

HCS SCS SBs 807 & 577 -- HIGHER EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Wasson (Lichtenegger)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 7 to 0.

This bill allows the Coordinating Board for Higher Education to approve new degree programs offered by state institutions of higher education. Community colleges may be authorized to offer baccalaureate degrees to meet local workforce needs, and other universities may collaborate with the University of Missouri to offer degrees in engineering, chiropractic, osteopathic medicine, and podiatry. The University of Missouri remains the state's only public research university and the only institution authorized to grant research doctorates and first-professional degrees including dentistry, law, medicine, optometry, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine (Sections 163.191, 172.280, 173.005, 174.160, 174.225, 174.231, 174.251, 174.500, and 178.636, RSMo).

This provision is similar to HB 1744 (2018).

The bill also modifies the A+ program. Students will be eligible if they have attended a high school in Missouri for three years and graduated. The bill eliminates the requirement that the three-years attendance has occurred immediately prior to graduation (Section 160.545).

This provision is similar to SB 990 (2018).

The bill adds an additional mechanism by which the taxing district of a public school may attach itself to a community college district in order to increase the tax base of the community college district and secure in-district tuition rates for students of the school district. The new mechanism allows the community college to propose the plan to the school district's voters and pay for the election (Section 162.441).

This provision is similar to HB 1528 (2018).

The bill requires students entering public institutions of higher education for the first time after July 2019 to score at least 70% on the Missouri Higher Education Civics Achievement Examination as a condition of graduation. The exam shall consist of 50 to 100 questions similar to the questions in the United States citizenship examination (Section 170.013).

This provision is similar to HB 2360 (2018).

The bill adds several professions, including air ambulance pilots, air ambulance registered professional nurses, air ambulance registered respiratory therapists, uniformed employees of the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and specified emergency medical technicians, and their children and spouses, to the list of those eligible to receive a public safety officer or employee survivor grant from the Coordinating Board for Higher Education within the Department of Higher Education (Section 173.260).

This provision is similar to HB 2649 (2018).

The bill changes the cap on tuition increases at public institutions of higher education. Currently, tuition increases are capped at the rate of inflation. This bill would permit institutions to increase their tuition by inflation plus an amount that would produce an increase in net tuition revenue no greater than the amount by which the state operating support was reduced in the previous fiscal year (Section 173.1003).

This provision is similar to HB 1267 (2018).

The bill adds approved virtual institutions to the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program, as described within the bill (Sections 173.1101, 173.1102, 173.1104, and 173.1107).

This provision is similar to HB 1267 (2018).

The bill also establishes the "College Credit Disclosure Act," which requires a higher education institution that grants college-level credit but is not accredited by a federally recognized regional accreditor to disclose during the admission application process that the institution is not accredited. The institution must provide the disclosure in writing to an enrolling student before the student registers for any class that grants credit, and the student must sign the disclosure. The bill specifies the language of the required disclosure. The bill exempts any institution that is affiliated with a religious organization if the institution is accredited by a federally recognized faith-related accreditor (Section 173.1450).

This provision is similar to HB 1811 (2018).

The bill modifies the Uniform Athlete Agents Act. Professional representatives, as defined in the act, are required to register with the Division of Professional Registration. Before registering, agents are prohibited from recruiting a student athlete, entering into an agency contract, communicating with a student athlete about professional representation or an agency contract, communicating with any person affiliated with a student athlete for the purposes of discussing potential professional

representation of the student athlete, or contacting or attempting to contact a student athlete or other individual for the purposes of promoting the services or business of an athlete agent or professional representative. Agents must notify the applicable athletic director at an educational institution prior to communicating with a student athlete; prior to communicating with any other person for the purposes of influencing a student athlete's decision to enter into an agency contract; within 10 days of a student athlete enrolling in an educational institution; and if a student athlete contacts the athlete agent or professional representative (Sections 436.218 to 436.266).

This provision is similar to HB 1811 (2018).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the degree program sections of this bill are a good compromise and is agreed to by all of Missouri's public institutions of higher education. The bill will give institutions flexibility to offer degrees to meet local workforce needs. Institutions will be empowered to collaborate to make degrees available to students. Community colleges will be able to offer degrees necessary for workforce development.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Wasson; Paul Wagner, Council on Public Higher Education (COPHE); Missouri Community College Association; Missouri State University; Representative Hansen; and the University of Missouri System.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say one of the proposed amendments in committee had been the subject of a compromise which removed the need for the amendment.

Testifying on the bill was Samantha Dickey, Missouri Department of Higher Education.