

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 331

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES FAITH (Sponsor), NASHEED, McGHEE, WRIGHT,
WELLS AND McNEIL (Co-sponsors).

0832L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 161, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the Missouri GED+ Program.

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

Section A. Chapter 161, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 161.750, to read as follows:

161.750. 1. There is hereby established within the department of elementary and secondary education the "GED+ Program" to be administered by the commissioner of education. The program shall consist of Missouri adult education and literacy programs that demonstrate a commitment to ensure that students:

(1) Attain a certification of General Educational Development (GED); and

(2) Proceed from GED attainment to a college or post-secondary vocational or technical school or high-wage job with workplace skill development opportunities.

2. The state board of education shall promulgate rules and regulations for Missouri adult education and literacy programs that:

(1) Establish measurable adult education and literacy program standards to meet the goals outlined in subsection 1 of this section;

(2) Specify the knowledge, skills, and competencies, in measurable terms, that students must demonstrate to successfully complete the program; and

(3) Require rigorous coursework with standards of competency in basic academic subjects for students pursuing vocational and technical education.

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.

16 **3. The board of education shall develop a partnership plan in cooperation and with**
17 **the advice of local business persons, labor leaders, and representatives of college and post-**
18 **secondary vocational and technical school representatives. The plan shall specify a**
19 **mechanism to receive information on an annual basis from those who developed the plan,**
20 **in addition to community leaders and teachers, to update the plan in order to best meet the**
21 **goals of the program as provided in subsection 1 of this section. Further, the plan shall**
22 **detail the procedures used in the adult education and literacy programs to identify students**
23 **that may need intervention services to remain in GED preparation classes. The plan shall**
24 **outline transitioning and mentoring services provided to GED recipients who will enter**
25 **post-secondary education and the workforce.**

26 **4. For any school year, funding to administer the program shall be authorized by**
27 **the commissioner of education from the amount appropriated for this program, less those**
28 **funds necessary to reimburse eligible students under subsection 5 of this section.**

29 **5. The commissioner of education shall, by rule and regulation of the state board**
30 **of education and with the advice and consent of the coordinating board for higher**
31 **education, establish a procedure for the reimbursement of the cost of tuition to any public**
32 **community college or vocational or technical school for any student who has:**

33 **(1) Been enrolled in an adult education and literacy program in the state for at least**
34 **seventy-five hours prior to taking and passing the GED, that meets the requirements of**
35 **subsection 2 of this section;**

36 **(2) Made a good faith effort to first secure all available federal sources of funding**
37 **that could be applied to the reimbursement described in this subsection;**

38 **(3) Earned a minimum cumulative standard score of 2,700 on his or her GED, with**
39 **no individual test score less than 410; and**

40 **(4) Completed at least fifty hours of volunteer tutoring in the student's adult**
41 **education and literacy program.**

42 **6. The commissioner of education shall develop a procedure for evaluating the**
43 **effectiveness of the program established under this section. Such evaluation shall be**
44 **conducted annually with the results of the evaluation provided to the governor, speaker**
45 **of the house of representatives, and president pro tem of the senate.**

46 **7. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, RSMo,**
47 **that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if**
48 **it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, RSMo, and, if**
49 **applicable, section 536.028, RSMo. This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable**
50 **and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo,**
51 **to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently**

52 **held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or**
53 **adopted after August 28, 2009, shall be invalid and void.**

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