

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2165

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CURTIS.

6428L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the establishment of a three-year bachelors degree pilot program.

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

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 173.006, to read as follows:

- 173.006. 1. Prior to January 1, 2016, the coordinating board for higher education shall conduct a study to assess the feasibility of a "Bachelors Degree in Three" accelerated degree program at Missouri public institutions of higher education, with the goal of establishing a pilot three-year degree program within certain public institutions of higher education selected by the coordinating board.**
- 2. In conducting the study required under this section, the coordinating board shall:**
- (1) Establish guidelines for the bachelors degree in three program;**
 - (2) Collaborate with the department of elementary and secondary education to establish a seamless credit transfer system for high school students and other policies that might facilitate student participation in such a program;**
 - (3) Identify and propose any necessary changes to academic courses of study, support service, financial aid, and other policies and resources at Missouri public institutions of higher education to ensure greater opportunities for students to complete bachelors degree programs in three years;**

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.

16 (4) Identify potential costs of the program, including costs to students, to the
17 institutions, and to school districts, identify possible sources of external grant funding for
18 a pilot program, and propose a funding structure for the program;

19 (5) Investigate accreditation issues and federal financial aid rules that may be
20 implicated by the program; and

21 (6) Identify units at the public institutions of higher education that will assume
22 administrative responsibility for the program.

23 3. The coordinating board shall present an initial report and recommendations and
24 time line for the potential implementation of a pilot program to the general assembly on
25 or before February 1, 2016.

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