

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2124

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER.

5755H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 173.670, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fund.

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

Section A. Section 173.670, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 173.670 and 620.3030, to read as follows:

173.670. 1. There is hereby established within the department of higher education the "Missouri Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Initiative". The department of higher education may award matching funds through this initiative to public institutions of higher education as part of the annual appropriations process.

2. The purpose of the initiative shall be to provide support to increase interest among elementary, secondary, and university students in fields of study related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and to increase the number of Missouri graduates in these fields at Missouri's public two- and four-year institutions of higher education.

3. There is hereby created a "Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Fund", which shall consist of money collected under this section. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund and may approve disbursements from the fund in accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180. Upon appropriation, money in the fund shall be used solely for the administration of this section. Any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17 4. As part of the initiative, the department of higher education shall develop a process
18 to award grants to Missouri public two- and four-year institutions of higher education and school
19 districts that have entered into articulation agreements to offer information technology
20 certification through technical course work leading to postsecondary academic credit through the
21 program established in section 173.675.

22 5. The general assembly may appropriate funds to the science, technology, engineering[,]
23 and mathematics fund to match institution funds to support the following programs:

24 (1) Endowed teaching professor programs, which provide funds to support faculty who
25 teach undergraduate courses in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields at public
26 institutions of higher education;

27 (2) Scholarship programs, which provide financial aid or loan forgiveness awards to
28 Missouri students who study in the science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields or
29 who plan to enter the teaching field in Missouri with an emphasis on science, technology,
30 engineering, and mathematics areas;

31 (3) Experiential youth programs at public colleges or universities, designed to provide
32 Missouri middle school, junior high, and high school students with the opportunity to experience
33 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields through camps or other educational
34 offerings;

35 (4) Career enhancement programs for current elementary and secondary teachers and
36 professors at Missouri public and private colleges and universities in the science, technology,
37 engineering, or mathematics fields to improve the quality of teaching.

38 **6. Any taxpayer hiring a person who is currently enrolled as a student majoring in**
39 **a field of study related to science, technology, engineering, or mathematics at any two-year**
40 **or four-year public or private Missouri college or university to fill an internship position**
41 **in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics may apply to have up to**
42 **five thousand dollars of the taxpayer's state tax liability transferred from the general**
43 **revenue fund and placed in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fund**
44 **established in subsection 3 of this section, upon appropriation. For purposes of this**
45 **subsection, "state tax liability" means any liability incurred by a taxpayer under the**
46 **provisions of chapter 143, excluding withholding tax imposed by sections 143.191 to**
47 **143.265, or the tax imposed in chapter 147, 148, or 153. The department of higher**
48 **education shall establish a procedure for approving applications under this section. For**
49 **purposes of this subsection, the taxpayer's state tax liability shall be paid before a transfer**
50 **under this subsection occurs. The cumulative amount of taxes transferred to the science,**
51 **technology, engineering and mathematics fund under this subsection and section 620.3030**
52 **shall not exceed an annual total of fifty thousand dollars from all participating taxpayers.**

53 In the event a donation is made to the fund from a third party that donation shall not count
54 toward the fifty thousand dollar annual limit. In order to qualify for purposes of this
55 subsection, the internship shall be:

56 (1) Located within the state of Missouri; and

57 (2) For a duration of at least twelve weeks and consist of at least fifteen hours of
58 work per week.

59 7. The department of higher education may promulgate rules and regulations for
60 the administration of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in
61 section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become
62 effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and,
63 if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of
64 the powers vested with the general assembly under chapter 536 to review, to delay the
65 effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional,
66 then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28,
67 2016, shall be invalid and void.

620.3030. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "Economic-Education Partnership Act".

3 2. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

4 (1) "Educational benefits", the funds provided by an employer to a qualified
5 individual or to an accredited educational institution for a period of up to five years to pay
6 any portion of the tuition or fees for a qualified individual pursuing an advanced
7 certificate, associate's degree, bachelor's degree, master's degree, or doctorate degree in
8 a field of study related to health care, engineering, or information technology related
9 programs;

10 (2) "Employer", a business with facilities in Missouri that employs a qualified
11 individual upon the completion of the individual's degree or training for at least the same
12 length of time as the employer provided educational benefits or training to the qualified
13 individual;

14 (3) "Fund", the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fund established
15 in section 173.670;

16 (4) "Qualified individual", an individual:

17 (a) Who is a resident of this state;

18 (b) Who is employed by an employer in Missouri;

19 (c) Who has an annual individual gross income of two hundred thousand dollars
20 or less; and

21 (d) Who pursues an advanced certificate, associate's degree, bachelor's degree,
22 master's degree, or doctorate degree in a field of study related to health care, engineering,
23 or information technology related programs;

24 (5) "State tax liability", any liability incurred by a taxpayer under the provisions
25 of chapter 143, excluding withholding tax imposed by sections 143.191 to 143.265, or the
26 tax imposed in chapter 147, 148, or 153.

27 3. An employer that provides educational benefits to a qualified individual, or
28 trains a qualified individual for an employment position in the health care, engineering,
29 or information technology fields for no more than one year, may apply to have up to five
30 thousand dollars of the taxpayer's state tax liability transferred from the general revenue
31 fund and placed in the fund, upon appropriation. The department of higher education
32 shall establish a procedure for approving applications under this section. For purposes of
33 this section, the taxpayer's state tax liability shall be paid before a transfer under this
34 section occurs. The cumulative amount of taxes transferred to the fund under this section
35 and subsection 5 of section 173.670 shall not exceed an annual total of fifty thousand
36 dollars from all participating taxpayers. In the event a donation is made to the fund from
37 a third party that donation shall not count toward the fifty thousand dollar annual limit.

38 4. The department of economic development may audit employers to ensure
39 compliance with the provisions of this section.

40 5. An employer that has provided educational benefits prior to the effective date
41 of this section shall only apply to have up to five thousand dollars of the taxpayer's state
42 tax liability removed from the general revenue fund and placed in the fund under this
43 section for providing additional educational benefits.

44 6. The department of economic development and the department of higher
45 education may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section. Any rule or
46 portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the
47 authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is
48 subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This
49 section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general
50 assembly under chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and
51 annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking
52 authority, and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2016, shall be invalid and
53 void.

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