

House _____ Amendment NO. _____

Offered By

1 AMEND House Bill No. 297, Page 1, Section A, Line 2, by inserting after said section and line the
2 following:

3
4 "173.831. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

5 (1) "Academic skill intake assessment", a criterion-referenced assessment of numeracy and
6 literacy skills with high reliability and validity as determined by third-party research;

7 (2) "Accredited", holding an active accreditation from one of the seven United States
8 regional accreditors including, but not limited to, the Middle States Commission on Higher
9 Education, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the Higher Learning
10 Commission, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, the Southern Association of
11 Colleges and Schools, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and the Accrediting
12 Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, as well as any successor entities or consolidations
13 of the above including, but not limited to, AdvancEd or Cogna;

14 (3) "Adult dropout recovery services", includes, but is not limited to, sourcing, recruitment,
15 and engagement of eligible students, learning plan development, active teaching, and proactive
16 coaching and mentoring, resulting in an accredited high school diploma;

17 (4) "Approved program provider", a public, not-for-profit, or other entity that meets the
18 requirements of subdivision (2) of subsection 3 of this section or any consortium of such entities;

19 (5) "Average cost per graduate", the amount of the total program funding reimbursed to a
20 provider divided by the total graduates for a cohort year;

21 (6) "Career pathways coursework", one or more courses that align with the skill needs of
22 industries in the economy of the state or region that help an individual enter or advance within a
23 specific occupation or occupational cluster;

24 (7) "Career placement services", services designed to assist students in obtaining
25 employment such as career interest self-assessments and job search skills such as resume
26 development and mock interviews;

27 (8) "Coaching", proactive communication between the approved program provider and the
28 student related to the student's pace and progress through the student's learning plan;

29 (9) "Department", the department of elementary and secondary education;

30 (10) "Employability skills certification", a certificate earned by demonstrating professional
31 nontechnical skills through assessment, portfolio, or observation;

32 (11) "Graduate", a student who has successfully completed all of the state and approved
33 program provider requirements in order to obtain a high school diploma;

34 (12) "Graduation rate", the total number of graduates for the fiscal year divided by all
35 students for the fiscal year for whom the approved program provider has received funding,
36 calculated one fiscal year in arrears;

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1 (13) "Graduation requirements", course and credit requirements for the approved program
2 provider's accredited high school diploma;

3 (14) "High school diploma", a diploma issued by an accredited institution;

4 (15) "Industry-recognized credential", an education-related credential or work-related
5 credential that verifies an individual's qualification or competence issued by a third party with the
6 relevant authority to issue such credentials;

7 (16) "Learning plan", a documented plan for courses or credits needed for each individual in
8 order to complete program and approved program provider graduation requirements;

9 (17) "Mentoring", a direct relationship between a coach and a student to facilitate the
10 completion of the student's learning plan designed to prepare the student to succeed in the program
11 and the student's future endeavors;

12 (18) "Milestones", objective measures of progress for which payment is made to an
13 approved program provider under this section such as earned units of high school credit, attainment
14 of an employability skills certificate, attainment of an industry-recognized credential, and attainment
15 of an accredited high school diploma;

16 (19) "Program", the workforce diploma program established in this section;

17 (20) "Request for qualifications", a request for interested potential program providers to
18 submit evidence that they meet the qualifications established in subsection 3 of this section;

19 (21) "Student", a participant in the program established in this section who is twenty-one
20 years of age or older, who is a resident of Missouri, and who has not yet earned a high school
21 diploma;

22 (22) "Transcript evaluation", a documented summary of credits earned in previous public or
23 private accredited high schools compared with the program and approved program provider
24 graduation requirements;

25 (23) "Unit of high school credit", credit awarded based on a student's demonstration that the
26 student has successfully met the content expectations for the credit area as defined by subject area
27 standards, expectations, or guidelines.

28 2. There is hereby established the "Workforce Diploma Program" within the department of
29 elementary and secondary education to assist students with obtaining a high school diploma and
30 developing employability and career technical skills. The program may be delivered in campus-
31 based, blended, or online modalities.

32 3. (1) Before August 16, 2022, and annually thereafter, the department shall issue a request
33 for qualifications for interested program providers to become approved program providers and
34 participate in the program.

35 (2) Each approved program provider shall meet all of the following qualifications:

36 (a) Be an accredited high school diploma-granting entity;

37 (b) Have a minimum of two years of experience providing adult dropout recovery services;

38 (c) Provide academic skill intake assessments and transcript evaluations to each student.

39 Such academic skill intake assessments may be administered in person or online;

40 (d) Develop a learning plan for each student that integrates graduation requirements and
41 career goals;

42 (e) Provide a course catalog that includes all courses necessary to meet graduation
43 requirements;

44 (f) Offer remediation opportunities in literacy and numeracy, as applicable;

45 (g) Offer employability skills certification, as applicable;

46 (h) Offer career pathways course work, as applicable;

47 (i) Offer preparation for industry-recognized credentials as applicable; and

48 (j) Offer career placement services, as applicable.

49 (3) Upon confirmation by the department that an interested program provider meets all of

1 the qualifications listed in subdivision (2) of this subsection, an interested program provider shall
2 become an approved program provider.

3 4. (1) The department shall announce the approved program providers before October
4 sixteenth annually, with authorization for the approved program providers to begin enrolling
5 students before November fifteenth annually.

6 (2) Approved program providers shall maintain approval without reapplying annually if the
7 approved program provider has not been removed from the approved program provider list under
8 this section.

9 5. All approved providers shall comply with requirements as provided by the department to
10 ensure:

11 (1) An accurate accounting of a student's accumulated credits toward a high school diploma;

12 (2) An accurate accounting of credits necessary to complete a high school diploma; and

13 (3) The provision of course work aligned to the academic performance standards of the
14 state.

15 6. (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the department shall pay
16 approved program providers for the following milestones provided by the approved program
17 provider:

18 (a) Two hundred fifty dollars for the completion of each half unit of high school credit;

19 (b) Two hundred fifty dollars for attaining an employability skills certification;

20 (c) Two hundred fifty dollars for attaining an industry-recognized credential requiring no
21 more than fifty hours of training;

22 (d) Five hundred dollars for attaining an industry-recognized credential requiring at least
23 fifty-one but no more than one hundred hours of training;

24 (e) Seven hundred fifty dollars for attaining an industry-recognized credential requiring
25 more than one hundred hours of training; and

26 (f) One thousand dollars for attaining an accredited high school diploma.

27 (2) No approved program provider shall receive funding for a student under this section if
28 the approved program provider receives federal or state funding or private tuition for that student.
29 No approved program provider shall charge student fees of any kind including, but not limited to,
30 textbook fees, tuition fees, lab fees, or participation fees unless the student chooses to obtain
31 additional education offered by the program provider that is not included in the state-funded
32 program.

33 (3) Payments made under this subsection shall be subject to an appropriation made to the
34 department for such purposes.

35 7. (1) Approved program providers shall submit monthly invoices to the department before
36 the eleventh calendar day of each month for milestones met in the previous calendar month.

37 (2) The department shall pay approved program providers in the order in which invoices are
38 submitted until all available funds are exhausted.

39 (3) The department shall provide a written update to approved program providers by the last
40 calendar day of each month. The update shall include the aggregate total dollars that have been paid
41 to approved program providers to date and the estimated number of enrollments still available for
42 the program year.

43 8. Before July sixteenth of each year, each provider shall report the following metrics to the
44 department:

45 (1) The total number of students who have been funded through the program;

46 (2) The total number of credits earned;

47 (3) The total number of employability skills certifications issued;

48 (4) The total number of industry-recognized credentials earned for each tier of funding; and

49 (5) The total number of graduates.

1 9. (1) Before September sixteenth of each year, an approved eligible program provider shall
2 conduct and submit to the department the aggregate results of a survey of individuals who graduated
3 from the program of the approved eligible program provider under this section. The survey shall be
4 conducted in the year after the year in which the individuals graduate and the next four consecutive
5 years.

6 (2) The survey shall include at least the following data collection elements for each year the
7 survey is conducted:

8 (a) The individual's employment status, including whether the individual is employed full-
9 time or part-time;

10 (b) The individual's hourly wages;

11 (c) The individual's access to employer-sponsored healthcare; and

12 (d) The individual's postsecondary enrollment status, including whether the individual has
13 completed a postsecondary certificate or degree program.

14 10. (1) Upon the end of the second fiscal year of the program, the department shall review
15 data from each approved program provider to ensure that each is achieving minimum program
16 performance standards including, but not limited to:

17 (a) A minimum of a fifty percent graduation rate;

18 (b) An average cost per graduate of seven thousand dollars or less.

19 (2) Any approved program provider that fails to meet the minimum program performance
20 standards described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be placed on probationary status for
21 the remainder of the fiscal year by the department.

22 (3) Any approved program provider that fails to meet the minimum program performance
23 standards described in subdivision (1) of this subsection for two consecutive years shall be removed
24 from the approved provider list by the department.

25 11. (1) No approved program provider shall discriminate against a student on the basis of
26 race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexuality, gender, or age.

27 (2) If an approved program provider determines that a student would be better served by
28 participating in a different program, the approved provider may refer the student to the state's adult
29 basic education services.

30 12. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Workforce Diploma Program
31 Fund", which shall consist of any grants, gifts, donations, bequests, or moneys appropriated under
32 this section. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170
33 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and,
34 upon appropriation, moneys in the fund shall be used solely as provided in this section.

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

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

39 13. The director of the department may promulgate all necessary rules and regulations for
40 the administration of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section
41 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it
42 complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section
43 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the
44 general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and
45 annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any
46 rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2021, shall be invalid and void."; and

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48 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references
49 accordingly.