

SS SCS SB 98 -- STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

This bill changes the name of Southwest Missouri State University to Missouri State University; drops "Joplin" from the name of Missouri Southern State University-Joplin; and renames Missouri Western State College and Harris-Stowe State College as universities. Central Missouri State University is permitted to change its name to University of Central Missouri upon the approval of its governing board if it acts before August 28, 2007.

Missouri State University is prohibited from seeking land grant status or a research designation. The name change does not entitle the university to additional state funding. Cooperative programs in engineering and doctoral programs may be offered in conjunction with the University of Missouri, with the University of Missouri designated as the degree-granting institution. If the University of Missouri declines to cooperate within a year of program approval, Missouri State University may cooperate with another institution or offer the degree directly. Missouri State University will not offer professional programs offered by the University of Missouri but may offer doctorates in audiology and physical therapy. The Coordinating Board for Higher Education retains the right of degree program approval.

In regard to Missouri Western State University, the bill:

(1) Places into law its mission as a statewide institution of applied learning;

(2) Changes its service area to Buchanan County and counties contiguous to Buchanan County and aligns the selection of its governing board members with the revised area; and

(3) Requires discontinuing its associate degree programs by July 1, 2010, unless the Coordinating Board for Higher Education approves their continuance.

The governing board of Missouri State University is increased from seven to nine voting members, and the board of Missouri Southern State University is increased from seven to eight voting members.