

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1865
93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Reported from the Committee on Education, April 26, 2006, with recommendation that the Senate Committee Substitute do pass.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

4724S.03C

AN ACT

To repeal sections 173.215, 173.220, and 173.820, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof
four new sections relating to higher education.

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

Section A. Sections 173.215, 173.220, and 173.820, RSMo, are repealed
2 and four new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 173.195,
3 173.215, 173.220, and 173.820, to read as follows:

173.195. 1. Beginning July 1, 2007, there is hereby established
2 the "Access Missouri Scholarship Program". Any moneys appropriated
3 by the general assembly for such program shall be used to provide
4 nonrenewable scholarships for Missouri residents to attend an
5 approved institution of higher education in this state that meets the
6 definition of an "approved institution" in section 173.205 for a freshman
7 year under this section. Scholarships shall be offered beginning for
8 any academic term beginning within twenty-four months following the
9 date of graduation from high school to Missouri high school graduates
10 who meet the requirements of this section.

11 2. For purposes of this section, "scholarship" means moneys paid
12 by the state of Missouri on behalf of a qualified student enrolled in an
13 approved institution of higher education under this section for an
14 initial full academic year of study.

15 3. The commissioner of higher education shall establish a
16 procedure for the reimbursement of the cost of tuition and fees up to
17 the maximum specified in subsection 4 of this section to any approved
18 institution in this state for any student:

EXPLANATION--Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is
intended to be omitted in the law.

19 (1) Who is not eligible under the A+ program established in
20 section 160.545, RSMo, because the program was not available through
21 the student's high school; and

22 (a) Who has attended a recognized high school in this state for
23 at least three years immediately prior to graduation; except that,
24 students who are dependents of active duty military personnel who, in
25 the school year immediately preceding graduation, meet all other
26 requirements of this subsection shall be exempt from the three-year
27 attendance requirement of this paragraph;

28 (b) Who has made a good faith effort to first secure all available
29 federal sources of funding that may be applied to the reimbursement
30 described in this subsection; and

31 (c) Who has earned a two point five grade average on a four-
32 point scale, or the equivalent on another scale, while in high school
33 consistent with the requirements of the A+ program and other
34 requirements for the reimbursement authorized by this subsection,
35 which shall include community service during high school as
36 determined by rule of the coordinating board for higher education; or

37 (2) Who is eligible under the A+ program established under
38 section 160.545, RSMo, who chooses to apply for and is admitted to an
39 approved institution that does not participate in the A+ program.

40 4. The maximum scholarship shall be no more than one thousand
41 dollars. The coordinating board for higher education shall be the
42 administrative agency for the implementation of the program
43 established under this section, and shall:

44 (1) Promulgate reasonable rules to implement the provisions of
45 this section;

46 (2) Prescribe the form and the time and method of awarding
47 scholarships, and supervise the processing thereof; and

48 (3) Select qualified recipients to receive scholarships, make such
49 awards of scholarships to qualified recipients, and determine the
50 manner and method of payment to the approved institution on behalf
51 of the recipient.

52 5. A recipient of a scholarship awarded under this section may
53 transfer from one approved institution to another without losing
54 eligibility for the scholarship. If at any time a recipient of the
55 scholarship withdraws from an approved institution, which under the

56 rules of such institution would entitle the student to a refund of any
57 tuition, fees or other charges, the institution shall pay the portion of
58 the refund attributable to the scholarship for such term to the
59 coordinating board for higher education.

60 6. The commissioner of higher education shall develop a
61 procedure for evaluating the effectiveness of the program described in
62 this section. Such evaluation shall be conducted annually and provide
63 the results of the evaluation to the governor and the general assembly.

173.215. 1. An applicant shall be eligible for initial or renewed financial
2 assistance only if, at the time of [his] the applicant's application and
3 throughout the period during which [he] the applicant is receiving such
4 assistance, [he] the applicant:

5 (1) Is a citizen or a permanent resident of the United States;
6 (2) Is a resident of the state of Missouri, as determined by reference to
7 standards promulgated by the coordinating board;

8 (3) Is enrolled, or has been accepted for enrollment, as a full-time
9 undergraduate student in an approved private or public institution;

10 (4) Establishes that [he] the applicant has financial need;

11 (5) Has [never been convicted in any court of an offense which involved
12 the use of force, disruption or seizure of property under the control of any
13 institution of higher education to prevent officials or students in such institutions
14 from engaging in their duties or pursuing their studies; and] not been found
15 guilty of or pled guilty to any criminal offense or been adjudicated to
16 have committed an offense which would constitute a criminal offense
17 if committed by an adult;

18 (6) Meets the minimum academic standards of a two point five
19 grade average on a four-point scale, or the equivalent on another scale,
20 for renewal of assistance; and

21 [(6)] (7) No award shall be made under sections 173.200 to 173.230 to
22 any applicant who is enrolled, or who intends to use the award to enroll, in a
23 course of study leading to a degree in theology or divinity.

24 2. Financial assistance shall be allotted for one academic year, but a
25 recipient shall be eligible for renewed assistance until [he] the recipient has
26 obtained a baccalaureate degree, provided such financial assistance shall not
27 exceed a total of ten semesters or fifteen quarters or their equivalent. Standards
28 of eligibility for renewed assistance shall be the same as for an initial award of

29 financial assistance.

173.220. An applicant who is enrolled or has been accepted for enrollment
2 as an undergraduate postsecondary student at an approved private or public
3 institution [after August 13, 1979,] and who meets the other eligibility criteria
4 shall be entitled to financial assistance based primarily on [his] the applicant's
5 financial need and to the extent of [his] the applicant's financial need as
6 determined by the coordinating board[, except that effective August 1, 1980];
7 except that, the amount of such grant shall not exceed the least of:

8 (1) The applicant's demonstrated financial need as determined by the
9 coordinating board; or

10 (2) One-half the tuition and mandatory fee charges in effect the prior
11 academic year at the approved institution the applicant plans to attend; or

12 (3) Fifteen hundred dollars[;

13 and until that date the grant shall not exceed the least of:

14 (1) The applicant's demonstrated financial need as determined by the
15 coordinating board; or

16 (2) One-half the fall 1971 tuition and mandatory fee charges at the
17 approved institution the applicant plans to attend; or

18 (3) Nine hundred dollars].

173.820. 1. A student shall be eligible for an initial or renewed
2 scholarship if such student is in compliance with the eligibility requirements set
3 forth in section 173.215, and in addition meets the following requirements:

4 (1) [Has a cumulative grade point average of at least two and one-half on
5 a four-point scale or equivalent on the student's high school core curriculum and
6 has completed a high school curriculum satisfying the coordinating board's
7 requirements for a college preparatory or technical preparatory curriculum;

8 (2) Has received a score of twenty or higher on the general American
9 College Test (ACT) or a composite verbal and math score of nine hundred and
10 fifty or higher on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT);

11 (3)] Has not been [convicted] found guilty of or pled guilty to any
12 criminal offense or been adjudicated to have committed an offense which would
13 constitute a criminal offense if committed by an adult;

14 [(4) Has substantially participated in extracurricular activities, as
15 determined by the coordinating board; and

16 (5)] (2) For the purpose of renewal, remains in compliance with the
17 applicable provisions of section 173.215, and makes satisfactory academic degree

18 progress as a full-time student.

19 2. (1) A student seeking to renew a scholarship pursuant to sections
20 173.810 to 173.827 shall maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at
21 least two point five on a four-point scale, or the equivalent on another scale
22 approved by the program administrator while attending the approved public or
23 private institution.

24 (2) If the grade point average of a member who is receiving educational
25 assistance pursuant to sections 173.810 to 173.827 falls below [two point five on
26 a four-point scale, or the equivalent on another scale] the required level
27 established in this subsection, such member shall retain the educational
28 assistance and shall be placed on probation under the educational assistance
29 program. Failure to achieve a current grade point average of [at least two point
30 five on a four-point scale, or the equivalent on another scale] the required level
31 for future semesters or equivalent academic terms shall result in termination of
32 the scholarship effective as of the next academic term. The member shall be
33 removed from probation status upon achieving [a] the required cumulative
34 grade point average [of two point five on a four-point scale or the equivalent on
35 another scale].

36 3. Scholarships shall be offered beginning for any academic term
37 beginning within twenty-four months following the date of graduation from high
38 school to Missouri high school graduates who meet the requirements of subsection
39 1 of this section. The scholarship shall be applicable toward payment for tuition
40 and other fees and the costs of books and other education-related expenses. The
41 amount of the scholarship, regardless of the institution attended, shall not exceed
42 the current average cost of tuition and fees at the campus of the University of
43 Missouri which has the largest total enrollment, as determined by the
44 coordinating board, and a book allowance as determined by the coordinating
45 board, both as of the 2004-2005 academic year.

46 4. The amount of scholarship provided under sections 173.810 to 173.827
47 shall be based upon financial need as determined under sections 173.810 to
48 173.827, shall be subject to the maximum amount established in subsection 2 of
49 this section and shall be further reduced by the amount of any nonloan
50 need-based federal financial aid, all other nonloan need-based assistance received
51 by or on behalf of the student pursuant to other provisions of this chapter and
52 any other nonloan need-based state financial aid which aid or assistance may be
53 used for the purposes established pursuant to subsection 2 of this section for

54 scholarships granted pursuant to sections 173.810 to 173.827.

55 5. A student who is enrolled or has been accepted for enrollment as a
56 postsecondary student at an approved private or public institution [beginning
57 with the fall 1999 term] and who meets the other eligibility requirements for a
58 scholarship pursuant to sections 173.810 to 173.827 shall, within the limits of the
59 funds appropriated and made available, be offered a scholarship for the first
60 academic year of study as provided in sections 173.810 to 173.827. Such
61 scholarship shall be renewable in like amount annually for the second, third,
62 fourth and fifth academic years, or as long as the recipient is in compliance with
63 the applicable eligibility requirements set forth in section 173.215, provided such
64 years of study are continuous and the student continues to meet eligibility
65 requirements for the scholarship. If a recipient ceases all attendance at an
66 approved public or private institution for the purpose of providing service to a
67 nonprofit organization, a state or federal government agency or any branch of the
68 armed forces of the United States, the recipient shall be eligible for a renewal
69 scholarship upon return to any approved public or private institution, provided
70 the recipient:

- 71 (1) Returns to full-time status within twenty-seven months;
- 72 (2) Provides verification, in compliance with rules of the coordinating
73 board, that the service to the nonprofit organization was satisfactorily completed
74 and was not compensated other than for expenses or that the service to the state
75 or federal governmental agency or branch of the armed forces of the United States
76 was satisfactorily completed; and
- 77 (3) Meets all other requirements established for eligibility to receive a
78 renewal scholarship.

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