

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 225

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SWAN.

0820H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to workforce incentive grants.

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

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 173.2553, to read as follows:

173.2553. 1. There is hereby established a "Fast-Track Workforce Incentive Grant", and any moneys appropriated by the general assembly for this program shall be used to provide grants for Missouri citizens to attend an approved Missouri postsecondary educational institution of their choice in accordance with the provisions of this section.

2. The definitions of terms set forth in section 173.1102 shall be applicable to such terms as used in this section. In addition, the following terms shall mean:

(1) "Eligible student", an individual who:

(a) Has completed and submitted a FAFSA for the academic year for which the grant is requested;

(b) Is a citizen or permanent resident of the United States;

(c) Is a Missouri resident as determined by reference to standards promulgated by the coordinating board;

(d) Is enrolled, or plans to enroll, at least half-time as a student in an eligible undergraduate program of study offered by an approved public, private, or virtual institution, as defined in section 173.1102;

(e) Has an adjusted gross income, as reported on the FAFSA, that does not exceed eighty thousand dollars; and

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.

18 (f) Is twenty-five years of age or older at the time of enrollment or has not been
19 enrolled in an educational program for the prior two academic years;

20 (2) "Eligible program of study", a program of instruction:

21 (a) Resulting in the award of a certificate, degree, or other industry-recognized
22 credential; and

23 (b) That has been designated by the coordinating board as preparing students to
24 enter an area of occupational shortage as determined by the board;

25 (3) "FAFSA", the Free Application for Federal Student Aid as maintained by the
26 United States Department of Education.

27 3. Standards of eligibility for renewed assistance shall be the same as for an initial
28 award of financial assistance; except that, for renewal, an applicant shall demonstrate a
29 grade-point average of two and five-tenths on a four-point scale, or the equivalent on
30 another scale.

31 4. Eligibility for a grant expires upon the earliest of:

32 (1) Receipt of the grant for four semesters or the equivalent;

33 (2) Receipt of a bachelor's degree; or

34 (3) Reaching two hundred percent of the time typically required to complete the
35 program of study.

36 5. The coordinating board shall initially designate eligible programs of study by
37 January 1, 2020. The coordinating board shall annually review the list of eligible
38 programs of study and make changes to the program list as it determines appropriate.

39 6. The coordinating board shall be the administrative agency for the
40 implementation of the program established by this section. The coordinating board shall
41 promulgate reasonable rules and regulations for the exercise of its functions and the
42 effectuation of the purposes of this section. It shall prescribe the form and the time and
43 method of filing applications and supervise the processing thereof. The coordinating board
44 shall determine the criteria for eligibility of applicants and shall evaluate each applicant's
45 eligibility. It shall select qualified recipients to receive grants, make such awards of
46 financial assistance to qualified recipients, and determine the manner and method of
47 payment to the recipients.

48 7. The coordinating board shall determine eligibility for renewed assistance on the
49 basis of annual applications. As a condition to consideration for initial or renewed
50 assistance, the coordinating board may require the applicant, the applicant's spouse, and
51 the applicant's parents to execute forms of consent authorizing the director of revenue to
52 compare financial information submitted by the applicant with the Missouri individual
53 income tax returns of the applicant, the applicant's spouse, and the applicant's parents for

54 the taxable year immediately preceding the year for which application is made, and to
55 report any discrepancies to the coordinating board.

56 8. Grants shall be awarded in an amount equal to the actual tuition and general
57 fees charged of an eligible student, after all federal nonloan aid, state student aid, and any
58 other governmental student financial aid are applied. If a grant amount is reduced to zero
59 due to the receipt of other aid, the eligible student shall receive an award of up to five
60 hundred dollars or the remaining cost of attendance as calculated by the institution after
61 all nonloan student aid has been applied, whichever is less, per academic term.

62 9. If appropriated funds are insufficient to fund the program as described, students
63 with the earliest FAFSA date shall be given priority until all funds are expended.

64 10. A recipient of financial assistance may transfer from one approved public,
65 private, or virtual institution to another without losing eligibility for assistance under this
66 section, but the coordinating board shall make any necessary adjustments in the amount
67 of the award. If a recipient of financial assistance at any time is entitled to a refund of any
68 tuition or fees under the rules and regulations of the institution in which he or she is
69 enrolled, the institution shall pay the portion of the refund that may be attributed to the
70 grant to the coordinating board. The coordinating board shall use these refunds to make
71 additional awards under the provisions of this section.

72 11. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Fast-Track Workforce
73 Incentive Grant Fund". The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance
74 with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund
75 shall be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, moneys in the fund shall be used solely
76 by the coordinating board for the purposes of this section.

77 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys
78 remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the
79 general revenue fund.

80 (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other
81 funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited
82 to the fund.

83 12. The coordinating board shall have the authority to promulgate rules to
84 implement the provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is
85 defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall
86 become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter
87 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and
88 if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review,
89 to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held

90 **unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted**
91 **after August 28, 2019, shall be invalid and void.**

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