

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1231

## 93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES AVERY (Sponsor) AND CUNNINGHAM (86) (Co-sponsor).

Pre-filed January 3, 2006 and copies ordered printed.

STEPHEN S. DAVIS, Chief Clerk

3623L.01I

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### AN ACT

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

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*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Section A. Section 173.250, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 173.250, to read as follows: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 such student to attend a public college or university in another state which is party to a reciprocal tuition agreement with Missouri under sections 173.700 to 173.710 when the program of study the student desires is not offered at any public 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.

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

17           (1) Promulgate reasonable rules and regulations for the exercise of its functions and the  
18 effectuation of the purposes of this section, including regulations for granting scholarship  
19 deferments;

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 51 (1) Returns to full-time status within twenty-seven months;
- 52 (2) Provides verification in compliance with coordinating board for higher education
- 53 rules that the service to the nonprofit organization was satisfactorily completed and was not
- 54 compensated other than for expenses or that the service to the state or federal governmental
- 55 agency or branch of the armed forces of the United States was satisfactorily completed; and
- 56 (3) Meets all other requirements established for eligibility to receive a renewal
- 57 scholarship.
- 58 [6.] 7. A recipient of academic scholarship awarded under this section may transfer from
- 59 one approved Missouri public or private institution to another without losing eligibility for the
- 60 scholarship. If a recipient of the scholarship at any time withdraws from an approved private or
- 61 public institution so that under the rules and regulations of that institution he or she is entitled
- 62 to a refund of any tuition, fees or other charges, the institution shall pay the portion of the refund
- 63 attributable to the scholarship for that term to the coordinating board for higher education.
- 64 [7.] 8. Other provisions of this section to the contrary notwithstanding, if a recipient has
- 65 been awarded an initial academic scholarship pursuant to the provisions of this section but is
- 66 unable to use the scholarship during the first academic year because of illness, disability,
- 67 pregnancy or other medical need or if a recipient ceases all attendance at an approved public or
- 68 private institution because of illness, disability, pregnancy or other medical need, the recipient
- 69 shall be eligible for an initial or renewal scholarship upon enrollment in or return to any
- 70 approved public or private institution, provided the recipient:
- 71 (1) Enrolls in or returns to full-time status within twenty-seven months;
- 72 (2) Provides verification in compliance with coordinating board for higher education
- 73 rules of sufficient medical evidence documenting an illness, disability, pregnancy or other
- 74 medical need of such person to require that that person will not be able to use the initial or
- 75 renewal scholarship during the time period for which it was originally offered; and
- 76 (3) Meets all other requirements established for eligibility to receive an initial or a
- 77 renewal scholarship.

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