

HB 1705 -- REMEDIAL COURSE REIMBURSEMENT

SPONSOR: Curtis

Beginning with the 2014-15 academic year, this bill allows a person who enrolls in a public higher education institution after graduating from a Missouri public high school to apply for reimbursement of tuition for remedial courses, as defined in the bill. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must establish a procedure by which a student may apply for reimbursement twice a year. Reimbursement will be proportional to the graduating high school's three-year average percentage of students enrolled in remedial courses.

The Joint Committee on Education must review data on remediation rates after the 2018-19 academic year to determine the effects of the reimbursement program on remediation rates, the correlation between end-of-course assessments and the need for remediation, the effect of competency alignment, the extent to which information about remediation rates is used to improve high school instruction, and other relevant matters. The joint committee must make any recommendations it believes are necessary to the General Assembly. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must consider, if the joint committee recommends, creating a rule to establish an increasing penalty for districts that do not improve their remediation rate sufficiently.

Reimbursements will be funded by withholdings from the district's classroom trust fund payment. Any amount needed for reimbursement in excess will be waived.

The bill also removes the prohibition on using information from the required report on remediation rates for any other purpose than reporting.