

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 442

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH (74).

1489H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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## AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to standard forms for higher education admission and financial aid letters.

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*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  
2 known as section 173.057, to read as follows:

**173.057. 1. As used in this section, the term "public colleges and universities"**  
2 **means any public community college, public college, or public university located in this**  
3 **state.**

4 **2. There is hereby established the "College Admission and Financial Aid Letter**  
5 **Consistency Task Force" to develop standardized forms for public colleges and**  
6 **universities to use for admission letters and student financial aid award letters.**

7 **3. All task force members shall be appointed before October 1, 2025. The task**  
8 **force shall consist of fifteen members appointed as follows:**

9 **(1) Three parents or legal guardians of students who attend a public university**  
10 **or two-year college in this state, appointed by the joint committee on education;**

11 **(2) Three students who attend a public university or two-year college in this**  
12 **state, appointed by the joint committee on education;**

13 **(3) An administrator from a public institution of higher education who is**  
14 **involved in admissions, appointed by the commissioner of higher education;**

15 **(4) An administrator from a public institution of higher education who is**  
16 **involved in financial aid, appointed by the commissioner of higher education;**

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.

17           **(5) A representative of a public community college who is involved in**  
18 **admissions, appointed by a statewide organization of community colleges;**

19           **(6) A representative of a public community college who is involved in finance,**  
20 **appointed by a statewide organization of community colleges;**

21           **(7) A career and technical education professional who has experience serving as**  
22 **an advisor to a statewide career and technical education organization, appointed by a**  
23 **statewide career and technical education organization;**

24           **(8) A secondary school counselor, appointed by a statewide association of school**  
25 **counselors;**

26           **(9) A secondary school career and college counselor, appointed by a statewide**  
27 **association of school counselors;**

28           **(10) An apprenticeship professional, appointed by the department of higher**  
29 **education and workforce development; and**

30           **(11) A representative of the State Technical College of Missouri, appointed by**  
31 **the college's board of regents.**

32           **4. The members of the task force shall elect a chair from among the membership**  
33 **of the task force. The task force shall meet as needed to perform its duties and complete**  
34 **its findings and recommendations as described in this section. The department of**  
35 **higher education and workforce development shall provide any legal, research, clerical,**  
36 **and technical services the task force requires in the performance of its duties. Members**  
37 **of the task force shall serve without compensation but may, subject to appropriation, be**  
38 **reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official**  
39 **duties as members of the task force. No school district policy or administrative action**  
40 **shall require any education employee member to use personal leave or incur a reduction**  
41 **in pay for participating on the task force.**

42           **5. The task force shall develop a standard admission letter and a standard**  
43 **financial aid award letter to be used by all public colleges and universities. The**  
44 **standard financial aid award letter shall clearly list at least the following information:**

45           **(1) The estimated cost of attendance including, but not limited to, the cost of**  
46 **tuition and fees, room and board, books, and transportation for the current academic**  
47 **year as well as estimates for each academic year that the student would need to attend to**  
48 **earn a degree at such institution, with a disclaimer that the cost of attendance for years**  
49 **other than the current academic year are estimates and may be subject to change;**

50           **(2) All federal, state, and institutional financial aid offered, with an explanation**  
51 **as to which components will require repayment;**

52           **(3) Any expected student or family contribution;**

53           **(4) Campus-specific graduation, median borrowing, and loan default rates;**

54           **(5) A glossary of terms and definitions used in the standard letter; and**

55           **(6) Any other necessary information as determined by the task force.**

56           **6. Before January 1, 2026, the task force shall submit a report to the speaker of**  
57 **the house of representatives, the president pro tempore of the senate, the joint**  
58 **committee on education, and the coordinating board for higher education. The report**  
59 **shall contain the task force's findings, samples of a recommended standard admission**  
60 **letter and a standard financial aid award letter, and recommendations for legislation**  
61 **pertaining to requirements for a standard admission letter and a standard financial aid**  
62 **award letter to be used by all public colleges and universities.**

63           **7. Upon submission of the task force's report, the task force shall dissolve.**

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