

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2346

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHAD.

5392L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 160.254, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to early childhood education.

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

Section A. Section 160.254, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 160.254, to read as follows:

160.254. 1. There is hereby established a joint committee of the general assembly, which shall be known as the "Joint Committee on Education", which shall be composed of seven members of the senate and seven members of the house of representatives. The senate members of the committee shall be appointed by the president pro tem of the senate and the house members by the speaker of the house.

2. The committee shall meet at least twice a year. In the event of three consecutive absences on the part of any member, such member may be removed from the committee.

3. The committee shall select either a chairman or cochairmen, one of whom shall be a member of the senate and one a member of the house. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. Meetings of the committee may be called at such time and place as the chairman or chairmen designate.

4. The committee shall:

(1) Review and monitor the progress of education in the state's public schools and institutions of higher education;

(2) Receive reports from the commissioner of education concerning the public schools and from the commissioner of higher education concerning institutions of higher education;

(3) Conduct a study and analysis of the public school system;

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.

- 18 (4) Make recommendations to the general assembly for legislative action;
- 19 (5) Conduct an in-depth study concerning all issues relating to the equity and adequacy
20 of the distribution of state school aid, teachers' salaries, funding for school buildings, and overall
21 funding levels for schools and any other education funding-related issues the committee deems
22 relevant;
- 23 (6) Monitor the establishment of performance measures as required by section 173.1006,
24 RSMo, and report on their establishment to the governor and the general assembly;
- 25 (7) Conduct studies and analysis regarding:
- 26 (a) The higher education system, including financing public higher education and the
27 provision of financial aid for higher education; and
- 28 (b) The feasibility of including students enrolled in proprietary schools, as that term is
29 defined in section 173.600, RSMo, in all state-based financial aid programs;
- 30 (8) Annually review the collection of information under section 173.093, RSMo, to
31 facilitate a more accurate comparison of the actual costs at public and private higher education
32 institutions;
- 33 (9) Within three years of August 28, 2007, review a new model for the funding of public
34 higher education institutions upon submission of such model by the coordinating board for
35 higher education;
- 36 (10) Within three years of August 28, 2007, review the impact of the higher education
37 student funding act established in sections 173.1000 to 173.1006;
- 38 (11) Beginning August 28, 2008, upon review, approve or deny any expenditures made
39 by the commissioner of education pursuant to section 160.530, as provided in subsection 5 of
40 section 160.530.
- 41 5. During the legislative interim between the first regular session of the ninety-fifth
42 general assembly through January 29, 2010, of the second regular session of the ninety-fifth
43 general assembly, the joint committee on education shall study the issue of open enrollment for
44 public school students across school district boundary lines in this state. In studying this issue,
45 the joint committee may solicit input and information necessary to fulfill its obligation, including
46 but not limited to soliciting input and information from any state department, state agency,
47 school district, political subdivisions of this state, teachers, and the general public. The joint
48 committee shall prepare a final report, together with its recommendations for any legislative
49 action deemed necessary for submission to the general assembly by December 31, 2009.
- 50 6. **The committee shall conduct a study on the issue of voluntary prekindergarten**
51 **in Missouri and prepare a final report, together with any recommendations for legislative**
52 **action, for submission to the general assembly by December 1, 2010. The study should**
53 **include:**

54 (1) The current access three and four year olds have to publicly and privately
55 funded voluntary prekindergarten in Missouri;

56 (2) Existing analyses of public and private funding strategies for prekindergarten
57 within Missouri and other states, including strategies for blending funding for
58 prekindergarten, parenting education, and infants and toddlers; and

59 (3) Current research from other states on the impact of state early childhood
60 education initiatives on school readiness outcomes and any other immediate or long-term
61 benefits.

62 7. The committee may make reasonable requests for staff assistance from the research
63 and appropriations staffs of the house and senate and the committee on legislative research, as
64 well as the department of elementary and secondary education, the department of higher
65 education, the coordinating board for higher education, **the coordinating board for early**
66 **childhood**, the state tax commission, the department of economic development, all school
67 districts and other political subdivisions of this state, teachers and teacher groups, business and
68 other commercial interests and any other interested persons.

69 [7.] 8. Members of the committee shall receive no compensation but may be reimbursed
70 for reasonable and necessary expenses associated with the performance of their official duties.

✓