

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 2376

## 95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HOLSMAN.

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D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To repeal section 162.1168, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the preschool plus program.

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

Section A. Section 162.1168, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 162.1168, to read as follows:

162.1168. 1. There is hereby established a pilot program within the Missouri preschool project to be known as the "Missouri Preschool Plus Grant Program", which shall serve up to [one] ~~six~~ thousand two hundred fifty students with high-quality early childhood educational services in order to improve school readiness outcomes. The program shall be administered by the department of elementary and secondary education in collaboration with the coordinating board for early childhood. Grants shall be awarded in this section for three years and shall be renewable. The program shall be funded through appropriations to the Missouri preschool plus grant program fund. Funds from the gaming commission fund created in section 313.835, RSMo, shall not be used to fund the program.

2. For purposes of this section, the following terms shall mean:

(1) "Department", the department of elementary and secondary education;

(2) "Program", the Missouri preschool plus grant program.

3. Grantees shall include the following:

(1) School districts classified as unaccredited by the state board of education; [or]

(2) Nonsectarian community-based organizations located within a school district classified as unaccredited by the state board of education;

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.

17           **(3) School districts located wholly within any county of the first classification,**  
18 **regardless of such district's accreditation status; or**

19           **(4) The metropolitan school district, regardless of such district's accreditation**  
20 **status.**

21           4. If a school district becomes classified as provisionally accredited or accredited by the  
22 state board of education, the school district may complete the length of an existing grant and  
23 shall be eligible for one additional renewal for three years.

24           5. To receive a preschool placement under this section, a child shall be one or two years  
25 away from kindergarten entry.

26           6. The Missouri preschool plus grant program shall comply with the standards developed  
27 under section 161.213, RSMo. Public school grantees shall employ teachers with a bachelor's  
28 degree. Nonsectarian community-based organizations may employ teachers with at least an  
29 associate's degree provided such teachers demonstrate they are on the path to obtaining a  
30 bachelor's degree within five years.

31           7. Families with incomes less than one hundred thirty percent of the federal poverty  
32 guidelines shall receive free services through eligible grantees. Families with incomes at or  
33 above one hundred thirty percent of the federal poverty guidelines may be charged a co-pay on  
34 a sliding scale, as established by the department.

35           8. At least fifty percent of the preschool placements funded by the program shall be  
36 offered through nonsectarian community-based organizations.

37           9. The department shall develop standards for teacher-pupil ratios, classroom size,  
38 teacher training and educational attainment, and curriculum.

39           10. Grantees participating in the program shall give admission preference to dependents  
40 of active duty military personnel.

41           11. School districts in which such pilot programs exist shall collect data about short-term  
42 and long-term student performance so that the program may be evaluated on quantitative  
43 measurements developed by the department. For purposes of this subsection, "long-term" shall  
44 mean from point of entry to graduation from high school.

45           12. Grantees shall coordinate preschool programs with the nearest parents as teachers  
46 site to ensure a continuum of care.

47           13. The department shall accept applications in a competitive bid process to begin  
48 implementation of the program for the 2010-11 school year.

49           14. The department shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement this  
50 section by January 1, 2010. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section  
51 536.010, RSMo, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become  
52 effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, RSMo,

53 and, if applicable, section 536.028, RSMo. This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are  
54 nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536,  
55 RSMo, to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently  
56 held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted  
57 after August 28, 2009, shall be invalid and void.

58 15. The grants awarded under this section are subject to appropriation.

59 16. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Missouri Preschool Plus Grant  
60 Program Fund" which shall consist of general revenue appropriated to the program, funds  
61 received from the federal government, and voluntary contributions to support or match program  
62 activities. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund and may approve disbursements  
63 from the fund in accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, RSMo. Upon appropriation,  
64 money in the fund shall be used solely for the administration of this section. Any moneys  
65 remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall revert to the credit of the general revenue  
66 fund. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are  
67 invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.

68 17. Pursuant to section 23.253, RSMo, of the Missouri sunset act:

69 (1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this section shall automatically  
70 sunset six years after August 28, 2009, unless reauthorized by an act of the general assembly; and

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

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

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