minimum program performance standards including,
250 but not limited to:

251 (a) A minimum fifty percent average graduation rate
252 per cohort; and

253 (b) An average cost per graduate per cohort of seven
254 thousand dollars or less.

255 (2) Any approved program provider that fails to meet
256 the minimum program performance standards described in
257 subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be placed on
258 probationary status for the remainder of the fiscal year by
259 the department.

260 (3) Any approved program provider that fails to meet
261 the minimum program performance standards described in
262 subdivision (1) of this subsection for two consecutive years
263 shall be removed from the approved program provider list by
264 the department.

265 11. (1) No approved program provider shall
266 discriminate against a student on the basis of race, color,
267 religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexuality, gender,
268 or age.

269 (2) If an approved program provider determines that a
270 student would be better served by participating in a
271 different program, the approved program provider may refer
272 the student to the state's adult basic education services.

273 12. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury
274 the "Workforce Diploma Program Fund", which shall consist of
275 any grants, gifts, donations, bequests, or moneys
276 appropriated under this section. The state treasurer shall
277 be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections
278 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve
279 disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and, upon
280 appropriation, moneys in the fund shall be used solely as
281 provided in this section.

282 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080
283 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end

284 of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the
285 general revenue fund.

286 (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the
287 fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any
288 interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be
289 credited to the fund.

290 13. The director of the department may promulgate all
291 necessary rules and regulations for the administration of
292 this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term
293 is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the
294 authority delegated in this section shall become effective
295 only if it complies with and is subject to all of the
296 provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section
297 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and
298 if any of the powers vested with the general assembly
299 pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective
300 date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently
301 held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking
302 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28,
303 2022, shall be invalid and void.

304 14. [Under section 23.253 of the Missouri sunset act:

305 (1) The provisions of the new program authorized under
306 this section shall automatically sunset six years after
307 August 28, 2022, unless reauthorized by an act of the
308 general assembly; and

309 (2) If such program is reauthorized, the program
310 authorized under this section shall automatically sunset
311 twelve years after the effective date of the reauthorization
312 of this section; and

313 (3) This section shall terminate on September first of
314 the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in
315 which the program authorized under this section is sunset.

316 15.] If any provision of this section or its
317 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid,
318 such determination shall not affect the provisions or
319 applications of the remainder of this act which may be given
320 effect without the invalid provision or application, and to
321 that end the provisions of this section are severable."; and
322 Further amend the title and enacting clause accordingly.