

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2338

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES HOLSMAN (Sponsor), TALBOY, LAMPE, BROWN (50),
DARROUGH, NASHEED, ZIMMERMAN, LeVOTA, AULL, JOHNSON, ZWEIFEL, GRILL,
CHAPPELLE-NADAL, STORCH, CURLS, WALSH, PAGE, WRIGHT-JONES, WALTON, LOW (39),
GEORGE, HUGHES, CORCORAN, BLAND, BURNETT, DONNELLY AND OXFORD (Co-sponsors).

Read 1st time March 4, 2008 and copies ordered printed.

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

5440L.01I

AN ACT

To amend chapter 160, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the persistence to graduation fund.

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

Section A. Chapter 160, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be
2 known as section 160.950, to read as follows:

160.950. 1. There is hereby created in the state treasury "The Persistence to
2 Graduation Fund", which shall consist of money collected under this section. The state
3 treasurer shall be custodian of the fund and may approve disbursements from the fund in
4 accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, RSMo. Upon appropriation, money in the
5 fund shall be used solely for the administration of this section. Any moneys remaining in
6 the fund at the end of the biennium shall revert to the credit of the general revenue fund.
7 The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are
8 invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the
9 fund. The fund shall be administered by the department of elementary and secondary
10 education.

11 2. The department of elementary and secondary education shall establish a
12 procedure whereby seven-director, urban, and metropolitan school districts may apply for
13 grant awards from the persistence to graduation fund in order for such districts to

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 implement drop-out prevention strategies. Successful applicants under this section shall
15 be awarded grants for one to five consecutive years. Upon expiration of the initial grant,
16 the district may reapply for an extension of the grant award for a period of time deemed
17 appropriate by both the district and the department. The department of elementary and
18 secondary education shall give preference to school districts that propose a holistic
19 approach to drop-out prevention, directed at a broad array of students, from the
20 prekindergarten level through early adulthood, including the following characteristics:

21 (1) A collaborative approach between the school district and various community
22 organizations, including nonprofit organizations, local governmental organizations, law
23 enforcement agencies, "approved public institutions" and "approved private institutions"
24 as such terms are defined in section 173.1102, RSMo, and institutions able to deliver proven,
25 research-based intervention services;

26 (2) Early intervention strategies, including family engagement, early childhood
27 education, early literacy development, family literacy, and mental health detection and
28 treatment;

29 (3) Increased accountability measures that track at-risk students that leave the
30 district;

31 (4) The implementation or augmentation of the following basic core strategies for
32 drop-out prevention:

33 (a) Mentoring;

34 (b) Tutoring;

35 (c) Alternative schooling;

36 (d) Career and technical education; and

37 (e) Before or after school programs;

38 (5) The implementation of early intervention strategies for students who display
39 strong indicators that they will not persist to graduation.

40 3. Grants awarded under this section shall be restricted to school districts that
41 display at least one of the following criteria:

42 (1) The district has not met the graduation rate indicated on its most current annual
43 performance review;

44 (2) The district is classified as unaccredited, provisionally accredited, or interim
45 accredited by the state board of education;

46 (3) The district obtained a score on its most recent annual performance review
47 consistent with the classification of provisionally accredited or unaccredited.

48 4. The department of elementary and secondary education shall promulgate rules,
49 no later than January 15, 2009, for the implementation of this section, including:

50 (1) A procedure by which funds shall be allocated to the applying school districts;
51 and

52 (2) A means to judge the effectiveness of the drop-out prevention programs of the
53 districts that receive grants under this program.

54

55 Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, RSMo, that is
56 created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it
57 complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, RSMo, and, if
58 applicable, section 536.028, RSMo. This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable
59 and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo,
60 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently
61 held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or
62 adopted after August 28, 2008, shall be invalid and void.

63 5. The department of elementary and secondary education may cease award
64 payments to any district at any time if the department determines that such funds are being
65 misused or if the district's drop-out prevention program is deemed to be ineffectual. Any
66 decision to discontinue payments of such funds shall be presented to the applicable district
67 in writing at least thirty days prior to the cessation of fund payments.

68 6. The department of elementary and secondary education shall report to the
69 general assembly and to the governor, no later than January fifteenth annually:

70 (1) The recipients and amounts of the grants awarded under this section; and

71 (2) The persistence to graduation data from the preceding five years for each district
72 awarded grants under this section.

73 7. The general assembly shall annually appropriate an amount sufficient to properly
74 fund the provisions of this section, which shall be a minimum of five million dollars in any
75 fiscal year.

76 8. Pursuant to section 23.253, RSMo, of the Missouri sunset act:

77 (1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this section shall sunset
78 automatically six years after the effective date of this section unless reauthorized by an act
79 of the general assembly; and

80 (2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized under this section shall
81 sunset automatically twelve years after the effective date of the reauthorization of this
82 section; and

83 (3) This section shall terminate on September first of the calendar year immediately
84 following the calendar year in which the program authorized under this section is sunset.

✓