

HB 2650 -- HIGHER EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Haley

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Workforce and Infrastructure Development by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass- Consent" by the Standing Committee on Consent and House Procedure by a vote of 6 to 0.

This bill cleans up provisions of statute that relate to the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development and repeals statutes for outdated programs.

Changes throughout the bill include changing the "Division of Workforce Development in the Department of Economic Development" to the "Office of Workforce Development in the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development" to reflect the current governance.

The bill changes the currently named "Show-Me-Heroes" program to the "Missouri Heroes Connect" (Section 620.515 RSMo).

The bill repeals the following statutes relating to:

- (1) The "Career Readiness Course Task Force" (dually enacted) (Section 167.910);
- (2) Graduate student teaching assignments (Section 170.012);
- (3) The "Missouri Guaranteed Student Loan Program" and the "Lender of Last Resort Revolving Fund" (Sections 173.095 to 173.187);
- (4) The "Vietnam Veteran's Survivor Grant" which expired in 2015 (Section 173.236);
- (5) The "Marguerite Ross Barnett Competitiveness Scholarship Program" (Section 173.262);
- (6) The pilot project "International Economic Development Exchange Program and the Advisory Council" (Sections 173.264 and 173.265);
- (7) Higher education faculty hiring practices (Section 173.475);
- (8) The "Advantage Missouri Program" (Sections 173.775 to 173.796); and
- (9) The "Missouri Youth Service and Conservation Corps Act" and the "Youth Service and Conservation Corps Fund" (Sections 620.552 to 620.574).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill is a thorough cleanup of outdated higher education statutes. Sections are being updated to reflect current terminology and State and Federal statutory references as well as the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development's recent name change. In the repealed sections, some programs have expired, some have not been funded in several years, some have been replaced, and some have dwindled to affect very few people.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Haley; and Taylee Soukup, Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.