

House _____ Amendment NO. _____

Offered By

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for Senate Substitute No. 2 for Senate Committee Substitute
2 for Senate Bill Nos. 4, 42 & 89, Page 25, Section 170.370, Line 50, by inserting after all of the said
3 section and line the following:
4

5 "173.232. 1. There is hereby established the "~~[Urban Flight and Rural Needs]~~ Teacher
6 Recruitment and Retention State Scholarship Program", which shall be administered by the
7 department of elementary and secondary education. The program shall, upon appropriation, provide
8 scholarships, subject to the eligibility criteria enumerated in this section, for eligible students who
9 enter a teacher education program and make a commitment to teach as a condition of receiving such
10 scholarship.

11 2. Subject to appropriation, each year the department of elementary and secondary
12 education shall make available to eligible students ~~[up to one hundred four year urban flight and~~
13 ~~rural needs]~~ scholarships for up to two years in an amount that encompasses one hundred percent of
14 the total cost of eligible students' tuition and fees at a four-year college or university located in
15 Missouri. Such amount shall be paid by funds appropriated to the department. The maximum
16 number of scholarships made available under this section shall be as follows:

17 (1) For academic years ending before July 1, 2024, one hundred;

18 (2) For the 2024-25 academic year, two hundred;

19 (3) For the 2025-26 academic year, two hundred twenty;

20 (4) For the 2026-27 academic year, two hundred forty;

21 (5) For the 2027-28 academic year, two hundred sixty;

22 (6) For the 2028-29 academic year, two hundred eighty; and

23 (7) For the 2029-30 academic year and all subsequent academic years, three hundred.

24 3. As used in this section, the ~~[term]~~ following terms mean:

25 (1) "Eligible student" [shall mean], an individual who:

26 ~~[(1)]~~ (a) Is a United States citizen and a Missouri resident who attended a Missouri high
27 school;

28 ~~[(2)]~~ (b) Enters and makes a commitment to pursue a teacher education program approved
29 by the department of elementary and secondary education and offered by a four-year college or
30 university located in Missouri;

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1 ~~[(3)]~~ (c) Signs an agreement with the department of elementary and secondary education in
 2 which the recipient agrees to teach in a Missouri public school~~], the population of which includes a~~
 3 ~~higher than average "at-risk student population", as such term shall be defined by the department of~~
 4 ~~elementary and secondary education,]~~ that is a hard-to-staff school or to teach at least one hard-to-
 5 staff subject area in a Missouri public school that offers classes in hard-to-staff subject areas, or
 6 both, for two years for every one year the recipient received the [urban flight and rural needs]
 7 scholarship;

8 ~~[(4) Has graduated from high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least two~~
 9 ~~and one-half on a four-point scale or equivalent;~~

10 ~~(5)]~~ (d) Maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least two and one-half on a four-
 11 point scale or equivalent; and

12 (e) For scholarships awarded for any academic year beginning after June 30, 2024, has
 13 made a good faith effort to first secure all available federal sources of grant funding that could be
 14 applied to the total cost of such student's eligible tuition and fees as described in subsection 2 of this
 15 section;

16 (2) "Hard-to-staff schools", attendance centers where the percentage of certificated positions
 17 in the attendance center that were left vacant or were filled with a teacher not fully qualified in the
 18 prior academic year exceeds five percent as reported to the department of elementary and secondary
 19 education;

20 (3) "Hard-to-staff subject areas", content areas for which positions were left vacant or were
 21 filled with a teacher not fully qualified in the prior academic year as reported to the department of
 22 elementary and secondary education. Such content areas shall be construed to include certificated
 23 teaching positions for students who are blind or visually impaired and students who are deaf or
 24 hearing impaired.

25 4. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of scholarships or revenues available, the
 26 department of elementary and secondary education may consider the financial needs of the
 27 applicant.

28 5. The scholarships provided in this section shall be available to ~~[otherwise]~~ eligible
 29 students who ~~[either]~~ meet at least one of the following:

30 (1) ~~[Are currently enrolled in a community college and make a commitment to pursue a~~
 31 ~~teacher education program approved by the department of elementary and secondary education and~~
 32 ~~offered by a four-year college or university located in Missouri; or]~~ Have successfully completed
 33 two years at a community college with a minimum of forty-eight credit hours and a grade point
 34 average of at least two and one-half on a four-point scale or the equivalent;

35 (2) Have been awarded an associate degree or the equivalent; or

36 (3) Have completed their baccalaureate degree [and agree to enter a teacher education
 37 program and make a commitment to pursue a teacher education program approved by the
 38 department of elementary and secondary education and offered by a four-year college or university
 39 located in Missouri].

1 6. (1) Every eligible student receiving scholarships under this section shall teach in an
 2 elementary or secondary public school in Missouri as provided in paragraph (c) of subdivision [(3)]
 3 (1) of subsection 3 of this section. The student shall teach for a period of two years for every one
 4 year ~~[he or she]~~ such student received ~~[an urban flight and rural needs]~~ a scholarship under this
 5 section; otherwise, the scholarship shall be treated as a loan to the eligible student~~[, and interest at~~
 6 ~~the rate of nine and one-half percent per year]~~. Interest shall be charged on the unpaid balance of
 7 the amount received from the date the eligible student ceases to teach until the amount received is
 8 paid back to the state. The interest rate shall be adjusted annually and shall be equal to one
 9 percentage point over the prevailing United States prime rate in effect on January first of such year.

10 (2) In order to provide for the servicing of such loans, the department of elementary and
 11 secondary education may sell such loans to the higher education loan authority of the state of
 12 Missouri created pursuant to sections 173.350 to 173.445. For each year the student teaches, up to
 13 eight years, one-eighth of the amount received pursuant to this section shall be applied against the
 14 total amount received and shall not be subject to the repayment requirement of this section; provided
 15 that twenty-five percent of such amount, not subject to repayment, shall be repaid by the local
 16 school district to the department.

17 (3) The department of elementary and secondary education shall have the power to and shall
 18 defer interest and principal payments under certain circumstances, which shall include, but need not
 19 be limited to, the enrollment in a graduate program or service in any branch of the Armed Forces of
 20 the United States.

21 7. There is hereby established in the state treasury a fund to be known as the "~~[Urban Flight~~
 22 ~~and Rural Needs]~~ Teacher Recruitment and Retention State Scholarship Program Fund", which shall
 23 consist of all moneys that may be appropriated to it by the general assembly, and in addition may
 24 include any gifts, contributions, grants, or bequests received from federal, state, private, or other
 25 sources. The fund shall be administered by the department of elementary and secondary education.
 26 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, moneys in the fund shall not be
 27 transferred to the credit of the general revenue fund at the end of the biennium. Interest and moneys
 28 earned on the fund shall be credited to the fund. Moneys in the fund shall be used solely for the
 29 purpose of awarding scholarships under the provisions of this section.

30 8. An individual who has qualified as an eligible student under this section shall continue to
 31 qualify as an eligible student for purposes of paragraph (c) of subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this
 32 section as long as such individual remains employed by the school district in which such individual
 33 agrees to teach regardless of whether such individual's employing school no longer qualifies as a
 34 hard-to-staff school, such class taught by such individual no longer qualifies as a hard-to-staff
 35 subject area, or such individual's position within the school district changes."; and

36
 37 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references
 38 accordingly.