

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1135

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE EVANS.

2248H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 173.670, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) initiative.

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

Section A. Section 173.670, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 173.670, to read as follows: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, **or it may**
24 **choose not to earmark funds, allowing the department of higher education and the**
25 **department of elementary and secondary education to support the following programs:**

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

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

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

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

40 **6. Any taxpayer hiring a person who is currently enrolled as a student majoring in**
41 **a field of study related to science, technology, engineering, or mathematics, at any two-year**
42 **or four-year public or private Missouri college or university, to fill an internship position**
43 **in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics; or any taxpayer hiring a**
44 **person who has graduated from a two-year or four-year public or private Missouri college**
45 **or university with a degree related to science, technology, engineering, or mathematics to**
46 **fill a full-time position in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics may**
47 **apply to have up to five thousand dollars of the taxpayer's state tax liability transferred**
48 **from the general revenue fund and placed in the science, technology, engineering and**
49 **mathematics fund established in subsection 3 of this section, upon appropriation. For**
50 **purposes of this subsection, "state tax liability" means any liability incurred by a taxpayer**
51 **under the provisions of chapter 143, excluding withholding tax imposed by sections 143.191**
52 **to 143.265, or the tax imposed in chapter 147, 148, or 153. The department of higher**

53 education shall establish a procedure for approving applications under this section. For
54 purposes of this subsection, the taxpayer's state tax liability shall be paid before a transfer
55 under this subsection occurs. The cumulative amount of taxes transferred to the science,
56 technology, engineering and mathematics fund under this subsection and section 620.3030
57 shall not exceed an annual total of fifty thousand dollars from all participating taxpayers.
58 In the event a donation is made to the fund from a third party, that donation shall not
59 count towards the fifty thousand dollar annual limit. In order to qualify for purposes of
60 this subsection, the internship or full-time position shall be:

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

62 (2) For a duration of at least twelve weeks and consist of at least fifteen hours of
63 work per week for internships; or

64 (3) For a duration of at least one year and consist of at least forty hours of work per
65 week for full-time positions.

66 7. The department of higher education may promulgate rules and regulations for
67 the administration of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in
68 section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become
69 effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and,
70 if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any
71 of the powers vested with the general assembly under chapter 536 to review, to delay the
72 effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional,
73 then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28,
74 2017, shall be invalid and void.

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