

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 753

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE AVERY.

Read 1st time March 9, 2005 and copies ordered printed.

STEPHEN S. DAVIS, Chief Clerk

0854L.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 173.250, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the academic scholarship program.

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

Section A. Section 173.250, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 173.250, to read as follows:

173.250. 1. There is hereby established a "Higher Education Academic Scholarship Program" and any moneys appropriated by the general assembly for this program shall be used to provide scholarships for Missouri citizens to attend a Missouri college or university of their choice pursuant to the provisions of this section.

2. **Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1 of this section, a scholarship received by a student under the academic scholarship program established in this section may be used by a Missouri citizen to attend a college or university in another state when the program of study the student desires is not offered at any public or private college or university in this state.**

3. The definitions of terms set forth in section 173.205 shall be applicable to such terms as used in this section. The term "academic scholarship" means an amount of money paid by the state of Missouri to a qualified college or university student who has demonstrated superior academic achievement pursuant to the provisions of this section.

[3.] 4. The coordinating board for higher education shall be the administrative agency for the implementation of the program established by this section, and shall:

(1) Promulgate reasonable rules and regulations for the exercise of its functions and the

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 effectuation of the purposes of this section, including regulations for granting scholarship
18 deferments;

19 (2) Prescribe the form and the time and method of awarding academic scholarships, and
20 shall supervise the processing thereof; and

21 (3) Select qualified recipients to receive academic scholarships, make such awards of
22 academic scholarships to qualified recipients and determine the manner and method of payment
23 to the recipient.

24 [4.] 5. A student shall be eligible for initial or renewed academic scholarship if he or she
25 is in compliance with the eligibility requirements set forth in section 173.215 excluding the
26 requirement of financial need and undergraduate status, and in addition meets the following
27 requirements:

28 (1) Initial academic scholarships shall be offered in the academic year immediately
29 following graduation from high school to Missouri high school seniors whose composite scores
30 on the American College Testing Program (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) of the
31 College Board are in the top three percent of all Missouri students taking those tests during the
32 school year in which the scholarship recipients graduate from high school. In the freshman year
33 of college, scholarship recipients are required to maintain status as a full-time student;

34 (2) Academic scholarships are renewable if the recipient remains in compliance with the
35 applicable provisions of section 173.215 and the recipient makes satisfactory academic degree
36 progress as a full-time student.

37 [5.] 6. A student who is enrolled or has been accepted for enrollment as a postsecondary
38 student at an approved private or public institution beginning with the fall, 1987, term and who
39 meets the other eligibility requirements for an academic scholarship shall, within the limits of
40 the funds appropriated and made available, be offered an academic scholarship in the amount of
41 two thousand dollars for the first academic year of study, which scholarship shall be renewable
42 in the amount of two thousand dollars annually for the second, third and fourth academic years
43 or as long as the recipient is in compliance with the applicable eligibility requirements set forth
44 in section 173.215, provided those years of study are continuous and the student continues to
45 meet eligibility requirements for the scholarship; provided, however, if a recipient ceases all
46 attendance at an approved public or private institution for the purpose of providing service to a
47 nonprofit organization, a state or federal government agency or any branch of the armed forces
48 of the United States, the recipient shall be eligible for a renewal scholarship upon return to any
49 approved public or private institution, provided the recipient:

50 (1) Returns to full-time status within twenty-seven months;

51 (2) Provides verification in compliance with coordinating board for higher education
52 rules that the service to the nonprofit organization was satisfactorily completed and was not

53 compensated other than for expenses or that the service to the state or federal governmental
54 agency or branch of the armed forces of the United States was satisfactorily completed; and

55 (3) Meets all other requirements established for eligibility to receive a renewal
56 scholarship.

57 [6.] 7. A recipient of academic scholarship awarded under this section may transfer from
58 one approved Missouri public or private institution to another without losing eligibility for the
59 scholarship. If a recipient of the scholarship at any time withdraws from an approved private or
60 public institution so that under the rules and regulations of that institution he or she is entitled
61 to a refund of any tuition, fees or other charges, the institution shall pay the portion of the refund
62 attributable to the scholarship for that term to the coordinating board for higher education.

63 [7.] 8. Other provisions of this section to the contrary notwithstanding, if a recipient has
64 been awarded an initial academic scholarship pursuant to the provisions of this section but is
65 unable to use the scholarship during the first academic year because of illness, disability,
66 pregnancy or other medical need or if a recipient ceases all attendance at an approved public or
67 private institution because of illness, disability, pregnancy or other medical need, the recipient
68 shall be eligible for an initial or renewal scholarship upon enrollment in or return to any
69 approved public or private institution, provided the recipient:

70 (1) Enrolls in or returns to full-time status within twenty-seven months;

71 (2) Provides verification in compliance with coordinating board for higher education
72 rules of sufficient medical evidence documenting an illness, disability, pregnancy or other
73 medical need of such person to require that that person will not be able to use the initial or
74 renewal scholarship during the time period for which it was originally offered; and

75 (3) Meets all other requirements established for eligibility to receive an initial or a
76 renewal scholarship.