

HOUSEAMENDMENT NO. ____Offered byof

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1689, Page 1,
 2 In the Title, Line 3, by deleting the words "early childhood";
 3 and

4
 5 Further amend said bill, Page 3, Section 160.055, Line 26,
 6 by inserting after all of said line the following:

7 "160.545. 1. There is hereby established within the
 8 department of elementary and secondary education the "A+ Schools
 9 Program" to be administered by the commissioner of education.

10 The program shall consist of [grant awards] scholarships made to
 11 graduates of public and private secondary schools [that
 12 demonstrate a commitment to ensure that] who:

13 (1) [All students be graduated from school;

14 (2) All students] Complete a selection of high school
 15 studies that is challenging and for which there are identified
 16 learning expectations; and

17 [(3) All students] (2) Proceed from high school graduation
 18 to a college or postsecondary vocational or technical school or
 19 high-wage job with work place skill development opportunities.

20 2. Pursuant to the A+ program, the state board of education
 21 shall promulgate rules and regulations [for the approval of
 22 grants made under the program to schools that:

23 (1) Establish measurable districtwide performance standards
 24 for the goals of the program outlined in subsection 1 of this
 25 section; and

26 (2)] that specify the knowledge, skills and competencies,
 27 in measurable terms, that students must demonstrate to
 28 successfully complete any individual course offered by [the] a

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1 school[,] and any course of studies which will qualify a student
2 for graduation from [the] such school[;] and does not include any
3 general track course, that upon completion, counts toward a high
4 school diploma, and

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

7 (4) Require] further specify rigorous coursework with
8 standards of competency in basic academic subjects for students
9 pursuing vocational and technical education [as prescribed by
10 rule and regulation of the state board of education; and

11 (5) Have a partnership plan developed in cooperation and
12 with the advice of local business persons, labor leaders,
13 parents, and representatives of college and postsecondary
14 vocational and technical school representatives, with the plan
15 then approved by the local board of education. The plan shall
16 specify a mechanism to receive information on an annual basis
17 from those who developed the plan in addition to senior citizens,
18 community leaders, and teachers to update the plan in order to
19 best meet the goals of the program as provided in subsection 1 of
20 this section. Further, the plan shall detail the procedures used
21 in the school to identify students that may drop out of school
22 and the intervention services to be used to meet the needs of
23 such students. The plan shall outline counseling and mentoring
24 services provided to students who will enter the work force upon
25 graduation from high school, address apprenticeship and intern
26 programs, and shall contain procedures for the recruitment of
27 volunteers from the community of the school to serve in schools
28 receiving program grants.

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

32 4. By rule and regulation, the state board of education may
33 determine a local school district variable fund match requirement
34 in order for a school or schools in the district to receive a
35 grant under the program. However, no school in any district
36 shall receive a grant under the program unless the district
37 designates a salaried employee to serve as the program

1 coordinator, with the district assuming a minimum of one-half the
2 cost of the salary and other benefits provided to the
3 coordinator. Further, no school in any district shall receive a
4 grant under the program unless the district makes available
5 facilities and services for adult literacy training as specified
6 by rule of the state board of education.

7 5. For any school that meets the requirements for the
8 approval of the grants authorized by this section and specified
9 in subsection 2 of this section for three successive school
10 years, by August first following the third such school year, the
11 commissioner of education shall present a plan to the
12 superintendent of the school district in which such school is
13 located for the waiver of rules and regulations to promote
14 flexibility in the operations of the school and to enhance and
15 encourage efficiency in the delivery of instructional services in
16 the school. The provisions of other law to the contrary
17 notwithstanding, the plan presented to the superintendent shall
18 provide a summary waiver, with no conditions, for the pupil
19 testing requirements pursuant to section 160.257 in the school.
20 Further, the provisions of other law to the contrary
21 notwithstanding, the plan shall detail a means for the waiver of
22 requirements otherwise imposed on the school related to the
23 authority of the state board of education to classify school
24 districts pursuant to subdivision (9) of section 161.092 and such
25 other rules and regulations as determined by the commissioner of
26 education, except such waivers shall be confined to the school
27 and not other schools in the school district unless such other
28 schools meet the requirements of this subsection. However, any
29 waiver provided to any school as outlined in this subsection
30 shall be void on June thirtieth of any school year in which the
31 school fails to meet the requirements for the approval of the
32 grants authorized by this section as specified in subsection 2 of
33 this section.

34 6. For any school year, grants authorized by subsections 1
35 to 3 of this section shall be funded with the amount appropriated
36 for this program, less those funds necessary to reimburse
37 eligible students pursuant to subsection 7 of this section].

1 [7.] 3. The commissioner of education shall, by rule and
2 regulation of the state board of education and with the advice of
3 the coordinating board for higher education, establish a
4 procedure for the [reimbursement] payment of the cost of tuition,
5 books and fees to any public community college or vocational or
6 technical school or within the limits established in subsection
7 [9] 11 of this section for any two-year private vocational or
8 technical school for any student:

9 (1) Who has attended a public or private high school in the
10 state for at least three years immediately prior to graduation
11 [that meets the requirements of subsection 2 of this section],
12 except that students who are active duty military dependents, and
13 students who are dependants of retired military who relocate to
14 Missouri within one year of the date of the parent's retirement
15 from active duty, who, in the school year immediately preceding
16 graduation, meet all other requirements of this subsection and
17 are attending a school that meets the requirements of [subsection
18 2 of] this section shall be exempt from the three-year attendance
19 requirement of this subdivision; and

20 (2) Who has made a good faith effort to first secure all
21 available [federal] sources of funding that could be applied to
22 the [reimbursement described in this subsection] costs covered by
23 this scholarship program; and

24 (3) Who has earned a [minimal] grade point average of at
25 least two and one-half points on a four-point scale, or its
26 equivalent on another scale, while in high school [as determined
27 by rule of the state board of education,]; and

28 (4) Meets other requirements for the [reimbursement]
29 payment authorized by this subsection as determined by rule and
30 regulation of said board.

31 4. Student financial incentives shall be available for a
32 period of four years after high school graduation.

33 5. To be eligible for a student financial incentive, each
34 student shall:

35 (1) Have attended a public or private high school in
36 Missouri for three consecutive years prior to high school

1 graduation;

2 (2) Have graduated from high school with an overall grade
3 point average of two and five-tenths or higher on a four-point
4 scale, or its equivalent on another scale, or have graduated from
5 a high school with documented mastery of institutionally
6 identified skills that would equate to a two and five-tenths
7 grade point average or higher on a four-point scale;

8 (3) Have performed at least fifty hours of unpaid tutoring
9 or mentoring;

10 (4) Have at least a ninety-five percent attendance record
11 overall for grades nine through twelve; and

12 (5) Have maintained a record of good citizenship and
13 avoidance of the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol.

14 6. To maintain eligibility, each participating student
15 shall, during the four-year period of incentive availability:

16 (1) Enroll in and attend on a full-time basis a Missouri
17 public community college, vocational or technical school, state
18 technical college, or within the limits established in subsection
19 11 of this section, any two-year private vocational or technical
20 school;

21 (2) Maintain a grade point average of two and five-tenths
22 points or higher on a four-point scale, or its equivalent on
23 another scale; and

24 (3) Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoidance of
25 the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol.

26 7. The financial incentives shall be made available,
27 subject to appropriation, only after the student has made a
28 documented good faith effort to first secure all available
29 postsecondary student financial assistance funds that do not
30 require repayment.

31 8. Subject to appropriation, the financial incentives shall
32 only be made available to pay the unpaid balance of the cost of
33 tuition, general fees, and up to fifty percent of the book cost
34 after all postsecondary student financial assistance funds have
35 been applied to these costs. If changes are made to the above
36 incentives, the department of elementary and secondary education
37 shall provide payments in the following order of priority:

1 (1) The full amount of tuition;

2 (2) The general fees; and

3 (3) Up to fifty percent of the book cost.

4 9. Missouri public community colleges, vocational or
5 technical schools, state technical colleges, and two-year private
6 vocational or technical schools shall verify, prior to payment,
7 for each student intending to participate in the program at their
8 institution that:

9 (1) By the end of the first semester of the student's
10 participation:

11 (a) Verification of student eligibility has been received
12 from the high school from which the student graduated;

13 (b) The eligible student is enrolled as a full-time
14 student;

15 (c) A good faith effort has been made to secure all
16 available postsecondary student financial assistance funds; and

17 (d) After all available postsecondary student financial
18 assistance funds are applied, the student shall receive financial
19 incentive funds. The amount of funds shall depend on the
20 remaining costs of tuition, general fees, and up to fifty percent
21 of the book cost to attend that institution, subject to
22 appropriation; and

23 (2) During the second and subsequent semesters of the
24 student's participation:

25 (a) The eligible student continues to be enrolled as a
26 full-time student;

27 (b) Good faith efforts continue to be made to secure all
28 available postsecondary student financial assistance funds;

29 (c) The student has earned and maintains a grade point
30 average of two and five-tenths points or higher on a four-point
31 scale, or its equivalent on another scale; and

32 (d) After all other available postsecondary student
33 financial assistance funds are applied, the student shall receive
34 financial incentive funds. The amount of funds shall be subject
35 to appropriation and shall depend on the remaining costs of
36 tuition, general fees, and up to fifty percent of the book cost
37 to attend that institution.

1 [8.] 10. The commissioner of education shall develop a
2 procedure for evaluating the effectiveness of the scholarship
3 program described in this section. Such evaluation shall be
4 conducted annually with the results of the evaluation provided to
5 the governor, speaker of the house, and president pro tempore of
6 the senate.

7 [9.] 11. For a two-year private vocational or technical
8 school to obtain reimbursements under subsection [7] 3 of this
9 section, the following requirements shall be satisfied:

10 (1) Such two-year private vocational or technical school
11 shall be a member of the North Central Association and be
12 accredited by the Higher Learning Commission as of July 1, 2008,
13 and maintain such accreditation;

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

17 (3) No two-year private vocational or technical school
18 shall receive tuition reimbursements in excess of the tuition
19 rate charged by a public community college for course work
20 offered by the private vocational or technical school within the
21 service area of such college; and

22 (4) The reimbursements provided to any two-year private
23 vocational or technical school shall not violate the provisions
24 of Article IX, Section 8, or Article I, Section 7, of the
25 Missouri Constitution or the first amendment of the United States
26 Constitution."; and

27
28 Further amend said title, enacting clause and intersectional
29 references accordingly.