

SENATE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2191  
AN ACT

To repeal sections 160.545, 173.256, and 173.258, RSMo,  
and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections  
relating to higher education scholarships.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI,  
AS FOLLOWS:

1           Section A. Sections 160.545, 173.256, and 173.258, RSMo,  
2           are repealed and three new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to  
3           be known as sections 160.545, 173.256, and 173.258, to read as  
4           follows:

5           160.545. 1. There is hereby established within the  
6           department of elementary and secondary education the "A+ Schools  
7           Program" to be administered by the commissioner of education.  
8           The program shall consist of grant awards made to public  
9           secondary schools that demonstrate a commitment to ensure that:

10           (1) All students be graduated from school;

11           (2) All students complete a selection of high school  
12           studies that is challenging and for which there are identified  
13           learning expectations; and

14           (3) All students proceed from high school graduation to a  
15           college or postsecondary vocational or technical school or  
16           high-wage job with work place skill development opportunities.

17           2. The state board of education shall promulgate rules and

1 regulations for the approval of grants made under the program to  
2 schools that:

3 (1) Establish measurable districtwide performance standards  
4 for the goals of the program outlined in subsection 1 of this  
5 section; and

6 (2) Specify the knowledge, skills and competencies, in  
7 measurable terms, that students must demonstrate to successfully  
8 complete any individual course offered by the school, and any  
9 course of studies which will qualify a student for graduation  
10 from the school; and

11 (3) Do not offer a general track of courses that, upon  
12 completion, can lead to a high school diploma; and

13 (4) Require rigorous coursework with standards of  
14 competency in basic academic subjects for students pursuing  
15 vocational and technical education as prescribed by rule and  
16 regulation of the state board of education; and

17 (5) Have a partnership plan developed in cooperation and  
18 with the advice of local business persons, labor leaders,  
19 parents, and representatives of college and postsecondary  
20 vocational and technical school representatives, with the plan  
21 then approved by the local board of education. The plan shall  
22 specify a mechanism to receive information on an annual basis  
23 from those who developed the plan in addition to senior citizens,  
24 community leaders, and teachers to update the plan in order to  
25 best meet the goals of the program as provided in subsection 1 of  
26 this section. Further, the plan shall detail the procedures used  
27 in the school to identify students that may drop out of school  
28 and the intervention services to be used to meet the needs of

1 such students. The plan shall outline counseling and mentoring  
2 services provided to students who will enter the work force upon  
3 graduation from high school, address apprenticeship and intern  
4 programs, and shall contain procedures for the recruitment of  
5 volunteers from the community of the school to serve in schools  
6 receiving program grants.

7 3. A school district may participate in the program  
8 irrespective of its accreditation classification by the state  
9 board of education, provided it meets all other requirements.

10 4. By rule and regulation, the state board of education may  
11 determine a local school district variable fund match requirement  
12 in order for a school or schools in the district to receive a  
13 grant under the program. However, no school in any district  
14 shall receive a grant under the program unless the district  
15 designates a salaried employee to serve as the program  
16 coordinator, with the district assuming a minimum of one-half the  
17 cost of the salary and other benefits provided to the  
18 coordinator. Further, no school in any district shall receive a  
19 grant under the program unless the district makes available  
20 facilities and services for adult literacy training as specified  
21 by rule of the state board of education.

22 [4.] 5. For any school that meets the requirements for the  
23 approval of the grants authorized by this section and specified  
24 in subsection 2 of this section for three successive school  
25 years, by August first following the third such school year, the  
26 commissioner of education shall present a plan to the  
27 superintendent of the school district in which such school is  
28 located for the waiver of rules and regulations to promote

1 flexibility in the operations of the school and to enhance and  
2 encourage efficiency in the delivery of instructional services in  
3 the school. The provisions of other law to the contrary  
4 notwithstanding, the plan presented to the superintendent shall  
5 provide a summary waiver, with no conditions, for the pupil  
6 testing requirements pursuant to section 160.257 in the school.  
7 Further, the provisions of other law to the contrary  
8 notwithstanding, the plan shall detail a means for the waiver of  
9 requirements otherwise imposed on the school related to the  
10 authority of the state board of education to classify school  
11 districts pursuant to subdivision (9) of section 161.092, RSMo,  
12 and such other rules and regulations as determined by the  
13 commissioner of education, except such waivers shall be confined  
14 to the school and not other schools in the school district unless  
15 such other schools meet the requirements of this subsection.  
16 However, any waiver provided to any school as outlined in this  
17 subsection shall be void on June thirtieth of any school year in  
18 which the school fails to meet the requirements for the approval  
19 of the grants authorized by this section as specified in  
20 subsection 2 of this section.

21 [5.] 6. For any school year, grants authorized by  
22 subsections 1 to 3 of this section shall be funded with the  
23 amount appropriated for this program, less those funds necessary  
24 to reimburse eligible students pursuant to subsection 6 of this  
25 section.

26 [6.] 7. The commissioner of education shall, by rule and  
27 regulation of the state board of education and with the advice of  
28 the coordinating board for higher education, establish a

1 procedure for the reimbursement of the cost of tuition, books and  
2 fees to any public community college or within the limits  
3 established in subsection 9 of this section any two-year public  
4 or private vocational or technical school for any student:

5 (1) Who has attended a public high school in the state for  
6 at least three years immediately prior to graduation that meets  
7 the requirements of subsection 2 of this section, except that  
8 students who are active duty military dependents who, in the  
9 school year immediately preceding graduation, meet all other  
10 requirements of this subsection and are attending a school that  
11 meets the requirements of subsection 2 of this section shall be  
12 exempt from the three-year attendance requirement of this  
13 subdivision; and

14 (2) Who has made a good faith effort to first secure all  
15 available federal sources of funding that could be applied to the  
16 reimbursement described in this subsection; and

17 (3) Who has earned a minimal grade average while in high  
18 school as determined by rule of the state board of education, and  
19 other requirements for the reimbursement authorized by this  
20 subsection as determined by rule and regulation of said board.

21 [7.] 8. The commissioner of education shall develop a  
22 procedure for evaluating the effectiveness of the program  
23 described in this section. Such evaluation shall be conducted  
24 annually with the results of the evaluation provided to the  
25 governor, speaker of the house, and president pro tempore of the  
26 senate.

27 9. For a two-year public or private vocational or technical  
28 school to obtain reimbursements under subsection 7 of this

1 section, except for those schools that are receiving  
2 reimbursements on August 28, 2008, the following requirements  
3 shall be satisfied:

4 (1) Such two-year public or private vocational or technical  
5 school shall be a member of the North Central Association and be  
6 accredited by the Higher Learning Commission as of July 1, 2008,  
7 and maintain such accreditation;

8 (2) Such two-year public or private vocational or technical  
9 school shall be designated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization  
10 under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

11 (3) No two-year public or private vocational or technical  
12 school shall receive tuition reimbursements in excess of the  
13 tuition rate charged by a public community college for course  
14 work offered by the private vocational or technical school within  
15 the service area of such college; and

16 (4) The reimbursements provided to any two-year private  
17 vocational or technical school shall not violate the provisions  
18 of article IX, section 8, or article I, section 7, of the  
19 Missouri Constitution or the first amendment of the United States  
20 Constitution.

21 173.256. 1. The department of higher education shall  
22 collect and distribute funds for the kids' chance scholarship  
23 pursuant to section 173.254, however, the department shall not  
24 distribute the corpus provided by section 173.258. The  
25 department may distribute any accrued interest in the fund as  
26 scholarships after the second Monday in October of 2008.

27 2. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Kids'  
28 Chance Scholarship Fund", which shall consist of all moneys

1 deposited in the fund pursuant to section 173.258 and all moneys  
2 which may be appropriated to it by the general assembly, from  
3 federal or other sources, including private donations. Upon  
4 termination of the fund, all moneys in the fund shall be  
5 transferred for the use of the division of workers' compensation  
6 for deposit in the fund created by virtue of section 287.690,  
7 RSMo.

8 3. The state treasurer shall administer the fund and credit  
9 all interest to the fund and the moneys in the fund shall be used  
10 solely upon appropriation by the department for the expenses of  
11 carrying out its duties pursuant to this section.

12 4. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080, RSMo,  
13 to the contrary, moneys in the fund shall not revert to the  
14 credit of the general revenue fund at the end of the biennium.

15 173.258. The director of the division of workers'  
16 compensation shall deposit fifty thousand dollars from the  
17 premium tax collected pursuant to section 287.690, RSMo, on the  
18 second Monday in October of each year beginning in 1999 until  
19 **[2008]** 2018 into the kids' chance scholarship fund.