

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 520

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HICKS.

1399L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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## AN ACT

To repeal section 173.670, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fund.

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

Section A. Section 173.670, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 173.670 and 620.3030, to read as follows:

173.670. 1. There is hereby established within the department of higher education the "Missouri Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Initiative". The department of higher education may award matching funds through this initiative to public institutions of higher education as part of the annual appropriations process.

2. The purpose of the initiative shall be to provide support to increase interest among elementary, secondary, and university students in fields of study related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and to increase the number of Missouri graduates in these fields at Missouri's public two- and four-year institutions of higher education.

3. There is hereby created a "Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Fund", which shall consist of money collected under this section. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund and may approve disbursements from the fund in accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180. Upon appropriation, money in the fund shall be used solely for the administration of this section. Any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.

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.

17           4. As part of the initiative, the department of higher education shall develop a process  
18 to award grants to Missouri public two- and four-year institutions of higher education and school  
19 districts that have entered into articulation agreements to offer information technology  
20 certification through technical course work leading to postsecondary academic credit through the  
21 program established in section 173.675.

22           5. The general assembly may appropriate funds to the science, technology, engineering[,]  
23 and mathematics fund to match institution funds to support the following programs:

24           (1) Endowed teaching professor programs, which provide funds to support faculty who  
25 teach undergraduate courses in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields at public  
26 institutions of higher education;

27           (2) Scholarship programs, which provide financial aid or loan forgiveness awards to  
28 Missouri students who study in the science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields or  
29 who plan to enter the teaching field in Missouri with an emphasis on science, technology,  
30 engineering, and mathematics areas;

31           (3) Experiential youth programs at public colleges or universities, designed to provide  
32 Missouri middle school, junior high, and high school students with the opportunity to experience  
33 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields through camps or other educational  
34 offerings;

35           (4) Career enhancement programs for current elementary and secondary teachers and  
36 professors at Missouri public and private colleges and universities in the science, technology,  
37 engineering, or mathematics fields to improve the quality of teaching.

38           **6. Any taxpayer hiring a person who is currently enrolled as a student majoring in**  
39 **science, technology, engineering, or mathematics, at any two-year or four-year public or**  
40 **private Missouri college or university, to fill an internship position in the fields of science,**  
41 **technology, engineering, or mathematics may apply to have up to five thousand dollars of**  
42 **the taxpayer's state tax liability transferred from the general fund and placed in the**  
43 **science, technology, engineering and mathematics fund established in subsection 3 of this**  
44 **section, on appropriation. For purposes of this subsection, "state tax liability" means any**  
45 **liability incurred by a taxpayer under the provisions of chapter 143, excluding withholding**  
46 **tax imposed by sections 143.191 to 143.265, or the tax imposed in chapter 147, 148, or 153.**  
47 **The department of higher education shall establish a procedure for approving applications**  
48 **under this section. For purposes of this subsection, the taxpayer's state tax liability shall**  
49 **be paid before a transfer under this subsection occurs. The cumulative amount of taxes**  
50 **transferred to the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fund under this**  
51 **subsection and section 620.3030 shall not exceed an annual total of fifty thousand dollars**  
52 **from all participating taxpayers. In the event a donation is made to the fund from a third**

53 party, that donation shall not count towards the fifty thousand dollar annual limit. In  
54 order to qualify for purposes of this subsection, the internship shall be:

55 (1) Located within the state of Missouri; and

56 (2) For a duration of at least twelve weeks and consist of at least fifteen hours of  
57 work per week.

58 7. The department may promulgate rules and regulations for the administration  
59 of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that  
60 is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it  
61 complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable,  
62 section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers  
63 vested with the general assembly under chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date,  
64 or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant  
65 of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2015, shall be  
66 invalid and void.

620.3030. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the  
2 "Economic-Education Partnership Act".

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

4 (1) "Educational benefits", the funds provided by an employer to a qualified  
5 individual or to an accredited educational institution for a period of up to five years to pay  
6 any portion of the tuition or fees for a qualified individual pursuing an associates degree,  
7 bachelors degree, masters degree, or doctorate degree in health care, engineering, or  
8 information technology related programs;

9 (2) "Employer", a business with facilities in Missouri that employs a qualified  
10 individual upon the completion of the individual's degree or training for at least the same  
11 length of time as the employer provided educational benefits or training to the qualified  
12 individual;

13 (3) "Qualified individual", an individual:

14 (a) Who is a resident of this state;

15 (b) Who is employed by an employer in Missouri;

16 (c) Who has an annual individual gross income of two hundred thousand dollars  
17 or less; and

18 (d) Who pursues an advanced certificate, associates degree, bachelors degree,  
19 masters degree, or doctorate degree in health care, engineering, or information technology  
20 related programs;

21           **(4) "State tax liability", any liability incurred by a taxpayer under the provisions**  
22 **of chapter 143, excluding withholding tax imposed by sections 143.191 to 143.265, or the**  
23 **tax imposed in chapter 147, 148, or 153.**

24           **3. An employer that provides educational benefits to a qualified individual, or**  
25 **trains a qualified individual for an employment position in the health care, engineering,**  
26 **or information technology fields for no more than one year, may apply to have up to five**  
27 **thousand dollars of the taxpayer's state tax liability transferred from the general fund and**  
28 **placed in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fund established in section**  
29 **173.670, on appropriation. The department of higher education shall establish a procedure**  
30 **for approving applications under this section. For purposes of this section, the taxpayer's**  
31 **state tax liability shall be paid before a transfer under this section occurs. The cumulative**  
32 **amount of taxes transferred to the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fund**  
33 **under this section and subsection 5 of section 173.670 shall not exceed an annual total of**  
34 **fifty thousand dollars from all participating taxpayers. In the event a donation is made to**  
35 **the fund from a third party, that donation shall not count towards the fifty thousand dollar**  
36 **annual limit.**

37           **4. The department of economic development may audit employers to ensure**  
38 **compliance with the provisions of this section.**

39           **5. An employer that has provided educational benefits prior to the effective date**  
40 **of this act shall only apply to have up to five thousand dollars of the taxpayer's state tax**  
41 **liability removed from the general fund and placed in the science, technology, engineering**  
42 **and mathematics fund under this section for providing additional educational benefits.**

43           **6. The department of economic development and the department of higher**  
44 **education may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section. Any rule or**  
45 **portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the**  
46 **authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is**  
47 **subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This**  
48 **section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general**  
49 **assembly under chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and**  
50 **annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking**  
51 **authority, and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2015, shall be invalid and**  
52 **void.**

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