

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; or an emergency medical services training entity accredited or certified by the  
19 Missouri department of health and senior services pursuant to the provisions of section 190.131;

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

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

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

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

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

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1 employee of a public law enforcement agency, as such term is defined in section 590.1040;

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

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

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

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

15 (1) Possesses one of the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 (4) Pursues studies leading to a license or certification issued by a training entity accredited  
32 or certified pursuant to the provisions of section 190.131, an associate degree or baccalaureate  
33 degree in one of the following academic subject areas:

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

38 (b) For firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and advanced emergency  
39 medical technicians, eligible subjects include biology, chemistry, biochemistry, microbiology,

1 nutrition and health sciences, communication sciences and disorders, Spanish, advertising, public  
2 relations, paramedicine, fire science, fire technology, fire administration, fire management,  
3 communications, homeland security, emergency management, disaster management, and crisis  
4 management; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 5. Subject to appropriation, a legal dependent of public safety personnel with at least ten  
26 years of service shall be entitled to a tuition award worth up to one hundred percent of the resident  
27 tuition charges of an institution of higher education for an associate or baccalaureate degree program  
28 if such public safety personnel satisfies the provisions of subdivisions (1), (5), and (6) of subsection  
29 3 of this section and the legal dependent:

30 (1) Executes an agreement with the department in accordance with the provisions of section  
31 173.2660;

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

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

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

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

1 department;

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

4 (7) Pursues studies leading to a license or certification issued by a training entity accredited  
5 or certified pursuant to the provisions of section 190.131, an associate degree or baccalaureate  
6 degree in any one of the subject areas specified in paragraphs (a) to (c) of subdivision (4) of  
7 subsection 3 of this section.

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

13 7. The tuition award shall be worth:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23       12. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Public Safety Recruitment and  
24 Retention Fund", which shall consist of moneys appropriated by the general assembly or any gifts,  
25 donations, or bequests for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this section and section  
26 173.2660. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170  
27 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and  
28 money in the fund shall be used solely by the department of higher education and workforce  
29 development for the purpose of granting tuition awards as provided in this section and section  
30 173.2660.

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

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

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

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

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

4        (b) Public safety personnel with the most years of service; and

5        (2) Priority class two shall include dependents of public safety personnel, in the following  
 6 order:

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

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

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

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

17  
 18       "173.2660. 1. Each legal dependent who is a tuition award recipient pursuant to the  
 19 provisions of section 173.2655 shall execute an agreement as provided in this section. Such  
 20 agreement shall include the following terms, as appropriate:

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           2. The five-year residency requirement begins once the legal dependent applies for and  
2 receives the tuition award for the first time and continues until the tuition award recipient's:  
3           (1) Completion of the five-year tuition award eligibility period;  
4           (2) Completion of a baccalaureate degree at an institution of higher education;  
5           (3) Completion of an associate degree at a public community college and notification to the  
6 department that such recipient does not intend to pursue a baccalaureate degree or additional  
7 associate degree using tuition awards pursuant to the public safety recruitment and retention act; or  
8           (4) Notification to the department that such recipient does not plan to use additional tuition  
9 awards pursuant to the public safety recruitment and retention act."; and

10  
11 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references  
12 accordingly.