

HCS HB 1569 -- SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Kelley (127)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1569.

This bill relates to support for students attending institution of higher education.

STEM GRANT (Section 173.685)

This bill directs the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD) to make available a STEM grant for up to \$2000 to eligible recipients. Eligibility for a STEM grant is outlined in the bill, and includes financial considerations similar to the Missouri Access Program under Sections 173.1101 to 173.1107, RSMo.

Recipients must also be working toward a STEM degree, which includes science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields as specified in the bill. Specific requirements for STEM grant renewal are also provided and include satisfactory academic progress, five or less semesters at a two-year institution, or a total of 10 semesters at an approved four-year institution, or a combination of the two.

These provisions sunset six years after the effective date.

CAREER-TECH CERTIFICATE PROGRAM (Section 173.836)

Beginning with the 2025-26 academic year, this bill creates the "Career-Tech Certificate (CTC) Program" and the "Career-Tech Certificate (CTC) Program Fund".

This Program is for students who have met the GPA, attendance, and service requirements for the A+ Program and are eligible for reimbursement of tuition, books, and fees, and are attending an approved institution of postsecondary education, as defined in the bill, for an eligible program of study or specified training program

The bill specifies that DHEWD will develop a tuition reimbursement authorization request form and procedure for private entities to

use to seek prior approval before accepting students if the entities offer a similar program as a public institution.

This bill provides reimbursement for students for one certificate program or completion of a program of study or until a student has completed 150% of the time usually required to complete such a program.

#### ACCESS MISSOURI FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (Section 173.1105)

Beginning in the 2024-25 academic year, this bill specifies an increase for eligible recipients of the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program.

For public two-year institutions the maximum increases by \$400 to \$1700 and the minimum by \$200 to \$500.

For public four-year institutions and the State Technical College, and approved private and virtual institutions, the maximum increases by \$700 to \$3500 and the minimum by \$250 to \$1750.

#### INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE EXAMINATIONS (Section 173.1352)

This bill requires public community colleges, colleges, and universities to adopt a policy for undergraduate course credit for any student who receives a score of 4 or higher on an international baccalaureate exam.

This bill contains language from HB 2313, HB 1569, HB 2326, and HB 2415 (2024)

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

**PROPONENTS:** Supporters say that this bill provides an option for students that currently qualify for the A+ Program, but are not using that grant because they are receiving degrees from programs that are not qualified under the A+ program. Currently there is a gap for certificated programs such as EMT, CDL, and LPN certificates; this bill will eliminate that gap and ensure opportunities for all students.

Testifying in person for the bill was Representative Kelley.

**OPPONENTS:** There was no opposition voiced to the committee.