

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 225
100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

0820H.02C

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to workforce incentive grants.

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
2 known as section 173.2553, to read as follows:

**173.2553. 1. There is hereby established a "Fast-Track Workforce Incentive
2 Grant", and any moneys appropriated by the general assembly for this program shall be
3 used to provide grants for Missouri citizens to attend an approved Missouri postsecondary
4 educational institution of their choice in accordance with the provisions of this section.**

**5 2. The definitions of terms set forth in section 173.1102 shall be applicable to such
6 terms as used in this section. In addition, the following terms shall mean:**

7 (1) "Eligible student", an individual who:

**8 (a) Has completed and submitted a FAFSA for the academic year for which the
9 grant is requested;**

10 (b) Is a citizen or permanent resident of the United States;

**11 (c) Is a Missouri resident as determined by reference to standards promulgated by
12 the coordinating board;**

**13 (d) Is enrolled, or plans to enroll, at least half-time as a student in an eligible
14 program of study offered by an approved public, private, or virtual institution, as defined
15 in section 173.1102;**

**16 (e) Has an adjusted gross income, as reported on the FAFSA, that does not exceed
17 eighty thousand dollars;**

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 (f) Is twenty-five years of age or older at the time of enrollment and has not been
19 enrolled in an educational program for the prior two academic years; and
- 20 (g) Has not earned a bachelor's degree, or higher degree;
- 21 (2) "Eligible program of study", a program of instruction:
- 22 (a) Resulting in the award of a certificate, undergraduate degree, or other industry-
23 recognized credential; and
- 24 (b) That has been designated by the coordinating board as preparing students to
25 enter an area of occupational shortage as determined by the board;
- 26 (3) "FAFSA", the Free Application for Federal Student Aid as maintained by the
27 United States Department of Education.
- 28 3. Standards of eligibility for renewed assistance shall be the same as for an initial
29 award of financial assistance; except that, for renewal, an applicant shall demonstrate a
30 grade-point average of two and five-tenths on a four-point scale, or the equivalent on
31 another scale.
- 32 4. Eligibility for a grant expires upon the earliest of:
- 33 (1) Receipt of the grant for four semesters or the equivalent;
- 34 (2) Receipt of a bachelor's degree; or
- 35 (3) Reaching two hundred percent of the time typically required to complete the
36 program of study.
- 37 5. The coordinating board shall initially designate eligible programs of study by
38 January 1, 2020. The coordinating board shall annually review the list of eligible
39 programs of study and make changes to the program list as it determines appropriate.
- 40 6. The coordinating board shall be the administrative agency for the
41 implementation of the program established by this section. The coordinating board shall
42 promulgate reasonable rules and regulations for the exercise of its functions and the
43 effectuation of the purposes of this section. It shall prescribe the form and the time and
44 method of filing applications and supervise the processing thereof. The coordinating board
45 shall determine the criteria for eligibility of applicants and shall evaluate each applicant's
46 eligibility. It shall select qualified recipients to receive grants, make such awards of
47 financial assistance to qualified recipients, and determine the manner and method of
48 payment to the recipients.
- 49 7. The coordinating board shall determine eligibility for renewed assistance on the
50 basis of annual applications. As a condition to consideration for initial or renewed
51 assistance, the coordinating board may require the applicant, the applicant's spouse, and
52 the applicant's parents to execute forms of consent authorizing the director of revenue to
53 compare financial information submitted by the applicant with the Missouri individual

54 income tax returns of the applicant, the applicant's spouse, and the applicant's parents for
55 the taxable year immediately preceding the year for which application is made, and to
56 report any discrepancies to the coordinating board.

57 8. Grants shall be awarded in an amount equal to the actual tuition and general
58 fees charged of an eligible student, after all federal nonloan aid, state student aid, and any
59 other governmental student financial aid are applied. If a grant amount is reduced to zero
60 due to the receipt of other aid, the eligible student shall receive an award of up to five
61 hundred dollars or the remaining cost of attendance as calculated by the institution after
62 all nonloan student aid has been applied, whichever is less, per academic term.

63 9. If appropriated funds are insufficient to fund the program as described, students
64 with the earliest FAFSA date shall be given priority until all funds are expended.

65 10. A recipient of financial assistance may transfer from one approved public,
66 private, or virtual institution to another without losing eligibility for assistance under this
67 section, but the coordinating board shall make any necessary adjustments in the amount
68 of the award. If a recipient of financial assistance at any time is entitled to a refund of any
69 tuition or fees under the rules and regulations of the institution in which he or she is
70 enrolled, the institution shall pay the portion of the refund that may be attributed to the
71 grant to the coordinating board. The coordinating board shall use these refunds to make
72 additional awards under the provisions of this section.

73 11. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Fast-Track Workforce
74 Incentive Grant Fund". The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance
75 with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund
76 shall be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, moneys in the fund shall be used solely
77 by the coordinating board for the purposes of this section.

78 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys
79 remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the
80 general revenue fund.

81 (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other
82 funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited
83 to the fund.

84 12. The coordinating board shall have the authority to promulgate rules to
85 implement the provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is
86 defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall
87 become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter
88 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and
89 if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review,

90 to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held
91 unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted
92 after August 28, 2019, shall be invalid and void.

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