

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1220

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SHIELDS.

2563H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to a higher education basic needs coordinator pilot program.

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

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 173.059, to read as follows:

173.059. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

- (1) "Basic needs coordinator", an individual who is employed by a participating institution for the purpose of helping students enrolled at the institution apply for and receive benefits from basic needs programs;
- (2) "Basic needs program", any federal, state, local, or institutional program that provides assistance to individuals with financial need;
- (3) "Department", the department of higher education and workforce development;
- (4) "Expected family contribution", the amount of money a student and such student's family should pay toward the cost of postsecondary education as calculated by the United States Department of Education and reported on the student aid report or the institutional student information record;
- (5) "Institution", any public institution of postsecondary education or proprietary school in this state that is subject to the coordinating board for higher education under section 173.005;
- (6) "Proprietary school", a school subject to regulation under sections 173.600 to 173.619;

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.

18 (7) "Student", an individual enrolled as a student at an institution.

19 2. Subject to appropriation, beginning in the 2023-24 academic year, the
20 department may establish a voluntary pilot program to enable an institution to assist the
21 institution's students in applying for and receiving benefits from basic needs programs
22 by participating in the pilot program.

23 3. The department shall develop an application process for institutions to apply
24 to participate in the pilot program. The department may select institutions to
25 participate in the pilot program from among the applicants. The number of
26 participating institutions shall be determined based on moneys appropriated by the
27 general assembly. If the number of applicants exceeds the available moneys
28 appropriated by the general assembly for the pilot program, the department shall
29 assign priority status to institutions with the highest percentage of students with an
30 expected family contribution of zero.

31 4. The governing board of each participating institution shall agree to implement
32 and support the establishment of a basic needs coordinator position for at least three
33 years and to adapt to the best practices established in an annual statewide consortium
34 with other participating institutions for the purpose of facilitating communication
35 between basic needs coordinators at other participating institutions and developing best
36 practices for the role. A participating institution shall agree to:

37 (1) Employ a basic needs coordinator who has a detailed understanding of
38 eligibility requirements for basic needs programs and how to apply for and receive
39 benefits from such basic needs programs;

40 (2) Provide training, guidance, and support for the institution's basic needs
41 coordinator, with such training, guidance, and support provided to the institution by the
42 department of social services; and

43 (3) Participate in an annual statewide consortium as described in this subsection.

44 5. Each institution's basic needs coordinator shall:

45 (1) Assist the institution's students in determining eligibility and applying for
46 benefits from basic needs programs;

47 (2) Use the consortium described in subsection 4 of this section to collaborate
48 with basic needs coordinators at other participating institutions for the purpose of
49 collecting data and developing best practices for helping eligible students determine
50 eligibility, apply for, and receive benefits from basic needs programs; and

51 (3) Coordinate and provide culturally specific resources, such as English
52 language services and resources for nonnative speakers who have difficulties in
53 speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language, to support the
54 institution's students.

55 **6. (1) The department shall provide for a program evaluation regarding the**
56 **success and impact of the pilot program upon completion of the third year of the pilot**
57 **program and shall report the results of such evaluation to:**

58 **(a) The higher education committee, the health and mental health policy**
59 **committee, and the workforce and infrastructure development committee of the**
60 **Missouri house of representatives, or any successor committee;**

61 **(b) The education and workforce development committee and the health and**
62 **welfare committee of the Missouri senate, or any successor committee; and**

63 **(c) The joint committee on education and the joint committee on public**
64 **assistance of the Missouri general assembly, or any successor joint committee.**

65 **(2) The success and impact of the pilot program shall be determined by**
66 **parameters developed by the department. In addition to such parameters, the measure**
67 **of success and impact of the program shall include the dollar amount or equivalent**
68 **dollar amount of basic needs program benefits provided to each student who sought the**
69 **assistance of the basic needs coordinator employed by the student's institution.**

70 **(3) Each participating institution shall, in consultation with the institution's**
71 **basic needs coordinator and under oversight by the department, develop an internal**
72 **process to enable the institution's students to provide feedback and recommendations on**
73 **how the institution can better assist students in determining eligibility and applying for**
74 **benefits from basic needs programs.**

75 **7. The department may promulgate all necessary rules and regulations for the**
76 **implementation and administration of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that**
77 **term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this**
78 **section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the**
79 **provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter**
80 **536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly**
81 **pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul**
82 **a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority**
83 **and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2023, shall be invalid and void.**

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