

HOUSE _____ AMENDMENT NO. _____

Offered By _____

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1049, Page 1, Section A, Line 2, by
2 inserting after all of said line the following:

3 “135.1220. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as "Bryce's Law".

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

5 (1) "Autism spectrum disorder", pervasive developmental disorder; Asperger syndrome;
6 childhood disintegrative disorder; Rett syndrome; and autism;

7 (2) "Contribution", a donation of cash, stock, bonds, or other marketable securities, or real
8 property;

9 (3) "Department", the department of elementary and secondary education;

10 (4) "Director", the director of the department of elementary and secondary education;

11 (5) "Educational scholarships", grants to students to cover all or part of the tuition and
12 fees at either a qualified nonpublic school or a qualified public school, including transportation;

13 (6) "Eligible student", any elementary or secondary student who attended public school in
14 Missouri the preceding semester, or who will be attending school in Missouri for the first time,
15 who is diagnosed as having, or has an individualized education plan based on, a special needs
16 condition and whose parent has executed an affidavit to be filed with the scholarship application
17 that his or her child has been bullied, as bullying is defined in section 160.775, RSMo;

18 (7) "Parent", includes a guardian, custodian, or other person with authority to act on
19 behalf of the child;

20 (8) "Program", the program established in this section;

21 (9) "Qualified school", either an accredited public elementary or secondary school outside
22 of the district in which a student resides or an accredited nonpublic elementary or secondary
23 school in Missouri that complies with all of the requirements of the program and complies with all
24 state laws that apply to nonpublic schools regarding criminal background checks for employees
25 and excludes from employment any person not permitted by state law to work in a nonpublic
26 school;

27 (10) "Scholarship granting organization", a charitable organization which is exempt from
28 federal income tax that complies with the requirements of this program and provides education
29 scholarships to students attending qualified schools of their parents' choice, and that does not
30 accept contributions on behalf of any eligible student from any taxpayer with any obligation to

1 provide any support for the eligible student;

2 (11) "Special needs", an autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome, Angelman syndrome,
3 or cerebral palsy;

4 (12) "State tax liability", in the case of a business taxpayer, any liability incurred by such
5 taxpayer under chapters 143, 147, 148, and 153, excluding sections 143.191 to 143.265 and
6 related provisions, and in the case of an individual taxpayer, any liability incurred by such
7 taxpayer under chapter 143, excluding sections 143.191 to 143.265 and related provisions;

8 (13) "Taxpayer", a person, firm, a partner in a firm, corporation, or a shareholder in an S
9 corporation doing business in the state of Missouri and subject to the state income tax imposed by
10 the provisions of chapter 143, or a corporation subject to the annual corporation franchise tax
11 imposed by the provisions of chapter 147, or an insurance company paying an annual tax on its
12 gross premium receipts in this state, or other financial institution paying taxes to the state of
13 Missouri or any political subdivision of this state under the provisions of chapter 148, or an
14 express company which pays an annual tax on its gross receipts in this state under chapter 153, or
15 an individual subject to the state income tax imposed by the provisions of chapter 143, or any
16 charitable organization which is exempt from federal income tax and whose Missouri unrelated
17 business taxable income, if any, would be subject to the state income tax imposed under chapter
18 143.

19 3. For all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2012, a taxpayer shall be allowed to
20 claim a tax credit against the taxpayer's state tax liability in an amount equal to eighty percent of
21 the amount such taxpayer contributed to a scholarship granting organization. No taxpayer shall be
22 issued more than eight hundred thousand dollars in tax credits authorized under this section per
23 tax year.

24 4. The amount of the tax credit claimed shall not exceed fifty percent of a taxpayer's state
25 tax liability for the taxable year for which the credit is claimed. However, any tax credit that
26 cannot be claimed in the taxable year the contribution was made may be carried over to the next
27 four succeeding taxable years until the full credit has been claimed.

28 5. The director shall determine, at least annually, which organizations in this state may be
29 classified as scholarship granting organizations. The director may require of an organization
30 seeking to be classified as a scholarship granting organization whatever information which is
31 reasonably necessary to make such a determination. The director shall classify an organization as
32 a scholarship granting organization if such organization meets the definition set forth in this
33 section.

34 6. The director shall establish a procedure by which a taxpayer can determine if an
35 organization has been classified as a scholarship granting organization. Scholarship granting
36 organizations shall be permitted to decline a contribution from a taxpayer.

1 7. Each scholarship granting organization shall provide information to the director
2 concerning the identity of each taxpayer making a contribution to the scholarship granting
3 organization who is claiming a tax credit under this section and the amount of the contribution.
4 The director shall provide the information to the director of revenue. The director shall be subject
5 to the confidentiality and penalty provisions of section 32.057 relating to the disclosure of tax
6 information.

7 8. The director shall annually make a determination on the number of students in Missouri
8 with an individualized education program based upon special needs. The director shall determine
9 ten percent of this number for students to receive a scholarship from a scholarship granting
10 organization in that year, plus a number based on fifty percent of the number of students with
11 special needs-based individualized education programs for scholarships to be granted to students
12 with a medical diagnosis of a special need who do not have an individualized education program
13 based on the special need. The director shall publicly announce the number of special needs
14 scholarship opportunities available each year. Once a scholarship granting organization has
15 decided to provide a student with a scholarship, it shall promptly notify the director. The director
16 shall keep a running tally of the number of scholarships granted in the order in which they were
17 reported. Once the tally reaches the annual limit of eligible students, the director shall notify all
18 of the participating scholarship granting organizations that they may not issue any more
19 scholarships and any more receipts for contributions. If the scholarship granting organizations
20 have not expended all of their available scholarship funds in that year at the time when the limit is
21 reached, the available scholarship funds may be carried over into the next year. These
22 unexpended funds shall not be counted as part of the requirement in subdivision (3) of subsection
23 10 of this section for that year. Any receipt for a scholarship contribution issued by a scholarship
24 granting organization before the director has publicly announced the student limit has been
25 reached shall be valid for a taxpayer claiming a credit.

26 9. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, any tax credits granted under this
27 section may be assigned, transferred, sold, or otherwise conveyed without consent or approval.
28 Such taxpayer, hereinafter the assignor for purposes of this section, may sell, assign, exchange, or
29 otherwise transfer earned tax credits:

30 (1) For no less than seventy-five percent of the par value of such credits; and

31 (2) In an amount not to exceed one hundred percent of annual earned credits.

32 10. Each scholarship granting organization participating in the program shall:

33 (1) Notify the department of its intent to provide educational scholarships to students
34 attending qualified schools;

35 (2) Provide a department-approved receipt to taxpayers for contributions made to the
36 organization;

1 (3) Ensure that at least ninety percent of its revenue from donations is spent on
2 educational scholarships, and that all revenue from interest or investments is spent on educational
3 scholarships;

4 (4) Distribute periodic scholarship payments as checks made out to a student's parent and
5 mailed to the qualified school where the student is enrolled. The parent or guardian shall endorse
6 the check before it can be deposited;

7 (5) Cooperate with the department to conduct criminal background checks on all of its
8 employees and board members and exclude from employment or governance any individual who
9 might reasonably pose a risk to the appropriate use of contributed funds;

10 (6) Ensure that scholarships are portable during the school year and can be used at any
11 qualified school that accepts the eligible student according to a parent's wishes. If a student
12 moves to a new qualified school during a school year, the scholarship amount may be prorated;

13 (7) Demonstrate its financial accountability by:

14 (a) Submitting a financial information report for the organization that complies with
15 uniform financial accounting standards established by the department and conducted by a certified
16 public accountant; and

17 (b) Having the auditor certify that the report is free of material misstatements;

18 (8) Demonstrate its financial viability, if the organization is to receive donations of fifty
19 thousand dollars or more during the school year, by filing with the department prior to the start of
20 the school year:

21 (a) A surety bond payable to the state in an amount equal to the aggregate amount of
22 contributions expected to be received during the school year; or

23 (b) Financial information that demonstrates the financial viability of the scholarship
24 granting organization.

25 11. Each scholarship granting organization shall ensure that each participating school that
26 accepts its scholarship students shall:

27 (1) Comply with all health and safety laws or codes that apply to nonpublic schools;

28 (2) Hold a valid occupancy permit if required by its municipality;

29 (3) Certify that it will comply with 42 U.S.C. Section 1981, as amended; and

30 (4) Provide academic accountability to parents of the students in the program by regularly
31 reporting to the parent on the student's progress.

32 12. Scholarship granting organizations shall not provide educational scholarships for
33 students to attend any school with paid staff or board members who are relatives within the first
34 degree of consanguinity or affinity.

35 13. A scholarship granting organization shall publicly report to the department, by June
36 first of each year, the following information prepared by a certified public accountant regarding its

1 grants in the previous calendar year:

2 (1) The name and address of the scholarship granting organization;

3 (2) The total number and total dollar amount of contributions received during the previous
4 calendar year; and

5 (3) The total number and total dollar amount of educational scholarships awarded during
6 the previous calendar year, and the total number and total dollar amount of educational
7 scholarships awarded during the previous year to students eligible for free and reduced lunch.

8 14. The department shall adopt rules and regulations consistent with this section as
9 necessary to implement the program.

10 15. The department shall provide a standardized format for a receipt to be issued by a
11 scholarship granting organization to a taxpayer to indicate the value of a contribution received.
12 The department shall require a taxpayer to provide a copy of this receipt when claiming the
13 Missouri special needs scholarship tax credit.

14 16. The department shall provide a standardized format for scholarship granting
15 organizations to report the information in this section.

16 17. The department may conduct either a financial review or audit of a scholarship
17 granting organization.

18 18. If the department believes that a scholarship granting organization has intentionally
19 and substantially failed to comply with the requirements of this section, the department may hold
20 a hearing before the director, or his or her designee, to bar a scholarship granting organization
21 from participating in the program. The director, or his or her designee, shall issue a decision
22 within thirty days. A scholarship granting organization may appeal the director's decision to the
23 administrative hearing commission for a hearing in accordance with the provisions of chapter 621.

24 19. If the scholarship granting organization is barred from participating in the program,
25 the department shall notify affected scholarship students and their parents of this decision within
26 fifteen days.

27 20. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created
28 under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is
29 subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and
30 chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant
31 to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are
32 subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed
33 or adopted after August 28, 2012, shall be invalid and void.

34 21. The department shall conduct a study of the program with funds other than state
35 funds. The department may contract with one or more qualified researchers who have previous
36 experience evaluating similar programs. The department may accept grants to assist in funding

1 this study.

2 22. The study shall assess:

3 (1) The level of participating students' satisfaction with the program;

4 (2) The level of parental satisfaction with the program;

5 (3) The percentage of participating students who were bullied or harassed because of their
6 special needs status at their resident school district compared to the percentage so bullied or
7 harassed at their qualified school;

8 (4) The percentage of participating students who exhibited behavioral problems at their
9 resident school district compared to the percentage exhibiting behavioral problems at their
10 qualified school;

11 (5) The class size experienced by participating students at their resident school district and
12 at their qualified school; and

13 (6) The fiscal impact to the state and resident school districts of the program.

14 23. The study shall be completed using appropriate analytical and behavioral sciences
15 methodologies to ensure public confidence in the study.

16 24. The department shall provide the general assembly with a final copy of the evaluation
17 of the program by December 31, 2015.

18 25. The public and nonpublic participating schools from which students transfer to
19 participate in the program shall cooperate with the research effort by providing student assessment
20 instrument scores and any other data necessary to complete this study.

21 26. The general assembly may require periodic updates on the status of the study from the
22 department. The individuals completing the study shall make their data and methodology
23 available for public review while complying with the requirements of the Family Educational
24 Rights and Privacy Act, as amended.

25 27. Under section 23.253 of the Missouri sunset act:

26 (1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this section shall sunset
27 automatically on December thirty-first six years after the effective date of this section unless
28 reauthorized by an act of the general assembly; and

29 (2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized under this section shall sunset
30 automatically on December thirty-first twelve years after the effective date of the reauthorization
31 of this section; and

32 (3) This section shall terminate on September first of the calendar year immediately
33 following the calendar year in which the program authorized under this section is sunset.” ; and

34 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional
35 references accordingly.