

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 32

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE DAVIDSON.

0656H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 160.2700, 160.2705, and 160.2710, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to adult high schools.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 160.2700, 160.2705, and 160.2710, RSMo, are repealed and
2 three new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 160.2700, 160.2705, and
3 160.2710, to read as follows:

160.2700. For purposes of sections 160.2700 to 160.2725, "adult high school" means
2 a school that:

3 (1) Is for individuals who do not have a high school diploma and who are [~~twenty-~~
4 ~~one~~] **eighteen** years of age or older;

5 (2) Offers an industry certification program or programs and a high school diploma in
6 a manner that allows students to earn a diploma at the same time that they earn an industry
7 certification;

8 (3) Offers child care for children of enrolled students attending the school; and

9 (4) Is not eligible to receive funding under section 160.415 or 163.031.

160.2705. 1. The department of social services shall authorize Missouri-based
2 nonprofit organizations meeting the criteria of this section to establish and operate up to five
3 adult high schools, with:

4 (1) One adult high school to be located in a city not within a county;

5 (2) One adult high school to be located in a county of the third classification without a
6 township form of government and with more than forty-one thousand but fewer than forty-
7 five thousand inhabitants or a county contiguous to that county;

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.

8 (3) One adult high school to be located in a county of the first classification with
9 more than two hundred sixty thousand but fewer than three hundred thousand inhabitants or a
10 county contiguous to that county;

11 (4) One adult high school to be located in a county of the first classification with
12 more than one hundred fifty thousand but fewer than two hundred thousand inhabitants; and

13 (5) One adult high school to be located in a county with more than seven hundred
14 thousand but fewer than eight hundred thousand inhabitants, or a contiguous county.

15 2. The department of social services shall administer funding to adult high schools
16 subject to appropriations. The department shall be responsible for granting and maintaining
17 authorization for adult high schools. For adult high schools in operation prior to January 1,
18 2023, the department shall maintain authorization for the nonprofit organization to operate the
19 schools, subject to compliance with this section. No more than one organization shall be
20 authorized to operate an adult high school at each location described in subsection 1 of this
21 section. An organization may establish satellite campuses for any adult high school it is
22 authorized to operate. The department shall administer funding for satellite campuses subject
23 to appropriations.

24 3. On or before January 1, 2024, the department of social services shall select an
25 eligible Missouri-based nonprofit organization to operate in a location described in
26 subdivision (5) of subsection 1 of this section. An eligible organization shall:

27 (1) Demonstrate the ability to establish, within twenty-one months of the receipt of
28 the authorization, an adult high school offering high school diplomas, an industry certification
29 program or programs, and child care for children of the students attending the high schools;

30 (2) Demonstrate the ability to commit at least five hundred thousand dollars for the
31 purpose of establishing the necessary infrastructure at the adult high school;

32 (3) Demonstrate substantial and positive experience in providing services, including
33 industry certifications and job placement services, to adults ~~[twenty-one]~~ **eighteen** years of
34 age or older whose educational and training opportunities have been limited by educational
35 disadvantages, disabilities, homelessness, criminal history, or similar circumstances;

36 (4) Establish a partnership with a state-supported postsecondary education institution
37 or more than one such partnership, if a partnership or partnerships are necessary in order to
38 meet the requirements for an adult high school;

39 (5) Establish a comprehensive plan that sets forth how the adult high schools will help
40 address the need for a sufficiently trained workforce in the surrounding region for each adult
41 high school;

42 (6) Establish partnerships and strategies for engaging the community and business
43 leaders in carrying out the goals of each adult high school;

44 (7) Establish the ability to meet quality standards through certified teachers and
45 programs that support each student in such student's goal to find a more rewarding job;

46 (8) Establish a plan for assisting students in overcoming barriers to educational
47 success including, but not limited to, educational disadvantages, homelessness, criminal
48 history, disability, including learning disability such as dyslexia, and similar circumstances;

49 (9) Establish a process for determining outcomes of the adult high school, including
50 outcomes related to a student's ability to find a more rewarding job through the attainment of
51 a high school diploma and job training and certification; and

52 (10) Limit the administrative fee to no more than ten percent.

53 4. (1) The department of elementary and secondary education shall establish
54 academic requirements for students to obtain high school diplomas.

55 (2) Requirements for a high school diploma shall be based on an adult student's prior
56 high school achievement and the remaining credits and coursework that would be necessary
57 for the student to receive a high school diploma if such student were in a traditional high
58 school setting. The adult student shall meet the requirements with the same level of academic
59 rigor as would otherwise be necessary to attain such credits.

60 (3) The adult high school authorized under this section shall award high school
61 diplomas to students who successfully meet the established academic requirements. The
62 adult high school authorized under this section shall confer the diploma as though the student
63 earned the diploma at a traditional high school. The diploma shall have no differentiating
64 marks, titles, or other symbols.

65 (4) Students at adult high schools may complete required coursework at their own
66 pace and as available through the adult high school. They shall not be required to satisfy any
67 specific number of class minutes. The adult high school may also make classes available to
68 students online as may be appropriate. However, students shall not complete the majority of
69 instruction of the school's curriculum online or through remote instruction. For the purposes
70 of this subsection, synchronous instruction connecting students to a live class conducted in a
71 Missouri adult high school shall be treated the same as in-person instruction.

72 (5) The department of elementary and secondary education shall not create additional
73 regulations or burdens on the adult high school or the students attending the adult high
74 schools beyond certifying necessary credits and ensuring that students have sufficiently
75 mastered the subject matter to make them eligible for credit.

76 5. An adult high school shall be deemed a secondary school system for the purposes
77 of subdivision ~~[(15)]~~ **(16)** of subsection 1 of section 210.211.

160.2710. 1. Any person who is ~~[twenty-one]~~ **eighteen** years of age or older may
2 enroll in an adult high school if he or she has not earned a high school diploma.

3 2. An adult high school shall give a preference in admission to those students who
4 receive any local, state, or federal assistance in which a person or family is required not to
5 exceed a certain income level in order to qualify for the assistance.

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