

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 331

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE KELLEY.

0200H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the Career-Tech Certificate (CTC) 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 173.836, to read as follows:

173.836. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Career-Tech Certificate (CTC) Program".

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

(1) "Approved institution", an institution of postsecondary education that is subject to the coordinating board for higher education under section 173.005, offers eligible programs of study or training programs, and is at least one of the following:

(a) A public community college or vocational or technical school as provided under subsection 8 of section 160.545;

(b) A two-year private vocational or technical school authorized to obtain reimbursements under subsection 8 of section 160.545 as provided under subsection 10 of section 160.545;

(c) An approved virtual institution, as defined in section 173.1102; or

(d) An eligible training provider;

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

(3) "Eligible program of study", a program of instruction for which the required length for completion of such program does not exceed the equivalent of sixty credit

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 hours or the equivalent under a different measure of student progress and that results in
19 the award of a non-graduate-level certificate or other industry-recognized credential
20 below the graduate level that has been designated by the coordinating board for higher
21 education as preparing students to enter an area of occupational shortage as determined
22 and updated annually by such board under subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of section
23 173.2553;

24 (4) "Eligible student", any student that meets the eligibility requirements for
25 reimbursement of tuition, books, and fees under the "A+ Schools Program" created in
26 section 160.545, provided that such student has not received a reimbursement for
27 tuition, books, or fees under section 160.545;

28 (5) "Eligible training provider", a training organization listed in the state of
29 Missouri eligible training provider system maintained by the office of workforce
30 development in the department of higher education and workforce development that is
31 not a four-year institution of higher education;

32 (6) "Training program", a program of study that leads to a certificate or degree
33 and is offered by an approved institution but that does not meet the length-of-program
34 requirements for an eligible program under 34 CFR 668.8, as amended. The term
35 includes, but is not limited to, certified nurse assistant (CNA) programs, certified
36 medication technician (CMT) programs, level 1 medication aide (L1MA) programs,
37 insulin administration programs, or commercial driver's license (CDL) programs.

38 3. (1) Beginning in the 2026-27 academic year and for all subsequent academic
39 years, the department shall, by rule, establish a procedure for the reimbursement of the
40 costs of tuition, books, and fees from the career-tech certificate (CTC) program fund to
41 the approved institution at which an eligible student is enrolled in an eligible program of
42 study or a training program.

43 (2) No tuition reimbursements in excess of the tuition rate charged by a public
44 community college for coursework offered by a two-year private vocational or technical
45 school, approved virtual institution as defined under section 173.1102, or eligible
46 training provider within the service area of such college shall be reimbursed under this
47 section.

48 (3) (a) If a public community college or vocational or technical school offers the
49 same or a substantially similar eligible program of study or training program as a
50 private vocational or technical school, virtual institution, or eligible training provider at
51 which an eligible student intends to enroll and the school or provider is located in the
52 service region of the public community college or vocational or technical school that
53 offers the same or similar program of study or training program, no tuition

54 reimbursement shall be provided under this section for such eligible student unless,
55 before the eligible student enrolls:

56 a. The private vocational or technical school, virtual institution, or eligible
57 training provider requests authorization from the department for such tuition
58 reimbursement; and

59 b. The department authorizes such request.

60 (b) The department shall:

61 a. Develop and adopt a tuition reimbursement authorization request form and a
62 procedure for submitting such request;

63 b. Review and either authorize or deny such request within twenty business days
64 of receiving an accurate, complete, and properly submitted request; and

65 c. If the department denies such request, provide the educational entity and the
66 eligible student with the reasons for such denial.

67 (c) The department shall not deny a tuition reimbursement authorization
68 request without good cause, as determined by the department on a case-by-case basis.

69 (4) The reimbursements provided under this section to a two-year private
70 vocational or technical school, approved virtual institution as defined under section
71 173.1102, or eligible training provider shall not violate the provisions of Article IX,
72 Section 8, or Article I, Section 7, of the Constitution of Missouri or the First Amendment
73 to the Constitution of the United States.

74 4. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Career-Tech Certificate
75 (CTC) Program Fund", which shall consist of any moneys appropriated annually by the
76 general assembly, gifts, bequests, grants, public or private donations, or transfers. The
77 state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and
78 30.180, the state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated
79 fund and, upon appropriation, moneys in this fund shall be used solely for
80 reimbursements as provided in this section.

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

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

87 5. No rule promulgated by the department under this section shall prohibit
88 students enrolled in an eligible program of study or a training program from qualifying
89 for tuition reimbursement under this section solely because the eligible program of
90 study or training program does not meet the length-of-program requirements for an

91 eligible program under 34 CFR 668.8, as amended, or because the eligible training
92 provider at which a student enrolls does not participate in federal student aid programs.

93 6. Eligibility for tuition, books, and fees reimbursement to an approved
94 institution as provided under this section shall expire upon the earliest of:

95 (1) Receipt of the reimbursement for the required length for completion of such
96 program as determined by the department;

97 (2) A student's successful completion of an eligible program of study or training
98 program; or

99 (3) A student's completion of one hundred fifty percent of the time usually
100 required to complete an eligible program of study or training program.

101 7. The department may promulgate all necessary rules and regulations for the
102 implementation and administration of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that
103 term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this
104 section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the
105 provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter
106 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly
107 pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul
108 a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority
109 and any rule proposed or adopted after the effective date of this act shall be invalid and
110 void.

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