

SS#2 HB 419 -- EDUCATION

TUITION FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL (Sections 41.890 and 173.1153)

This bill clarifies that specified military service personnel, their spouses, and their unemancipated children under 24, individuals serving in the Missouri National Guard, and any individuals serving in a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, be considered Missouri residents for the purposes of any undergraduate or graduate degree program in Missouri institutions of higher education.

STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION REQUIREMENTS (Section 160.701).

This language prohibits a statewide activities association from requiring an active-duty member of the US uniformed services, National Guard, or Reserves from meeting a minimum number of practices in order for such individual to be a member of a team or group.

DEGREES OFFERED BY UNIVERSITIES (Sections 172.280 and 174.160).

Currently only the University of Missouri can offer research doctorates, doctor of philosophy degrees or specific first professional degrees. This bill allows the Missouri State University to have the power to grant philosophy degrees in disciplines other than engineering and a bachelor of science degree in veterinary technology.

This provision is similar to SB 150 (2025) and SB 160 (2025).

VETERANS DAY (Section 172.345).

This bill provides that Veterans Day will be a public holiday for all employees of the University of Missouri System.

This provision is similar to SB 627 (2025).

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI'S SEMINARY FUND (Sections 172.640, 172.650, 172.651, 172.660, 172.661, and 172.720).

This bill provides that the University of Missouri must enter into an agreement with the State Treasurer to establish a separate custodial account in which the moneys in the University's Seminary Fund must be deposited and held. The University must invest the moneys in government bonds as provided in current law, and can withdraw the earnings on such bonds and use any such withdrawals for the maintenance of the University, as provided in the bill.

The University must provide financial reports on the custodial account to the State Treasurer annually.

The bill repeals provisions relating to the State Treasurer's current duties as custodian of the Seminary Fund.

These provisions are similar to SB 627 (2025).

COURSE CREDIT FOR INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE EXAM (Section 173.1352).

This bill requires public institutions of higher education to adopt a policy for undergraduate course credit for any student who receives a score of four or higher on an International Baccalaureate exam.

This provision is similar to SB 243 (2025).

PUBLIC SAFETY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ACT (Sections 173.2655 and 173.2660).

This bill establishes the "Public Safety Recruitment and Retention Act" to provide free college tuition for certain public safety personnel and their legal dependents. The bill defines "public safety personnel" as including any police officer, firefighter, paramedic, telecommunicator first responder, emergency medical technician, or advanced emergency medical technician who is trained and authorized by law or rule to render emergency medical assistance or treatment. Subject to appropriation, public safety personnel with at least six years of service shall be entitled to a waiver of 100% of the resident tuition charges of a public institution of higher education if they present to the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD) verification of their current, valid license in a profession specified in the Act, along with a certificate of verification signed by their employer verifying that they are employed full-time as public safety personnel. Such individuals must also meet all admission requirements of the public institution of higher education and pursue an associate or baccalaureate degree in an academic subject specified in the Act. Individuals who have already earned a baccalaureate degree are ineligible to use the tuition waiver to earn another degree. Each year an individual applies for and receives a tuition waiver, he or she must file with DHEWD documentation showing proof of employment and proof of residence in Missouri. Additionally, an applicant for a tuition waiver must first apply for all other forms of federal and state student financial aid and provide evidence of such to the public institution of higher education.

The legal dependent of public safety personnel with at least ten years of service is also eligible for a tuition waiver if he or she executes an agreement with the public institution of higher education outlining the terms and conditions of the tuition waiver, including the legal dependent's commitment to reside in Missouri for the next five years, as well as a commitment to provide a copy of his or her state income tax return annually to DHEWD in order to prove residency in Missouri. The agreement must also include a provision that if the tuition waiver recipient fails to provide proof of residency in Missouri for the five-year period following the use of the tuition waiver, he or she must repay the public institution of higher education the amount of tuition that was waived. Any repayment received will be remitted by the institution to DHEWD in full or deducted from future reimbursements to the institution from the Public Safety Recruitment and Retention Fund created in the bill, as determined in accordance with rules promulgated by DHEWD. Finally, the agreement must provide that any residency, filing, or payment obligation incurred by the tuition waiver recipient under the bill is canceled in the event of the tuition waiver recipient's total and permanent disability or death.

The five-year residency requirement for a legal dependent who receives a tuition waiver begins once the legal dependent applies for and receives the tuition waiver and continues until the tuition waiver recipient:

- (1) Completes the five-year tuition waiver eligibility period;
- (2) Completes a baccalaureate degree;
- (3) Completes an associate degree and notifies DHEWD that he or she does not intend to pursue a baccalaureate degree or additional associate degree using tuition waivers, or
- (4) Notifies DHEWD that he or she does not plan to use additional tuition waivers.

The legal dependent must satisfy certain other criteria to be eligible for a tuition waiver. The legal dependent must not have previously earned a baccalaureate degree, and he or she must meet all admission requirements of the public institution of higher education he or she wishes to attend. The legal dependent must also complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid and provide verification of the public safety personnel's eligibility for the tuition waiver to the public institution of higher education, as provided in the bill.

Public safety personnel and their legal dependents may receive a tuition waiver for up to five consecutive years if they otherwise

continue to be eligible. The five years of eligibility starts once the public safety personnel or legal dependent applies for and receives the tuition waiver for the first time. A public institution of higher education must waive 100% of the individual's tuition remaining due after subtracting awarded federal financial aid grants and state scholarships and grants. An application for a tuition waiver must include a verification of the public safety personnel's satisfaction of the requirements of the Act, including proof of full-time employment and residency status. Public safety personnel must include this verification when they or their legal dependents are applying to a public institution of higher education in order to obtain a tuition waiver upon initial enrollment.

The death of public safety personnel in the line of duty does not disqualify an individual's otherwise eligible legal dependent from receiving the tuition waiver. In such a case, in lieu of submitting verification of the public safety personnel's employment, the legal dependent must submit a statement attesting that, at the time of death, the public safety personnel satisfied the requirements of the bill, and the individual died in the line of duty, as specified in the bill.

No later than March 1st, annually, the public institution of higher education must send written notice of the applicant's eligibility or ineligibility for the tuition waiver and state whether the application has been approved or denied. If the applicant is determined not to be eligible for the tuition waiver, the notice must include the reason or reasons for the determination. If the application is denied, the notice must include the reason or reasons for the denial.

The Public Safety Recruitment and Retention Fund is created for purposes of reimbursing public institutions of higher education for awarding the tuition waivers. In the event that funds are insufficient to provide tuition waivers for all eligible applicants, public safety personnel will be in the first class of applicants to receive the waivers, and dependents will be in the second class, in a priority order as specified in the bill.

The tuition waivers provided for in this bill are subject to appropriation. If there are no moneys in the Fund, no tuition waivers can be awarded.

These provisions are to HB 496 (2025) and SCS SB 71 (2025).

IMMERSIVE LEARNING (Section 174.231).

This bill adds health and life sciences and immersive learning experiences to the mission of Missouri Southern State University.

This provision is similar SB 279 (2025).

MISSOURI STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (Sections 191.600, 191.603, 191.605, 191.607, 191.611, 191.614, and 191.615)

This bill modifies provisions relating to the existing "Health Professional Student Loan Repayment Program" by renaming it to the "Missouri State Loan Repayment Program (MOSLRP)" and expanding the program to include those who have graduated from an accredited graduate training program in a discipline designated by the Department of Health and Senior Services.

Current law requires, in order to be eligible to participate in the program, that a person is enrolled as either a full-time medical student, dental student, or chiropractic student, and is in the final year of course study, or that a person is licensed to practice in these fields. This provision and the designation for an area in need of chiropractic services are repealed and replaced with the requirements that the person is authorized to practice as any type of health professional and is going to practice in an area of defined need.

The bill requires that 35% of the annual appropriated funds that are allocated to this loan repayment program must be designated for awards to primary care physicians and general dentists, and unused portions of those designated funds will be made available in the same fiscal year to the other types of health professions designated by the Department.

Current law establishes liability to the State for individuals who have entered into written contracts with the Department and who either fail to maintain an acceptable level of academic standing, who voluntarily terminate enrollment, or who are dismissed from the institution; these persons are liable to the State for the amount that has been paid on their behalf under the contract. This bill repeals that provision.

This portion of the bill is similar to HB 720 (2025).

BOOTS-TO-BUSINESS (Section 620.3250).

Current law requires any veteran who receives a small business loan through the State Treasurer's linked deposit program to complete a boots-to-business program approved by the Department of Economic Development. This bill makes participation in the program optional.

These provisions are similar to HB 1562 (2025) and SB 566 (2025).