

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1629

## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BARNES.

5658L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To repeal section 162.1250, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to virtual schools.

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

Section A. Section 162.1250, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 162.1250, to read as follows:

162.1250. 1. School districts shall receive state school funding under sections 163.031, 163.043, and 163.087 for resident students who are enrolled in the school district and who are taking a virtual course or full-time virtual program offered by the school district. The school district may offer instruction in a virtual setting using technology, intranet, and Internet methods of communications that could take place outside of the regular school district facility. The school district may develop a virtual program for any grade level, kindergarten through twelfth grade, with the courses available in accordance with district policy to any resident student of the district who is enrolled in the school district. Nothing in this section shall preclude a private, parochial, or home school student residing within a school district offering virtual courses or virtual programs from enrolling in the school district in accordance with the combined enrollment provisions of section 167.031 for the purposes of participating in the virtual courses or virtual programs.

2. Charter schools shall receive state school funding under section 160.415 for students enrolled in the charter school who are completing a virtual course or full-time virtual program offered by the charter school. Charter schools may offer instruction in a virtual setting using technology, intranet, and Internet methods of communications. The charter school may develop a virtual program for any grade level, kindergarten through twelfth grade, with the courses

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 available in accordance with school policy and the charter school's charter to any student enrolled  
19 in the charter school.

20         3. For purposes of calculation and distribution of state school funding, attendance of a  
21 student enrolled in a district or charter school virtual class shall equal, upon course completion,  
22 ninety-four percent of the hours of attendance possible for such class delivered in the nonvirtual  
23 program in the student's resident district or charter school. Course completion shall be calculated  
24 in two increments, fifty percent completion and one hundred percent completion, based on the  
25 student's completion of defined assignments and assessments, with distribution of state funding  
26 to a school district or charter school at each increment equal to forty-seven percent of hours of  
27 attendance possible for such course delivered in the nonvirtual program in a student's school  
28 district of residence or charter school.

29         4. **Any student who is a resident of this state may enroll in a school district other**  
30 **than his or her school district of residence or in a charter school for the purpose of**  
31 **attending virtual courses or programs. For purposes of this subsection, "virtual**  
32 **nonresident students" shall mean nonresident students who enroll in a school district or**  
33 **charter school for the purpose of attending virtual courses or programs. School districts**  
34 **or charter schools may enroll any virtual nonresident student. School districts and charter**  
35 **schools shall admit students under this subsection based on the time of submission of an**  
36 **application for enrollment until full capacity is reached. A school district or charter school**  
37 **shall give a preference to a sibling of a student already enrolled. A student who enrolls in**  
38 **another school district or charter school under this subsection may remain enrolled until**  
39 **he or she has completed all grade levels offered or he or she withdraws from the school.**  
40 **For purposes of calculation and distribution of state school funding for virtual nonresident**  
41 **students, the virtual nonresident student shall be included in the average daily attendance**  
42 **of his or her school district of residence. The virtual nonresident student's district of**  
43 **residence shall pay the school district or charter school providing such virtual education**  
44 **an amount equal to seventy-two and one half percent of the previous year's statewide**  
45 **average current expenditure per average daily attendance, provided that the amount paid**  
46 **by any district shall not exceed the total amount due to the district under subsections 1 and**  
47 **2 of section 163.031.**

48         5. **In addition to those entities which may sponsor charter schools under section**  
49 **160.400, any institution of higher education with its primary campus located in Missouri**  
50 **with an approved teacher education program may sponsor virtual charter schools. Virtual**  
51 **charter schools are charter schools and subject to all of the applicable provisions of**  
52 **sections 160.400 to 160.420 and this section. Virtual charter schools may only offer**

53 **instruction in a virtual setting using technology, intranet and internet methods of**  
54 **communication.**

55         6. When courses are purchased from an outside vendor, the district or charter school  
56 shall ensure that they are aligned with the show-me curriculum standards and comply with state  
57 requirements for teacher certification. The state board of education reserves the right to request  
58 information and materials sufficient to evaluate the online course. Online classes should be  
59 considered like any other class offered by the school district or charter school.

60         [5.] 7. Any school district or charter school that offers instruction in a virtual setting,  
61 develops a virtual course or courses, or develops a virtual program of instruction shall ensure that  
62 the following standards are satisfied:

63         (1) The virtual course or virtual program utilizes appropriate content-specific tools and  
64 software;

65         (2) Orientation training is available for teachers, instructors, and students as needed;

66         (3) Privacy policies are stated and made available to teachers, instructors, and students;

67         (4) Academic integrity and Internet etiquette expectations regarding lesson activities,  
68 discussions, electronic communications, and plagiarism are stated to teachers, instructors, and  
69 students prior to the beginning of the virtual course or virtual program;

70         (5) Computer system requirements, including hardware, web browser, and software, are  
71 specified to participants;

72         (6) The virtual course or virtual program architecture, software, and hardware permit the  
73 online teacher or instructor to add content, activities, and assessments to extend learning  
74 opportunities;

75         (7) The virtual course or virtual program makes resources available by alternative means,  
76 including but not limited to, video and podcasts;

77         (8) Resources and notes are available for teachers and instructors in addition to  
78 assessment and assignment answers and explanations;

79         (9) Technical support and course management are available to the virtual course or  
80 virtual program teacher and school coordinator;

81         (10) The virtual course or virtual program includes assignments, projects, and  
82 assessments that are aligned with students' different visual, auditory, and hands-on learning  
83 styles;

84         (11) The virtual course or virtual program demonstrates the ability to effectively use and  
85 incorporate subject-specific and developmentally appropriate software in an online learning  
86 module; and

87         (12) The virtual course or virtual program arranges media and content to help transfer  
88 knowledge most effectively in the online environment.

89           [6.] **8.** Any special school district shall count any student's completion of a virtual course  
90 or program in the same manner as the district counts completion of any other course or program  
91 for credit.

92           [7.] **9.** A school district or charter school may contract with multiple providers of virtual  
93 courses or virtual programs, provided they meet the criteria for virtual courses or virtual  
94 programs under this section.

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