

HCS HB 606 -- HIGHER EDUCATION (Haley)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

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of statute that relate to the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development and repeals statutes for outdated programs.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Among other outdated statutes the bill repeals the following statutes relating to: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).

AUTHORITY TO CONFER DEGREES (Sections 172.280 and 174.160)

This bill authorizes Missouri State University to grant Doctor of Philosophy degrees in disciplines other than engineering and to grant Bachelor of Science degrees in veterinary technology.

These provisions are identical to provisions in HCS/SS/SB 38 (2025) and similar to HB 616.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAMS (Section 166.435)

Under this bill, annual contributions made only to the deposit program, or the Missouri education program established under Sections 166.400 to 166.455, RSMo, or both, can be subtracted for determining the Missouri adjusted gross income, up to \$8,000 per taxpayer, and up to \$16,000 for married individuals filing a joint tax return.

This is the same as HB 1272 (2025)

SEMINARY FUND OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY (Section 172.610 and 172.640)

This bill modifies provisions of the University of Missouri Seminary Fund. The bill allows the University to establish a separate custodial account with the interest from such investment to be used for maintenance of the University, it's College of Agriculture, and the University of Missouri-Rolla campus.

The bill requires the University to provide receipts and expenditures from the custodial account to the State Treasurer annually.

This is the same as HB 1172 (2025)

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE EXAMINATIONS (Section 173.1352)

This bill requires public community colleges, colleges, and universities to adopt a policy for undergraduate course credit for any student that receives a score of four or higher on an international baccalaureate exam.

This is the same as HB 291 & 1017 (2025)

CAREER-TECH CERTIFICATE PROGRAM (Section 173.836)

Beginning with the 2026-27 academic year, this bill creates the "Career-Tech Certificate (CTC) Program" and the "Career-Tech Certificate (CTC) Program Fund".

This Program is for students who have met the GPA, attendance, and service requirements for the A+ Program and are eligible for

reimbursement of tuition, books, and fees, and are attending an approved institution of postsecondary education, as defined in the bill, for an eligible program of study or specified training program.

The bill provides reimbursement for students for one certificate program or completion of a program of study or until a student has completed 150% of the time usually required to complete such a program.

This is similar to HCS HB 331(2025)