

HCS HB 606 -- HIGHER EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Haley

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 8 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 606.

This bill updates provisions of statute that relate to the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development and repeals statutes for outdated programs.

Changes throughout the bill include changing the "Division of Workforce Development" in the Department of Economic Development to the "Office of Workforce Development" in the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development to reflect the current governance.

Among other outdated statutes the bill repeals the following statutes relating to:

- (1) The "Career Readiness Course Task Force" (dually enacted) (Section 167.910, RSMo);
- (2) Graduate student teaching assignments (Section 170.012);
- (3) The "Lender of Last Resort Revolving Fund" (Sections 173.095 to 173.187);
- (4) The "Vietnam Veteran's Survivor Grant" which expired in 2015 (Section 173.236);
- (5) The "Marguerite Ross Barnett Competitiveness Scholarship Program" (Section 173.262);
- (6) The pilot project "International Economic Development Exchange Program" and the Program's advisory committee (Sections 173.264 and 173.265);
- (7) Higher education faculty hiring practices (Section 173.475);
- (8) The "Advantage Missouri Program" (Sections 173.775 to 173.796); and

(9) The "Missouri Youth Service and Conservation Corps Act" and the "Youth Service and Conservation Corps Fund" (Sections 620.552 to 620.574).

This bill is similar to HB 2650 (2024).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that these statute changes and repeals will help clarify the role of the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Haley and Leah Strid, Missouri Department Of Higher Education & Workforce Development.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.