

SCS HCS HB 1042 -- HIGHER EDUCATION

This bill changes the laws regarding higher education. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Requires the Coordinating Board for Higher Education within the Department of Higher Education to require all two- and four-year public higher education institutions to replicate best practices in remediation identified by the board and other institutions and organizations with expertise in the subject to identify and reduce methods that have been found to be ineffective in preparing or retaining students or which delay students from enrollment in college-level courses;

(2) Requires the board with the assistance of the Committee on Transfer and Articulation to require all two- and four-year public higher education institutions to create by July 1, 2014, a statewide core transfer library of at least 25 lower division courses that are transferable among all public higher education institutions;

(3) Requires the board to develop a policy to foster reverse transfer so that any student who has accumulated sufficient hours in combination from more than one public institution that grants an associate degree to be awarded an associate degree. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must maintain the alignment of the statewide assessments for entry-level courses in English, mathematics, foreign language, sciences, and social sciences associated with an institution's general education core with previously established competencies;

(4) Allows the board to charge and collect fees from an out-of-state public institution for the cost of reviewing and assuring the quality of programs it offers;

(5) Requires the board to include in its annual report to the Governor and General Assembly campus-level data on student persistence and progress toward implementing revised remediation, transfer, and retention practices;

(6) Changes the laws regarding the board's responsibility for proprietary schools to:

(a) Allow a proprietary school that has been in continuous operation for at least five years to apply to the board for a two-year certificate of approval;

(b) Allow the board to increase the base fee charged for an annual certificate of approval from one-tenth of a cent to thirteen one-hundredths of a cent per \$1 of net tuition and fees

income with a maximum fee of \$5,000 and a minimum fee of \$500 per school. Currently, the minimum fee is \$250 with a maximum of \$2,500. The fee for a certificate of approval for a school with the sole purpose of recruiting students in Missouri is raised from \$250 to \$500 plus the amount produced by the foundation calculation, with a maximum of \$5,000. The board may increase the base annual fee and the minimum and maximum amounts by administrative rule every five years, beginning in Fiscal Year 2013, to no more than the federal Consumer Price Index since the last fee increase; and

(c) Allow the board to establish, with the advice of the Proprietary School Advisory Committee, additional appropriate fees through administrative rule for generating sufficient funding to cover the costs associated with the certification program;

(7) Creates the Proprietary School Certification Fund for the deposit of all fees regarding proprietary schools to fund the costs associated with the operation of the program;

(8) Increases, from \$25,000 to \$100,000, the maximum amount of the security bond that the board may require a proprietary school to file;

(9) Requires the department to collect only that data necessary to administer, supervise, and enforce the provisions of the proprietary school program and, subject to appropriations, to provide a system for the electronic submission of all data;

(10) Allows the board to review a new program proposal within 90 days from the date that a certified school submits the proposal and within 60 days from the submission of a revised program. If the review has not occurred in that period, the program may be offered until the department completes its review and identifies a substantive issue for correction. The department must notify the school within an additional 90 days, and the school will have 90 days after notification of the deficiency to correct the deficiency without having to cease offering the program;

(11) Changes the responsibility for the appointment of the members of the Proprietary School Advisory Committee from the board to the Commissioner of Higher Education within the department, clarifies who may be appointed, and requires that at least three of the seven members of the committee represent degree-granting schools and at least one of the three represents a school that confers a bachelor's degree or higher;

(12) Allows the department to take action against any violation of the proprietary school laws that is authorized in Section

407.020, RSMo, relating to unlawful merchandising practices;

(13) Specifies that not more than two voting members of the Northwest Missouri State University Board of Regents may be residents of the same county; and

(14) Revises the term lengths for the appointments to fill six terms on the Missouri State University Board of Governors that expired in 2011 so that the term of no more than three board members will expire in any given year. The term of three members will expire on January 1, 2013, three on January 1, 2015, and three on January 1, 2017. Current law requires that no more than three terms expire in any given year but does not provide for the staggered term lengths necessary to accomplish this.