

HB 616 -- CONFERENCE OF DEGREES

SPONSOR: Stinnett

This bill relates to the authority to confer degrees at public institutions of higher education.

The bill repeals the following provisions:

(1) The University of Missouri is the State's only public research university and the exclusive grantor of research doctorates and first-professional degrees, including dentistry, law, medicine, optometry, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine (Section 172.280, RSMo);

(2) Degrees in podiatry and chiropractic and osteopathic medicine may be conferred only by the University of Missouri or by a public institution of higher education in collaboration with the University of Missouri, with the University of Missouri being the degree-granting institution, unless the University of Missouri declines to collaborate with the institution (Section 173.005); and

(3) Degrees in engineering may be conferred only by the University of Missouri or by a public institution of higher education in collaboration with the University of Missouri, with the University of Missouri being the degree-granting institution, unless the University of Missouri declines to collaborate with the institution (Section 174.160).

This bill is the same as HB 90 (2025) and HB 1497 (2024).