

SS HB 1744 -- HIGHER EDUCATION

The bill modifies the A+ Schools Program by removing the requirement that the student's attendance of a high school in the state be the three years immediately prior to graduation (Section 160.545, RSMo).

This bill adds an additional mechanism by which the taxing district of a public school may attach itself to a community college district in order to increase the tax base of the community college district and secure in-district tuition rates for students of the school district. The new mechanism allows the community college to propose the plan to the school district's voters and requires the community college to pay for the election (Section 162.441).

The bill modifies the Missouri Higher Education Savings Program to allow Missouri 529 account holders to transfer money from that account to a Missouri ABLE account while retaining tax exempt status on the transferred money (Section 166.435).

This bill adds approved virtual institutions to the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program, as described in the bill (Sections 173.1101, 173.1102, 173.1104, 173.1105, and 173.1107).

The bill prohibits public colleges from requiring a student to buy a meal plan or dine on-campus if the student presents medical documentation of a food allergy or medical dietary issue to the institution (Section 173.1592).

This bill contains an emergency clause.