

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 686

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BRINGER.

1805L.01I

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to foster care tuition waivers.

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

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 173.270, to read as follows:

173.270. 1. The coordinating board for higher education shall make provisions for institutions under the board's jurisdiction to award a tuition and fee waiver for undergraduate courses at state institutions of higher education for any student, beginning with incoming freshmen in the 2010 fall semester or term, who:

(1) Is a resident of this state;

(2) Has graduated within the previous three years from high school or passed the GED examination; and

(3) Has been in foster care or other residential care under the department of social services on or after:

(a) The day preceding the student's eighteenth birthday;

(b) The day of the student's fourteenth birthday, if the student was also eligible for adoption on or after that day; or

(c) The day the student graduated from high school or received a GED.

2. To be eligible for a waiver award, a student shall:

(1) Apply to and be accepted at the institution not later than:

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 (a) The third anniversary of the date the student was discharged from foster or
17 other residential care, the date the student graduated from high school, or the date the
18 student received a GED, whichever is earliest; or

19 (b) The student's twenty-first birthday;

20 (2) Apply for other student financial assistance, other than student loans, in
21 compliance with federal financial aid rules, including the federal Pell grant;

22 (3) Apply to the coordinating board for higher education for a determination of
23 eligibility. Application shall be on forms and in a manner prescribed by rule of the
24 coordinating board; and

25 (4) Complete a minimum of one hundred hours of community service or public
26 internship within a twelve-month period beginning September first for each year in which
27 the student is receiving a tuition and fee waiver award under this section. The department
28 of higher education, in collaboration with participating state institutions of higher
29 education, shall by rule determine the community service and public internships that
30 students may participate in to meet the requirements of this subdivision. A student may
31 fulfill this requirement by completing the necessary community service or public internship
32 hours during the summer.

33 3. The tuition and fee waiver provided by this section shall be awarded on an
34 annual basis, subject to appropriation to reimburse the institution, and shall continue to
35 be available, if the student is otherwise eligible under this section, as long as the student
36 remains in good academic standing at the state institution of higher education. The
37 institution shall monitor compliance with subdivision (4) of subsection 2 of this section and
38 report it to the department of higher education.

39 4. The waiver provided by this section for each eligible student may be used for no
40 more than four years of undergraduate study and may only be used after other sources of
41 financial aid that are dedicated solely to tuition and fees are exhausted.

42 5. No student who is enrolled in an institution of higher education as of the effective
43 date of this section shall be eligible for a waiver award under this section.

44 6. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, RSMo,
45 that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if
46 it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, RSMo, and, if
47 applicable, section 536.028, RSMo. This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable
48 and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo,
49 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently
50 held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or
51 adopted after August 28, 2009, shall be invalid and void.