SE COND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 2068

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4453H.03C

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DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

T o repeal sections 166.400, 166.410, 166.415, 166.420, 166.425, 166.435, 166.440, and 166.456, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof thirteen new sections relating to educational savings programs.

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

Section A. Sections 166.400, 166.410, 166.415, 166.420, 166.425, 166.435, 166.440,

- 2 and 166.456, RSMo, are repealed and thirteen new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known
- 3 as sections 135.730, 135.732, 135.734, 135.736, 135.738, 166.400, 166.410, 166.415, 166.420,
- 4 166.425, 166.435, 166.440, and 166.456, to read as follows:

135.730. 1. Sections 135.730 to 135.738 establish the "Show Me A Brighter Future Scholarship Program".

- 2. For purposes of sections 135.730 to 135.738, the following terms shall mean:
- (1) "Eligible student", a student who:
- (a) Is a member of a household whose total annual income in the year prior to such student receiving a scholarship under this program does not exceed an amount equal to two times the income standard used to qualify for free and reduced price lunches. Once a student receives a scholarship under this program, the student shall remain eligible regardless of household income until the student graduates high school or reaches twenty-one years of age, whichever occurs first; and
- (b) Attended a public school for the preceding academic school year or is starting school in this state for the first time;
 - (c) Received a scholarship grant from the program in the preceding semester;
- 14 (d) Is starting school in this state for the first time and is a sibling of a student 15 already enrolled in the program; or

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.

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16 (e) Is an active duty military dependent who relocates to Missouri and is enrolling 17 in a school in the state for the first time;

- (2) "Parent", a parent, guardian, custodian, or other person with authority to act on behalf of the eligible student;
 - (3) "Program", the show me a brighter future scholarship program;
- (4) "Qualifying school", any private school in the state, or any public school not within an eligible student's district of residence, that provides education to elementary or secondary students and has notified the state treasurer of its intention to participate in the program and comply with the program's requirements. A private school shall qualify as a qualifying school and be eligible to receive tuition payments under this section only if it satisfies the following conditions:
 - (a) Is accredited by an accrediting body approved by the state treasurer;
- (b) Annually administers either the state achievement tests or nationally norm-referenced tests that measure learning gains in math and English language arts and provide for value-added assessment to all participating students in grades that require testing under the statewide assessment system set forth in section 160.518;
- 32 (c) Complies with all health and safety laws or codes that apply to nonpublic 33 schools;
 - (d) Holds a valid occupancy permit if required by its municipality;
- 35 (e) Complies with the employee criminal history background check and the family 36 care safety registry check under section 168.133; and
 - (f) Requires at least eighty percent of teachers employed by the school to hold a bachelor's degree or a state teaching certification;
 - (5) "Scholarship fund", the show me a brighter future scholarship fund created in section 135.736 and administered by the state treasurer;
 - (6) "Scholarship grant", a contribution to a qualified tuition savings account established under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, or a contribution to a similar account approved by the state treasurer, to cover all or part of tuition, including special education services;
- 45 (7) "Special education eligible student", any student who has an Individualized 46 Education Program (IEP) created by a public school at the time of application to the 47 program.
- 135.732. 1. For all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2021, any taxpayer who makes a qualifying contribution to the scholarship fund shall be allowed a credit against the tax otherwise due under chapter 143, excluding withholding tax imposed by sections 143.191 to 143.265, and chapter 153, in an amount equal to one hundred percent

of the amount the taxpayer contributed during the tax year for which the credit is claimed.
No taxpayer shall claim a credit under sections 135.730 to 135.738 for any contribution made by the taxpayer or an agent of the taxpayer on behalf of the taxpayer's dependent

8 or, in the case of a business taxpayer, on behalf of the business's agent's dependent.

- 2. The amount of the tax credit claimed by an individual taxpayer or a married couple filing jointly shall not exceed fifty percent of the taxpayer's state tax liability for the tax year for which the credit is claimed.
- 3. The amount of the tax credit claimed by a corporate taxpayer shall not exceed fifty percent of the corporate taxpayer's state tax liability for the tax year for which the credit is claimed.
- 4. The department shall create a receipt to be issued to a taxpayer to indicate the value of a contribution received.
- 5. The state treasurer shall certify the tax credit amount to the taxpayer. An individual or corporate taxpayer, or a married couple filing jointly, may carry the credit forward to any of such taxpayer's three subsequent tax years. All tax credits authorized under the program shall not be transferred, sold, or assigned, and are not refundable.
- 6. The cumulative amount of tax credits that may be allocated to all taxpayers contributing to the scholarship fund in the first year of the program shall not exceed twenty-five million dollars. If the amount of tax credits claimed in the first tax year exceeds ninety percent of the tax credits available, the amount of tax credits available shall increase by ten percent in subsequent years, except that the total amount of tax credits available in a year shall not exceed fifty million dollars. The state treasurer shall establish a procedure by which the cumulative amount of tax credits shall be allocated to taxpayers on a first-come, first-served basis.
- 7. A taxpayer who makes a contribution to the scholarship fund shall not designate the student who will receive a scholarship grant.
- 135.734. 1. The state treasurer shall adopt rules and procedures necessary to implement the provisions of sections 135.730 to 135.738, including rules setting forth:
- 3 (1) The procedure for awarding scholarship grants in the following order of 4 preference:
 - (a) Eligible students who received a scholarship grant in the previous year;
 - (b) The siblings of eligible students who will receive a scholarship grant;
- (c) Eligible students who qualify for free lunch under the free or reduced price lunch program who attend any school that has been performing in the bottom five percent of schools as determined by the state's every student succeeds act plan, required by Section 1111 of the Every Student Succeeds Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 6311, as amended;

11 (d) Eligible students who qualify for reduced price lunch under the free or reduced 12 price lunch program who attend any school that has been performing in the bottom five 13 percent of schools as determined by the state's every student succeeds act plan, required 14 by Section 1111 of the Every Student Succeeds Act, 20 U.S.C. Section 6311, as amended;

- (e) Eligible students who qualify for free lunch under the free or reduced price lunch program and who reside in an unaccredited school district;
- (f) Eligible students who qualify for reduced price lunch under the free or reduced price lunch program and reside in an unaccredited school district;
- (g) Eligible students who qualify for free lunch under the free or reduced price lunch program and reside in a provisionally accredited district;
- (h) Eligible students who qualify for reduced price lunch under the free or reduced price lunch program and reside in a provisionally accredited district; and
- (i) Students who are active duty military dependents who have relocated to Missouri and are enrolling in a school in the state for the first time;
 - (2) Reporting requirements;
 - (3) Responsibilities of a parent of an eligible student; and
 - (4) Responsibilities of an eligible student's school district of residence.
- 2. The state treasurer shall provide to the parent of each eligible student an explanation of a qualifying private school's special education program, in a form prescribed by the state treasurer, which shall include the methods of instruction that will be used by the school to provide special education and related services to the eligible student and the qualifications of the teachers and other persons who will be providing special education and related services to the eligible child.
- 3. A scholarship grant awarded to an eligible student shall not exceed an amount equal to the state adequacy target, as defined in section 163.011, or the actual tuition at a qualifying school, whichever is less.
- 4. A scholarship grant awarded to a student who qualifies for free or reduced price lunch, or a limited English proficiency student, shall not exceed an amount equal to the state adequacy target, as defined in section 163.011, multiplied by one and twenty-five-hundredths, or the actual tuition at a qualifying school, whichever is less.
- 5. A scholarship grant awarded to a special education eligible student shall not exceed an amount equal to the state adequacy target, as defined in section 163.011, multiplied by one and seventy-five-hundredths or the actual tuition at a qualifying school, whichever is less.
- 6. Scholarship grants shall only be used for payment of tuition at a qualifying school, including special education services.

7. The state treasurer shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, or national origin in making scholarship grants, and shall not make multiyear scholarship grants.

- 8. The state treasurer may bar a parent from future participation in the program if the state treasurer establishes that the parent has intentionally or negligently spent scholarship grant funds for a purpose other than that allowed by law or rule.
- 9. The state treasurer shall publish a report on its website on the state of the program six years after it goes into effect. The report shall include, but is not limited to:
 - (1) Information regarding the finances of the program;
 - (2) Educational outcomes of eligible students; and
- (3) Results of the annual parental satisfaction surveys, as set forth in subsection 10 of this section.
- 10. The state treasurer shall provide a standardized format for qualifying schools to provide the results from an annual parental satisfaction survey, including information about the number of years that the parent's child has participated in the scholarship program. The annual satisfaction survey shall ask parents of scholarship students to express:
- (a) Their satisfaction with their child's academic achievement, including academic achievement at the school their child attends through the scholarship program versus academic achievement at the school previously attended;
- (b) Their satisfaction with school safety at the school their child attends through the scholarship program versus safety at the school previously attended;
- (c) Whether their child would have been able to attend their school of choice without the scholarship; and
- (d) Their opinions on other topics, items, or issues that the state treasurer finds would elicit information about the effectiveness of the scholarship program.
- 135.736. 1. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Show Me a Brighter Future Scholarship Fund", which shall consist of moneys collected under sections 135.730 to 135.738. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve disbursements. Subject to appropriation, moneys in the fund shall be used solely by the state treasurer to make scholarship grants and to pay for personal service, equipment, and other expenses of the treasurer related to the administration of sections 135.730 to 135.738.
- 8 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys 9 remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the 10 general revenue fund.

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- 3. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.
 - of sections 135.738. 1. The state treasurer shall promulgate rules to implement the provisions of sections 135.730 to 135.738. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2020, shall be invalid and void.
- 2. The provisions of section 23.253 of the Missouri sunset act shall not apply to sections 135.730 to 135.738.
 - 166.400. Sections 166.400 to 166.455 shall be known and may be cited as the "Missouri Education [Savings] Program".
 - 166.410. [Definitions.] As used in sections 166.400 to 166.455, except where the context clearly requires another interpretation, the following terms mean:
- 3 (1) "Beneficiary", any individual designated by a participation agreement to benefit from 4 payments for qualified education expenses at an eligible educational institution;
 - (2) "Benefits", the payment of qualified education expenses on behalf of a beneficiary from a savings account during the beneficiary's attendance at an eligible educational institution;
- 7 (3) "Board", the Missouri education [savings] program board established in section 8 166.415;
- 9 (4) "Eligible educational institution", an institution [of postsecondary education] as 10 defined in Section [529(e)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code, and institutions of elementary and 11 secondary education as provided in Sections 529(c)(7) and 529(e)(3)] 529 of the Internal 12 Revenue Code, as amended;
 - (5) "Financial institution", a bank, insurance company or registered investment company;
 - (6) "Internal Revenue Code", the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;
- 15 (7) "Missouri education [savings] program" or "[savings] program", the program created pursuant to sections 166.400 to 166.455;
- 17 (8) "Participant", a person who has entered into a participation agreement pursuant to 18 sections 166.400 to 166.455 for the advance payment of qualified education expenses on behalf 19 of a beneficiary;

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20 (9) "Participation agreement", an agreement between a participant and the board pursuant 21 to and conforming with the requirements of sections 166.400 to 166.455; and

(10) "Qualified higher education expenses" or "qualified education expenses", the qualified costs of tuition and fees and other expenses for attendance at an eligible educational institution, as defined in Section [529(e)(3)] 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

166.415. 1. There is hereby created the "Missouri Education [Savings] Program". The program shall be administered by the Missouri education [savings] program board which shall consist of the Missouri state treasurer who shall serve as chairman, the commissioner of the department of higher education and workforce development, the commissioner of education, the commissioner of the office of administration, the director of the department of economic development, two persons having demonstrable experience and knowledge in the areas of finance or the investment and management of public funds, one of whom is selected by the president pro tem of the senate and one of whom is selected by the speaker of the house of 9 representatives, and one person having demonstrable experience and knowledge in the area of 10 banking or deposit rate determination and placement of depository certificates of deposit or other 11 deposit investments. Such member shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and 12 consent of the senate. The three appointed members shall be appointed to serve for terms of four 13 years from the date of appointment, or until their successors shall have been appointed and shall 14 have qualified. The members of the board shall be subject to the conflict of interest provisions 15 of section 105.452. Any member who violates the conflict of interest provisions shall be 16 removed from the board. In order to establish and administer the [savings] program, the board, 17 in addition to its other powers and authority, shall have the power and authority to:

- (1) Develop and implement the Missouri education [savings] program and, notwithstanding any provision of sections 166.400 to 166.455 to the contrary, the [savings] programs and services consistent with the purposes and objectives of sections 166.400 to 166.455;
- (2) Promulgate reasonable rules and regulations and establish policies and procedures to implement sections 166.400 to 166.455, to permit the [savings] program to qualify as a "qualified state tuition program" pursuant to Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code and to ensure the [savings] program's compliance with all applicable laws;
- (3) Develop and implement educational programs and related informational materials for participants, either directly or through a contractual arrangement with a financial institution for investment services, and their families, including special programs and materials to inform families with young children regarding methods for financing education and training;

30 (4) Enter into agreements with any financial institution, the state or any federal or other 31 agency or entity as required for the operation of the [savings] program pursuant to sections 32 166.400 to 166.455:

- (5) Enter into participation agreements with participants;
- (6) Accept any grants, gifts, legislative appropriations, and other moneys from the state, any unit of federal, state, or local government or any other person, firm, partnership, or corporation for deposit to the account of the [savings] program;
 - (7) Invest the funds received from participants in appropriate investment instruments to achieve long-term total return through a combination of capital appreciation and current income;
- (8) Make appropriate payments and distributions on behalf of beneficiaries pursuant to participation agreements;
- (9) Make refunds to participants upon the termination of participation agreements pursuant to the provisions, limitations, and restrictions set forth in sections 166.400 to 166.455 and the rules adopted by the board;
- (10) Make provision for the payment of costs of administration and operation of the [savings] program;
- (11) Effectuate and carry out all the powers granted by sections 166.400 to 166.455, and have all other powers necessary to carry out and effectuate the purposes, objectives and provisions of sections 166.400 to 166.455 pertaining to the [savings] program; and
- (12) Procure insurance, guarantees or other protections against any loss in connection with the assets or activities of the [savings] program.
- 2. Any member of the board may designate a proxy for that member who will enjoy the full voting privileges of that member for the one meeting so specified by that member. No more than three proxies shall be considered members of the board for the purpose of establishing a quorum.
- 3. Four members of the board shall constitute a quorum. No vacancy in the membership of the board shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the rights and perform all the duties of the board. No action shall be taken by the board except upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present.
- 4. The board shall meet within the state of Missouri at the time set at a previously scheduled meeting or by the request of any four members of the board. Notice of the meeting shall be delivered to all other trustees in person or by depositing notice in a United States post office in a properly stamped and addressed envelope not less than six days prior to the date fixed for the meeting. The board may meet at any time by unanimous mutual consent. There shall be at least one meeting in each quarter.

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5. The funds shall be invested only in those investments which a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with these matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims, as provided in section 105.688. For new contracts entered into after August 28, 2012, board members shall study investment plans of other states and contract with or negotiate to provide benefit options the same as or similar to other states' qualified plans for the purpose of offering additional options for members of the plan. The board may delegate to duly appointed investment counselors authority to act in place of the board in the investment and reinvestment of all or part of the moneys and may also delegate to such counselors the authority to act in place of the board in the holding, purchasing, selling, assigning, transferring or disposing of any or all of the securities and investments in which such moneys shall have been invested, as well as the proceeds of such investments and such moneys. Such investment counselors shall be registered as investment advisors with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. In exercising or delegating its investment powers and authority, members of the board shall exercise ordinary business care and prudence under the facts and circumstances prevailing at the time of the action or decision. No member of the board shall be liable for any action taken or omitted with respect to the exercise of, or delegation of, these powers and authority if such member shall have discharged the duties of his or her position in good faith and with that degree of diligence, care and skill which a prudent person acting in a like capacity and familiar with these matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a like character and with like aims.

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- 6. No investment transaction authorized by the board shall be handled by any company or firm in which a member of the board has a substantial interest, nor shall any member of the board profit directly or indirectly from any such investment.
- 7. No trustee or employee of the [savings] program shall receive any gain or profit from any funds or transaction of the [savings] program. Any trustee, employee or agent of the [savings] program accepting any gratuity or compensation for the purpose of influencing such trustee's, employee's or agent's action with respect to the investment or management of the funds of the [savings] program shall thereby forfeit the office and in addition thereto be subject to the penalties prescribed for bribery.
- 166.420. 1. The board may enter into [savings] program participation agreements with participants on behalf of beneficiaries pursuant to the provisions of sections 166.400 to 166.455, including the following terms and conditions:
- 4 (1) A participation agreement shall stipulate the terms and conditions of the [savings] 5 program in which the participant makes contributions;
 - (2) A participation agreement shall specify the method for calculating the return on the contribution made by the participant;

8 (3) The execution of a participation agreement by the board shall not guarantee that the 9 beneficiary named in any participation agreement will be admitted to an eligible educational institution, be allowed to continue to attend an eligible educational institution after having been admitted or will graduate from an eligible educational institution;

- (4) A participation agreement shall clearly and prominently disclose to participants the risk associated with depositing moneys with the board;
- (5) Participation agreements shall be organized and presented in a way and with language that is easily understandable by the general public; and
- (6) A participation agreement shall clearly and prominently disclose to participants the existence of any load charge or similar charge assessed against the accounts of the participants for administration or services.
- 2. The board shall establish the maximum amount which may be contributed annually [by a participant] with respect to a beneficiary.
- 3. The board shall establish a total contribution limit for savings accounts established under the [savings] program with respect to a beneficiary to permit the [savings] program to qualify as a "qualified state tuition program" pursuant to Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. No contribution may be made to a savings account for a beneficiary if it would cause the balance of all savings accounts of the beneficiary to exceed the total contribution limit established by the board. The board may establish other requirements that it deems appropriate to provide adequate safeguards to prevent contributions on behalf of a beneficiary from exceeding what is necessary to provide for the qualified education expenses of the beneficiary.
- 4. The board shall establish the minimum length of time that contributions and earnings must be held by the [savings] program to qualify pursuant to section 166.435. Any contributions or earnings that are withdrawn or distributed from a savings account prior to the expiration of the minimum length of time, as established by the board, shall be subject to a penalty pursuant to section 166.430.
- 166.425. All money paid by a participant in connection with participation agreements shall be deposited as received and shall be promptly invested by the board. Contributions and earnings thereon accumulated on behalf of participants in the [savings] program may be used, as provided in the participation agreement, for qualified education expenses. Such contributions and earnings shall not be considered income for purposes of determining a participant's eligibility for financial assistance under any state student aid program.
- 166.435. 1. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the assets of the [savings] program held by the board, the assets of any deposit program authorized in section 166.500, and the assets of any qualified tuition [savings] program established pursuant to Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code and any income therefrom shall be exempt from all taxation by the state or any

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of its political subdivisions. Income earned or received from the [savings] program, deposit, or other qualified tuition [savings] programs established under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, or refunds of qualified education expenses received by a beneficiary from an eligible 8 educational institution in connection with withdrawal from enrollment at such institution which are contributed within sixty days of withdrawal to a qualified tuition [savings] program of which 10 such individual is a beneficiary shall not be subject to state income tax imposed pursuant to 11 chapter 143 and shall be eligible for any benefits provided in accordance with Section 529 of the 12 Internal Revenue Code. The exemption from taxation pursuant to this section shall apply only 13 to assets and income maintained, accrued, or expended pursuant to the requirements of the 14 [savings] program established pursuant to sections 166.400 to 166.455, the deposit program 15 established pursuant to sections 166.500 to 166.529, and other qualified tuition [savings] programs established under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, and no exemption shall 16 17 apply to assets and income expended for any other purposes. Annual contributions made to the 18 [savings] program held by the board, the deposit program, and any qualified tuition [savings] 19 program established under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code up to and including eight 20 thousand dollars per [participating] taxpayer, and up to sixteen thousand dollars for married 21 individuals filing a joint tax return, shall be subtracted in determining Missouri adjusted gross 22 income pursuant to section 143.121. 23

- 2. If any deductible contributions to or earnings from any such program referred to in this section are distributed and not used to pay qualified education expenses, not transferred as allowed by 26 U.S.C. Section 529(c)(3)(C)(i), as amended, and any Internal Revenue Service regulations or guidance issued in relation thereto, or are not held for the minimum length of time established by the appropriate Missouri board, then the amount so distributed shall be included in the Missouri adjusted gross income of the participant, or, if the participant is not living, the beneficiary.
- 3. The provisions of this section shall apply to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2008, and the provisions of this section with regard to sections 166.500 to 166.529 shall apply to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2004.

166.440. The assets of the [savings] program shall at all times be preserved, invested and expended only for the purposes set forth in this section and in accordance with the participation agreements, and no property rights therein shall exist in favor of the state.

166.456. All personally identifiable information concerning participants and beneficiaries of accounts established within the Missouri education [savings] program pursuant to sections 166.400 to 166.456 shall be confidential, and any disclosure of such information shall be restricted to purposes directly connected with the administration of the program.