

House _____ Amendment NO. _____

Offered By _____

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for Senate Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for
2 Senate Bill No. 71, Pages 7-13, Section 173.2655, Lines 1-202, by deleting said lines and inserting
3 in lieu thereof the following:
4

5 "173.2655. 1. This section and section 173.2660 shall be known and may be cited as the
6 "Public Safety Recruitment and Retention Act".

7 2. For purposes of this section and section 173.2660, unless the context clearly indicates
8 otherwise, the following terms mean:

9 (1) "Advanced emergency medical technician", as such term is defined in section 190.100;

10 (2) "Department", the department of higher education and workforce development;

11 (3) "Emergency medical technician", as such term is defined in section 190.100;

12 (4) "Firefighter", any officer or employee of a fire department who is employed for the
13 purpose of fighting fires, excluding volunteer firefighters and anyone employed in a clerical or other
14 capacity not involving fire-fighting duties;

15 (5) "Institution of higher education", a public community college, state college, or state
16 university located in Missouri; or an approved private institution, as such term is defined in section
17 173.1102, that chooses to accept any tuition award money pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection
18 7 of this section;

19 (6) "Legal dependent", as such term is defined by the United States Department of
20 Education for purposes of the Free Application for Student Financial Aid;

21 (7) "Line of duty", any action that public safety personnel is authorized or obligated by law,
22 rule, or regulation to perform, related to or as a condition of employment or service;

23 (8) "Open seat", a vacant position in a class, course, or program that is available for
24 enrollment, and which may become available when a student drops out or transfers, or when a class,
25 course, or program has unused capacity, allowing new students to register or enroll;

26 (9) "Paramedic", as such term is defined in section 190.100;

27 (10) "Police officer", any person who, by virtue of office or public employment, is vested by
28 law with the power and duty to make arrests for violation of the laws of the state of Missouri or
29 ordinances of any municipality thereof, while acting within the scope of his or her authority as an
30 employee of a public law enforcement agency, as such term is defined in section 590.1040;

Action Taken _____ Date _____

1 (11) "Public safety personnel", includes any police officer, firefighter, paramedic,
2 telecommunicator first responder, emergency medical technician, or advanced emergency medical
3 technician who is trained and authorized by law or rule to render emergency medical assistance or
4 treatment;

5 (12) "Telecommunicator first responder", as such term is defined in section 650.320;

6 (13) "Tuition", the charges and cost of tuition as set by the governing body of an institution
7 of higher education, including fees such as course fees, activity fees, technology fees, and
8 mandatory fees charged by such institution to all full-time students as a condition of enrollment, but
9 excluding the costs of room, board, books, and any other educational materials, equipment, or
10 supplies.

11 3. Subject to appropriation, public safety personnel with at least six years of service shall be
12 entitled to an award worth up to one hundred percent of the resident tuition charges of an institution
13 of higher education if the individual:

14 (1) Possesses one of the following:

15 (a) A current, valid license issued by the department of health and senior services
16 authorizing such person to serve as an emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical
17 technician, or paramedic;

18 (b) A current, valid license issued by the peace officer standards and training commission
19 authorizing such person to serve as a peace officer pursuant to the provisions of chapter 590;

20 (c) A current, valid certificate issued by the division of fire safety authorizing such person to
21 serve as a firefighter; or

22 (d) A current, valid certificate confirming successful completion of any ongoing training
23 requirements pursuant to section 650.340; and

24 (e) For all public safety personnel, a certificate of verification signed by the individual's
25 supervisor or employer verifying that such individual is currently employed full-time as public
26 safety personnel and trained and authorized by law or rule to render emergency medical assistance
27 or treatment;

28 (2) Meets all admission requirements of the institution of higher education;

29 (3) Has not already earned a baccalaureate degree;

30 (4) Pursues studies leading to an associate degree or baccalaureate degree in one of the
31 following academic subject areas:

32 (a) For police officers, eligible subjects include forensic science, fisheries and wildlife,
33 political science, psychology, history, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, global studies, Spanish,
34 journalism, advertising, public relations, nutrition and health sciences, communication sciences and
35 disorders, and criminal justice;

36 (b) For firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and advanced emergency
37 medical technicians, eligible subjects include biology, chemistry, biochemistry, microbiology,
38 nutrition and health sciences, communication sciences and disorders, Spanish, advertising, public
39 relations, paramedicine, fire science, fire technology, fire administration, fire management,

1 communications, homeland security, emergency management, disaster management, and crisis
2 management; and

3 (c) For telecommunicator first responders, eligible subjects include any subject specified in
4 paragraph (a) or (b) of this subdivision;

5 (5) Submits verification of the professional license or certificate and the certificate of
6 verification required by subdivision (1) of this subsection to the department, in a form and manner
7 as prescribed by the department;

8 (6) Files with the department documentation showing proof of employment as public safety
9 personnel and proof of residence in Missouri each year such individual or such individual's legal
10 dependent applies for and receives the tuition award;

11 (7) First applies for all other forms of federal and state student financial aid before applying
12 for a tuition award, including, but not limited to, filing the United States Department of Education
13 Free Application for Federal Student Aid and, if applicable, applying for financial assistance
14 pursuant to the provisions of 38 U.S.C. Section 3301, et seq.; and

15 (8) Submits a document to the department confirming that the public safety personnel has
16 satisfied the provisions of subdivision (7) of this subsection, to be submitted in a form and manner
17 as prescribed by the department.

18 4. Public safety personnel may receive the tuition award pursuant to subsection 3 of this
19 section for up to five years if they otherwise continue to be eligible for the tuition award. The five
20 years of tuition award eligibility starts once the individual applies for and receives the tuition award
21 for the first time and is available to such individual for the next five consecutive years or the
22 individual's achievement of one hundred twenty credit hours, whichever occurs first.

23 5. Subject to appropriation, a legal dependent of public safety personnel with at least ten
24 years of service shall be entitled to a tuition award worth up to one hundred percent of the resident
25 tuition charges of an institution of higher education for an associate or baccalaureate degree program
26 if such public safety personnel satisfies the provisions of subdivisions (1), (5), and (6) of subsection
27 3 of this section and the legal dependent:

28 (1) Executes an agreement with the department in accordance with the provisions of section
29 173.2660;

30 (2) Has not previously earned a baccalaureate degree;

31 (3) Meets all admission requirements of the institution of higher education;

32 (4) First applies for all other forms of federal and state student financial aid before applying
33 for a tuition award, including, but not limited to, filing the United States Department of Education
34 Free Application for Federal Student Aid and, if applicable, applying for financial assistance
35 pursuant to the provisions of 38 U.S.C. Section 3301, et seq.;

36 (5) Submits a document to the department confirming that the legal dependent has satisfied
37 subdivision (4) of this subsection, to be submitted in a form and manner as prescribed by the
38 department;

1 (6) Submits the verification required pursuant to subsection 8 of this section to the
2 department; and

3 (7) Pursues studies leading to an associate degree or baccalaureate degree in any one of the
4 subject areas specified in paragraphs (a) to (c) of subdivision (4) of subsection 3 of this section.

5 6. A legal dependent may receive the tuition award for up to five years if the public safety
6 personnel and the legal dependent continue to be eligible for such tuition award. The five years of
7 tuition award eligibility starts once the legal dependent applies for and receives the tuition award for
8 the first time and is available to such legal dependent for the next five consecutive years or the legal
9 dependent's achievement of one hundred twenty credit hours, whichever occurs first.

10 7. The tuition award shall be worth:

11 (1) Up to one hundred percent of the public safety personnel's or the legal dependent's
12 tuition remaining due after subtracting awarded federal financial aid grants and state scholarships
13 and grants for the eligible public safety personnel or legal dependent during the time the public
14 safety personnel or legal dependent is enrolled. To remain eligible, the public safety personnel or
15 legal dependent shall comply with all requirements of the institution for continued attendance and
16 award of an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree; or

17 (2) In the case of tuition at an approved private institution, up to one hundred percent of the
18 public safety personnel's or the legal dependent's tuition remaining due after subtracting awarded
19 federal financial aid grants and state scholarships and grants for the eligible public safety personnel
20 or legal dependent during the time the public safety personnel or legal dependent is enrolled, up to a
21 maximum amount that is equal to the total cost of tuition and mandatory fees charged to a Missouri
22 resident at the public community college, state college, or state university with the highest combined
23 tuition and mandatory fee cost in the state at the time a tuition grant is awarded, as determined by
24 the department. A private institution that chooses to accept as a tuition payment any tuition award
25 money pursuant to this subdivision shall not charge the recipient of the tuition award any tuition that
26 exceeds the maximum combined tuition and mandatory fee cost as determined by the department
27 prior to the application of the tuition award.

28 8. (1) An application for a tuition award shall include a verification of the public safety
29 personnel's satisfaction of the requirements of subdivisions (1), (5), and (6) of subsection 3 of this
30 section. The public safety personnel shall include such verification when he or she or his or her
31 legal dependent is applying to the department for a tuition waiver.

32 (2) The death of public safety personnel in the line of duty which occurs after submission of
33 an application for a tuition award shall not disqualify such individual's otherwise eligible legal
34 dependent from receiving the tuition award. In such case, in lieu of submitting the certificate of
35 verification provided for in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the legal dependent shall submit a
36 statement attesting that:

37 (a) At the time of death, such public safety personnel satisfied the requirements of
38 subdivision (1) of this subsection; and

39 (b) Such public safety personnel died in the line of duty.

1 9. The department shall provide a tuition award to public safety personnel and legal
2 dependents who satisfy the provisions of this section and section 173.2660, if applicable, and apply
3 for an open seat at an institution of higher education, but shall not provide a tuition award if doing
4 so would require the institution to create additional seats exceeding class, course, or program
5 capacity.

6 10. All applicants for a tuition award shall submit their applications to the department no
7 later than December fifteenth annually. No later than March first annually, the department shall
8 send written notice of the applicant's eligibility or ineligibility for the tuition award and state
9 whether the application has been approved or denied. If the applicant is determined not to be
10 eligible for the tuition award, the notice shall include the reason or reasons for such determination.
11 If the application is denied, the notice shall include the reason or reasons for the denial.

12 11. The department shall promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section and
13 section 173.2660. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is
14 created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with
15 and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section
16 and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly
17 pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are
18 subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or
19 adopted after August 28, 2025, shall be invalid and void.

20 12. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Public Safety Recruitment and
21 Retention Fund", which shall consist of moneys appropriated by the general assembly or any gifts,
22 donations, or bequests for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this section and section
23 173.2660. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170
24 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and
25 money in the fund shall be used solely by the department of higher education and workforce
26 development for the purpose of granting tuition awards as provided in this section and section
27 173.2660.

28 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys remaining
29 in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund.

30 (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are
31 invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.

32 13. In any year in which moneys in the public safety recruitment and retention fund are
33 insufficient to fully fund tuition awards for all eligible applicants, tuition awards shall be awarded in
34 the following order of priority; provided that, in the event of a tie in eligibility, available funds shall
35 be distributed on a pro rata basis:

36 (1) Priority class one shall include public safety personnel, in the following order:

37 (a) Public safety personnel in departments located wholly or partially in counties or cities
38 not within a county with the highest crime rate per capita, as determined by the most recent uniform
39 crime reporting statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

1 (b) Public safety personnel with the most years of service; and
 2 (2) Priority class two shall include dependents of public safety personnel, in the following
 3 order:

4 (a) Dependents of public safety personnel in departments located wholly or partially in
 5 counties or cities not within a county with the highest crime rate per capita, as determined by the
 6 most recent uniform crime reporting statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

7 (b) Dependents of public safety personnel with the most years of service.

8 14. The tuition awards provided for in this section and section 173.2660 are subject to
 9 appropriation. If there are no moneys in the fund established in subsection 12 of this section, no
 10 tuition awards shall be granted."; and

11
 12 Further amend said bill, Pages 13-14, Section 173.2660, Lines 1-36, by deleting said lines and
 13 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

14
 15 "173.2660. 1. Each legal dependent who is a tuition award recipient pursuant to the
 16 provisions of section 173.2655 shall execute an agreement as provided in this section. Such
 17 agreement shall include the following terms, as appropriate:

18 (1) The tuition award recipient agrees to reside within the state of Missouri for a period of
 19 five years following the use of the tuition award;

20 (2) Each year during the five-year period following use of the tuition award, the tuition
 21 award recipient agrees to file a state income tax return and provide a copy of such tax return to the
 22 department to document that such recipient still resides in the state of Missouri;

23 (3) If the tuition award recipient fails to annually file a tax return to prove residency in the
 24 state of Missouri for the five-year period following the use of the tuition award or fails to remain a
 25 resident of Missouri for the five-year period following the use of the tuition award, the tuition award
 26 recipient agrees that the tuition award shall be treated as a loan to such recipient, subject to the
 27 following conditions:

28 (a) Interest shall be charged on the unpaid balance of the amount received from the date the
 29 recipient ceases to reside in Missouri until the amount received is paid back to the state. The
 30 interest rate shall be adjusted annually and shall be equal to one percentage point over the prevailing
 31 United States prime rate in effect on January first of such year; and

32 (b) The servicer of such loans shall be the higher education loan authority of the state of
 33 Missouri created pursuant to sections 173.350 to 173.445; and

34 (4) Any residency, filing, or payment obligation incurred by the tuition award recipient
 35 under section 173.2655 is canceled in the event of the tuition award recipient's total and permanent
 36 disability or death.

37 2. The five-year residency requirement begins once the legal dependent applies for and
 38 receives the tuition award for the first time and continues until the tuition award recipient's:

39 (1) Completion of the five-year tuition award eligibility period;

1 (2) Completion of a baccalaureate degree at an institution of higher education;

2 (3) Completion of an associate degree at a public community college and notification to the
3 department that such recipient does not intend to pursue a baccalaureate degree or additional
4 associate degree using tuition awards pursuant to the public safety recruitment and retention act; or

5 (4) Notification to the department that such recipient does not plan to use additional tuition
6 awards pursuant to the public safety recruitment and retention act."; and

7
8 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references
9 accordingly.