

HCS SB 718 -- HIGHER EDUCATION

HISTORICAL BLACK COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY WEEK (Section 9.170, RSMo)

This bill designates the third week of September in every year as "Historically Black College and University Week" in Missouri.

FACULTY PRECEPTOR TAX CREDIT (Section 135.690)

Beginning January 1, 2023, this bill creates a tax credit for any community-based faculty preceptor, as defined in the bill, who serves as the community-based faculty preceptor for a medical student core preceptorship or a physician assistant student core preceptorship, as defined in the bill.

The amount of the tax credit will be worth \$1000 for each preceptorship, up to a maximum of \$3000 per tax year, if the preceptor completes up to three preceptorship rotations during the tax year and did not receive any direct compensation for the preceptorships. To receive the credit, a community-based faculty preceptor must claim the credit on the preceptor's return for the tax year in which the preceptorships are completed and submit supporting documentation as prescribed by the Division of Professional Registration within the Department of Commerce and Insurance (DCI) and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS).

This tax credit is nonrefundable and cannot be carried forward or carried back, transferred, assigned or sold. No more than 200 preceptorship tax credits will be authorized for any one calendar year and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, capped at a total amount of \$200,000 per year. Some discretion to use remaining funds in a particular fiscal year is provided.

Additionally, this bill creates a "Medical Preceptor Fund" which is funded from a license fee increase of \$7.00 per license for physicians and surgeons and from a license fee increase of \$3.00 per license for physician assistants. This will be a dedicated fund designed to fund additional tax credits that may exceed the established cap of \$200,000 per year.

The Department of Health and Senior Services will administer the tax credit program. Each taxpayer claiming a tax credit must file an application with DHSS verifying the number of hours of instruction and the amount of the tax credit claimed. The hours claimed on the application must be verified by the program director on the application. The certification by DHSS affirming the taxpayer's eligibility for the tax credit provided to the taxpayer must be filed with the taxpayer's income tax return.

The Departments of Commerce and Insurance and Health and Senior Services will jointly administer the tax credit and have rule making authority and each taxpayer claiming a tax credit must file an affidavit with his or her income tax return, affirming that he or she is eligible for the tax credit.

#### A+ PROGRAM DUAL CREDIT TUITION (Section 160.545)

This language will remove dual credit tuition reimbursement from the A+ Program.

#### WORKFORCE INNOVATION and OPPORTUNITY (Section 167.908)

The bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to ensure that by the 2022-23 school year 50% of DESE area career centers that deliver career and technical education programs have the means and capability to allow students to complete an application for aid through the Employment and Training Administration of the United States Department of Labor. The percentage increases to 70% for the 2023-24 school year, 90% for the 2024-25 school year, and by the 2025-26 school year 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.

#### COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES (Section 170.018)

This bill modifies the definition of "computer science course" by including any elementary, middle, or high school course that embeds computer science content within other subjects.

The bill requires, for all school years on or after July 1, 2023, at least one computer science course to be offered in public and charter high schools. Courses and instruction offered under this bill must meet certain standards established by the State Board of Education and DESE.

This bill requires school districts to submit to DESE certain information related to their computer science courses and demographic enrollment information for such courses. Such information shall be posted on DESE's website by September 30th of each school year.

On or before June 30th annually, DESE shall publish a list of computer science course codes and names with a course description and shall indicate which courses meet or exceed DESE's computer science performance standards.

A computer science supervisor shall be appointed by DESE to implement these provisions of the bill.

Beginning July 1, 2023, computer science courses successfully completed and counted toward state graduation requirements shall be equivalent to one science or practical arts credit for the purpose of satisfying admission requirements at any public institution of higher education in the state.

#### COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION TASK FORCE (Section 170.036)

The bill establishes the "Computer Science Education Task Force" comprised of 18 members, including but not limited to: two members of the House of Representatives, with one member to be appointed by the Speaker and one member to be appointed by the Minority Leader; two members of the Senate, with one member being appointed by the President Pro Tem and one appointed by the Minority Leader; and the Governor or his or her designee. The Task Force shall develop a strategic plan for expanding a statewide computer science education program, as described in the bill.

The Task Force shall hold its first meeting within three months of the effective date of the bill and shall present a summary of its activities and recommendations for legislation to the General Assembly before June 30, 2023. The Task Force shall dissolve on June 30, 2024.

#### COLLEGE ATHLETE NAME, IMAGE, LIKENESS RIGHTS (173.280)

This bill authorizes a postsecondary educational institution or any officer, director, or employee of such institution to identify or assist with opportunities for a student athlete to earn compensation from a third party for the use of the student's name, image, likeness rights, or athletic reputation, provided that the person does not serve as the student athlete's agent, receive compensation from the student athlete or a third party, attempt to influence an athlete's choice of professional representation, reduce the athlete's opportunities from competing third parties, or attend any meeting between the athlete or third party where the athlete's compensation is negotiated or completed.

The bill requires that the financial development program currently offered to athletes include information on financial aid, debt management, time management skills, academic resources, and a recommended budget based on cost of attendance.

#### WORKFORCE DIPLOMA PROGRAM (Section 173.831)

This bill establishes the "Workforce Diploma Program" within DESE

to assist students in obtaining a high school diploma and in developing employability and career and technical skills through campus-based, blended, or online modalities.

Before September 1, 2022, and annually each year after, DESE shall issue a request for qualifications for interested program providers to become approved providers to participate in the Program. Each approved program provider shall meet qualifications set forth in the bill, including having at least two years of experience in providing adult dropout recovery services.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall announce approved program providers prior to October 16th each year, and approved program providers shall begin enrolling students before November 15th each year. Approved program providers shall maintain approval without reapplying annually unless the provider has been removed pursuant to this bill.

All approved program providers shall comply with requirements set by DESE to ensure an accurate accounting of a student's accumulated credits, an accurate accounting of credits necessary to complete a high school diploma, and any coursework to be aligned with the academic performance standards of this state.

Subject to appropriations, DESE shall set and pay approved program providers for meeting certain milestones. However, no approved program provider shall receive funding for a student if such provider already receives federal or state funding or private tuition for such student. Additionally, no approved program provider shall charge student fees of any kind, including textbook fees, tuition fees, lab fees, or participation fees, unless the student chooses to obtain additional education offered by the provider that is not included in the Program.

In order to receive payments, approved program providers shall be required to submit monthly invoices to DESE before the 11th calendar day of each month for the milestones met by students in the previous month. Approved program providers shall be paid by DESE in the order in which invoices are submitted until all available funds are exhausted.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall also provide a written update to approved program providers by the last day of each month, which shall include the aggregate total dollars that have been paid to the providers, and the estimated number of enrollments still available for the program year.

Prior to July 16th of each year, each approved program provider shall report certain information set forth in the bill to DESE for

each individual participating student, on a student-by-student basis, including the total number of students who have been funded through the Program, the total number of credits earned, the total number of employability skills certifications issued, the total number of industry-recognized credentials earned, stackable credentials, and technical skill assessments, the total number of graduates, the average costs per graduate, and the graduation rate.

Additionally, prior to September 16th of each year, each approved program provider shall conduct and submit to DESE the aggregate results of a survey of each individual participating student, on a student-by-student basis, who graduated from the Program of the provider. This bill provides that the survey shall be conducted in the year after the student's graduation year and the following four consecutive years. The survey shall include certain data collection elements as provided in the bill, including employment status, wage, access to employer-sponsored health care, and postsecondary enrollment status.

Data from each approved program provider shall be reviewed by DESE at the end of the second fiscal year of the Program to ensure that each provider is achieving minimum program performance standards. Any provider failing to meet such standards shall be placed on probationary status for the remainder of the fiscal year. If a provider fails to meet the standards for two consecutive years, such provider shall be removed from the approved program provider list.

Additionally, this bill provides that no approved program provider shall discriminate against a student on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexuality, gender, or age.

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

Further, the bill creates the "Workforce Diploma Program Fund" in the State Treasury. The Fund shall consist of grants, gifts, donations, bequests, and moneys appropriated for purposes of the Program.

Finally, the Program shall sunset on August 28, 2028.

SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE (Section 173.1200)

This bill requires public institutions of higher education that issue pupil identification cards to have printed on the card the

three-digit dialing code that directs calls and routes text messages to the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, 988.

#### ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATION SCORES (Section 173.1352)

This bill requires public institutions of higher learning to adopt and implement policies, as outlined in the bill, that will give undergraduate course credit to entering freshman students for each advanced placement (AP) examination for which the student achieves a score of three or higher.

#### DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES (Sections 173.2500 & 173.2505)

This bill creates provisions regarding dual enrollment courses.

A dual enrollment course is a postsecondary course of instruction delivered by an approved higher education institution in which a secondary school student is concurrently enrolled in a Missouri high school and an approved higher education institution.

The bill renames the "Dual Credit Scholarship Act" as the "Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment Scholarship Act". In order to receive a dual enrollment scholarship, a student must meet current law requirements and be enrolled in a dual enrollment course offered by an approved higher education institution. Currently, a dual credit scholarship shall reimburse each eligible student for up to 50% of the tuition and cost paid by the student to enroll in a dual credit course. Current law also limits the amount of the scholarship per student to \$500 annually for all dual credit courses taken by such student.

This bill provides that each eligible student shall be offered a dual credit or dual enrollment scholarship equal to the tuition and fees paid by the student to enroll in the dual credit or dual enrollment course. The bill also repeals the \$500 limitation.

Finally, the bill renames the "Dual Credit Scholarship Fund" as the "Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment Scholarship Fund".

#### EDUCATION SAVINGS BANKRUPTCY EXEMPTION (Section 513.430)

This bill provides bankruptcy protection for the Missouri Education Savings Program and the Missouri Higher Education Deposit Program also known commonly as 529 Education Savings Accounts.

The bill limits the protection to proceedings filed or on appeal on or after January 1, 2022 and only for designated beneficiaries that are lineal descendants of the account owner. Contributions within a one year period before a judgment will not qualify for the

exemption.