

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 473

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH (85).

0739H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 167.131, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to school accreditation.

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

Section A. Section 167.131, RSMo, is repealed and three new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 162.074, 162.075, and 167.131, to read as follows:

162.074. 1. As authorized under its duty to classify the schools of the state under section 161.092, the state board of education shall adopt a system of classification that accredits attendance centers within a district separately from the district as a whole.

2. For purposes of this section, "attendance center" means a public school building or buildings or part of a school building that constitutes one unit for accountability purposes under the Missouri school improvement program.

162.075. 1. If a school district or attendance center is classified as unaccredited by the state board of education pursuant to the authority of the state board of education to classify schools as established in section 161.092, the following interventions shall be made:

(1) The student-to-teacher ratio in the subject areas of mathematics, science, and language arts shall be reduced so as to not exceed a ratio of twenty-two students to one teacher; and

(2) The student-to-counselor ratio shall be reduced so as to not exceed a ratio of two hundred students to one counselor.

2. Any costs associated with providing additional teaching staff to comply with the requirements of subsection 1 of this section shall be paid by the state.

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.

167.131. 1. The board of education of each district in this state that does not maintain
2 an accredited school pursuant to the authority of the state board of education to classify schools
3 as established in section 161.092 shall pay the tuition of and provide transportation consistent
4 with the provisions of section 167.241 for each pupil resident therein who attends an accredited
5 school in another district of the same or an adjoining county or who attends an approved charter
6 school in the same or an adjoining county.

7 2. **(1)** The rate of tuition to be charged by the district attended and paid by the sending
8 district is the per pupil cost of maintaining the district's grade level grouping which includes the
9 school attended. The rate of tuition to be charged by the approved charter school attended and
10 paid by the sending district is the per pupil cost of maintaining the approved charter school's
11 grade level grouping. For a district, the cost of maintaining a grade level grouping shall be
12 determined by the board of education of the district but in no case shall it exceed all amounts
13 spent for teachers' wages, incidental purposes, debt service, maintenance and replacements. For
14 an approved charter school, the cost of maintaining a grade level grouping shall be determined
15 by the approved charter school but in no case shall it exceed all amounts spent by the district in
16 which the approved charter school is located for teachers' wages, incidental purposes, debt
17 service, maintenance, and replacements. The term "debt service", as used in this section, means
18 expenditures for the retirement of bonded indebtedness and expenditures for interest on bonded
19 indebtedness. Per pupil cost of the grade level grouping shall be determined by dividing the cost
20 of maintaining the grade level grouping by the average daily pupil attendance. If there is
21 disagreement as to the amount of tuition to be paid, the facts shall be submitted to the state board
22 of education, and its decision in the matter shall be final. Subject to the limitations of this
23 section, each pupil shall be free to attend the public school of his or her choice.

24 ~~[3-]~~ **(2)** For purposes of this section, "approved charter school" means a charter school
25 that has existed for less than three years or a charter school with a three-year average score of
26 seventy percent or higher on its annual performance report.

27 **3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 2 of this section or any other**
28 **provision of law, the aggregate amount of tuition, including transportation costs, charged**
29 **by a receiving district during a school year for students transferring from an unaccredited**
30 **district shall not exceed eight thousand dollars per student.**

31 **4. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections 2 and 3 of this section or any other**
32 **provision of law, the aggregate amount of tuition, including transportation costs, charged**
33 **by a receiving district during a school year for students transferring from a lapsed district**
34 **with a student population less than four thousand five hundred and located in a county**
35 **with a charter form of government and with more than nine hundred fifty thousand**
36 **inhabitants shall not exceed seven thousand five hundred dollars per student.**