

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 530

## 93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES MOORE (Sponsor), PAGE, STEVENSON, SMITH (14),  
MUNZLINGER, PARKER, SANDER, DIXON, WILSON (130), BOYKINS, DARROUGH, HARRIS (110),  
WHORTON, DAUS, WALTON, LOWE (44), YAEGER, BAKER (25) AND SCHOEMEHL (Co-sponsors).

Read 1<sup>st</sup> time February 10, 2005 and copies ordered printed.

STEPHEN S. DAVIS, Chief Clerk

1449L.011

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### AN ACT

To amend chapter 160, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to American Sign Language.

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

Section A. Chapter 160, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be  
2 known as section 160.075, to read as follows:

3 **160.075. 1. Any public school or public institution of higher education in this state**  
4 **may offer one or more courses in American Sign Language (ASL). American Sign**  
5 **Language shall be treated as a foreign language for academic credit granting and receiving**  
6 **purposes when ASL is offered by a public school or public institution of higher education**  
7 **in Missouri.**

8 **2. Any student enrolled in a public school or public institution of higher education**  
9 **in this state that offers an American Sign Language course or courses as part of the**  
10 **school's or institution's regular curriculum shall receive academic credit for such course**  
11 **or courses if such school or institution provides academic credit for a course or courses in**  
12 **any other foreign language. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a school or institution**  
13 **from offering nonacademic credit ASL classes as part of the school's or institution's**  
14 **educational program.**

15 **3. Any student enrolled in a public school or public institution of higher education**  
16 **in this state that offers an American Sign Language course or courses may earn academic**

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.

15 credit for such course by completing the course with a passing grade or by demonstrating  
16 a proficiency in ASL at a level of competence equal to that taught in such course.

17 **4. Academic credit received for taking an ASL course or demonstrating proficiency**  
18 **in ASL shall be counted toward satisfaction of any foreign language or language arts**  
19 **requirements of the public school or public institution of higher education, including any**  
20 **foreign language or language arts entrance requirements of any public institution of higher**  
21 **education.**

22 **5. Nothing in subsection 4 of this section shall be construed as limiting the ability**  
23 **of individual departments in public institutions of higher education located in the state of**  
24 **Missouri from establishing specific departmental language requirements for majors that**  
25 **cannot be met by American Sign Language.**

26 **6. The Missouri commission for the deaf and hard of hearing and the Missouri**  
27 **American Sign Language teachers association shall provide assistance, advice, and**  
28 **guidance on the development, establishment, and teaching of American Sign Language**  
29 **course in Missouri public schools and public institutions of higher education as needed and**  
30 **requested.**