

HB 2731 -- DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES

SPONSOR: Shields

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill creates provisions regarding dual enrollment courses. A dual enrollment course is a postsecondary course of instruction delivered by an approved higher education institution in which a secondary school student is concurrently enrolled in a Missouri high school and an approved higher education institution.

The bill renames the "Dual Credit Scholarship Act" as the "Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment Scholarship Act." In order to receive a dual enrollment scholarship, a student must meet current law requirements and be enrolled in a dual enrollment course offered by an approved higher education institution.

Currently, a dual credit scholarship shall reimburse each eligible student for up to 50% of the tuition and cost paid by the student to enroll in a dual credit course. Current law also limits the amount of the scholarship per student to \$500 annually for all dual credit courses taken by such student. This bill provides that each eligible student shall be offered a dual credit or dual enrollment scholarship equal to the tuition and fees paid by the student to enroll in the dual credit or dual enrollment course. The bill also repeals the \$500 limitation. Finally, the bill renames the "Dual Credit Scholarship Fund" as the "Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment Scholarship Fund".

This bill is similar to SB 1055 (2022).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill will provide additional funding for students taking dual credit courses. The Governor requested \$7 million and this bill will help clean up the current concerns that the A+ funding has not been sufficient to provide money for dual credit students.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Shields; Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development; Council on Public Higher Education; Jenna Roberson; and the Missouri Community College Association.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.