

HB 2174 -- WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Pollitt (52)

This bill provides a definition for a "school innovation team" and for a "school innovation waiver" and allows school innovation teams to submit a plan to the State Board of Education (SBE) for a state innovation waiver for a variety of purposes as outlined in the bill.

Plans submitted to the SBE must include the provision of law for which the waiver is being requested, as well as demonstrate the necessity of the waiver, provide measurable performance targets and goals, and demonstrate support for the plan, along with additional requirement as provided in the bill.

The bill provides the SBE specific criteria for the evaluation of submitted plans and permits the SBE to make modifications to the plan with the cooperation of the school innovation team.

School innovation waivers are only effective for three years beginning the school year following the approval and may be renewed. Only one waiver may be in effect per school at a time, and specific restrictions to statutory requirements relating to school start date, teacher certification, teacher tenure, or any requirement imposed by federal law, are applicable (Section 161.214, RSMo).

The bill increases the state school funding for attendance of a student enrolled in a virtual class from 94% to 95% (Section 162.1250).

The bill expands the definition of average daily attendance to include pupils that are between the age of three to five and meet the criteria set forth in the bill (Section 163.018).

Currently, Individual Career and Academic Plans (ICAP) are optional. This bill requires students to develop an ICAP which must be reviewed once per semester, by school personnel and the student's parent or guardian. The ICAP must now include a declaration of a student's postsecondary plan (Section 167.903).

This bill requires students in public and private schools to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) before being eligible for a certificate of graduation. Exemptions to this requirement include enlistment in the Armed Forces, or parental consent (Section 167.907).

The bill requires the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD) to establish a procedure for high school students enrolled in career and technical education programs to complete an application for aid through the Employment and Training Administration of the United States Department of Labor under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

The bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to ensure that by the 2020-21 school year 50% of DESE area career centers have the means and capability to allow students to complete the application for aid. The percentage increases to 70% for the 21-22 school year, 90% for the 2022-23 school year, and by the 2023-24 and thereafter DESE will ensure that 100% of the area career centers will have the means and capability to allow students to complete the application (Section 167.908).

Currently, a retired certificated or uncertified teacher receiving a retirement benefit to be employed full time for two years without losing their benefit. This bill would extend the time period to four years if the school district demonstrates a shortage.

The bill allows a retired teacher to be employed as a superintendent if they meet qualifications set forth in the bill.

The total number of retired members working for a school district shall not exceed, at any one time, the lesser of 10% of the total number of employees for that district or 10 employees.

This section has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2021 (Section 169.596).