

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1764

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES BAKER (25) (Sponsor), LOW (39), LAMPE, McGHEE,
MEADOWS, COOPER (120), CURLS, CORCORAN AND BOGETTO (Co-sponsors).

Read 1st time February 14, 2006 and copies ordered printed.

STEPHEN S. DAVIS, Chief Clerk

5002L.01I

AN ACT

To repeal section 173.250, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the higher education 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Section A. Section 173.250, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 173.250, to read as follows: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. 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. 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 effectuation of the purposes of this section, including regulations for granting scholarship deferments;

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.

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

16 (3) Select qualified recipients to receive academic scholarships, make such awards of
17 academic scholarships to qualified recipients and determine the manner and method of payment
18 to the recipient.

19 4. A student shall be eligible for initial or renewed academic scholarship if he or she is
20 in compliance with the eligibility requirements set forth in section 173.215 excluding the
21 requirement of financial need and undergraduate status, and in addition meets the following
22 requirements:

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

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

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

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

46 (2) Provides verification in compliance with coordinating board for higher education
47 rules that the service to the nonprofit organization was satisfactorily completed and was not
48 compensated other than for expenses or that the service to the state or federal governmental
49 agency or branch of the armed forces of the United States was satisfactorily completed; and

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

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

58 7. Other provisions of this section to the contrary notwithstanding[.]:

59 (1) If a recipient has been awarded an initial academic scholarship pursuant to the
60 provisions of this section but is unable to use the scholarship during the first academic year
61 because of illness, disability, pregnancy or other medical need or if a recipient ceases all
62 attendance at an approved public or private institution because of illness, disability, pregnancy
63 or other medical need, the recipient shall be eligible for an initial or renewal scholarship upon
64 enrollment in or return to any approved public or private institution, provided the recipient:

65 [(1)] (a) Enrolls in or returns to full-time status within twenty-seven months;

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

70 [(3)] (c) Meets all other requirements established for eligibility to receive an initial or
71 a renewal scholarship; or

72 (2) **If a former recipient has forfeited his or her eligibility by enrolling in and**
73 **attending an out-of-state institution of higher education and has returned to Missouri as**
74 **a result of a death in the family or a natural disaster, the recipient shall be eligible for a**
75 **renewed scholarship provided the former recipient:**

76 (a) **Provides verification in compliance with coordinating board for higher**
77 **education rules of sufficient evidence documenting the death or disaster hardship; and**

78 (b) **Meets all other requirements established for eligibility to receive an initial or**
79 **a renewal scholarship.**

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