

CCS HCS SS SB 150 -- WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

ADULT HIGH SCHOOLS (Section 160.2700-160.2710)

The bill changes the age for enrollment for adult high schools in the State from 21 to 18 years of age. A student who transfers from a local education agency to an adult high school will be considered a transfer student and not a dropout student by the State for the purposes of compiling and tracking dropout rates.

STEM CAREER AWARENESS (Section 161.264)

Subject to appropriations, this bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to establish the "STEM Career Awareness Activity Program" for grades nine through 12. DESE will begin promoting the Program in the 2026-27 school year and solicit a proposal to provide the Program by January 1, 2026. By March 1, 2026, DESE must select a provider. Alternatively, the bill authorizes DESE to choose a third party nonprofit entity to implement the Program, solicit proposals, and select a provider.

The bill requires prospective providers to present data demonstrating effectiveness in the following areas: teacher instruction on STEM-related subjects; increased student enrollment in four year STEM related fields; or increased participation in STEM related workforce upon graduation. The bill outlines criteria for Program providers that includes: an activity program led by teachers fully certified to teach grades nine through 12 in STEM-related subjects; and facilitates a cohort of students in grades nine through 12 to participate in STEM-related competitions, as specified in the bill.

This bill also creates the "STEM Career Awareness Activity Fund".

INSTITUTIONAL DOCTORAL PROGRAM EXPANSION (Sections 172.280 and 174.160)

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

HIGHER EDUCATION BOARD (Sections 173.612 & 173.616)

This bill requires a proprietary school that closes without properly compensating the students, to forfeit the security deposit required to be on record with the Department of Higher Education &

Workforce Development. The Department will use the funds to help the students affected by the closure.

If funds remain after students receive restitution from the security deposit proceeds, the remaining money will be used to secure and administer student records in the Department's care.

The bill also creates a specific exemption category for U.S. Department of Labor-approved registered apprenticeships from the certification requirements with the Department.

The Department currently exempts training partners that only enroll registered apprentices and only requires certification or exemption of providers who seek to enroll non-apprentices in the same program in order to ensure those students have oversight protections in place. This bill clarifies the exemption category for those wishing to offer postsecondary training as part of a registered apprenticeship program.

STEM GRANT (Section 173.685)

Subject to appropriation, this bill directs the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD) to make available a STEM grant for up \$1,500 a semester with a maximum grant of \$6,000 to eligible recipients. Eligibility for a STEM grant is provided in the bill, and includes financial considerations similar to the Missouri Access Program.

Recipients must also be working toward a STEM degree, which includes science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields as specified in the bill.

The bill specifies requirements for STEM grant renewal, include satisfactory academic progress, and five or less semesters at a two-year institution, or no more than 10 semesters at an approved four-year institution, or a combination of the two.

These provisions sunset six years after the effective date.

CAREER-TECH CERTIFICATE PROGRAM (Section 173.836)

This bill creates the "Career-Tech Certificate (CTC) Program" and the "Career-Tech Certificate (CTC) Program Fund".

The CTC 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.

Beginning with the 2026-27 academic year, DHEWD must establish a procedure to reimburse the costs of tuition, books, and fees from the CTC Program Fund to the approved institution where the student is enrolled in an eligible program of study or a training program. Tuition reimbursements shall not exceed the tuition rate charged by a public community college for coursework offered by a two-year private vocational or technical school, virtual institution, or eligible training provider. A private vocational or technical school, institution, or training provider shall request authorization from DHEWD for tuition reimbursement before a student enrolls if there is a public community college or vocational or technical school in the same service region offering the same or a substantially similar eligible program of study or training program, as provided in the bill.

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.

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARDS (Sections 173.1102, 173.1103, and 173.1105)

Beginning in the 2025-26 academic year, this bill specifies an increase for eligible recipients of the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program.

For public two-year institutions the maximum increases from \$1,300 to \$1,700 and the minimum from \$300 to \$500.

For public four-year institutions and the State Technical College, and approved private and virtual institutions, the maximum increases from \$2,850 to \$3,500 and the minimum by \$1,500 to \$1,750.

The bill replaces the phrase "expected family contribution" with "student aid index" which is the amount of money a student and family should pay to the cost of postsecondary education as calculated by the US Department of Education.

MISSOURI SOUTHERN MISSION STATEMENT (Section 174.231)

This bill modifies the current statewide mission designation for Missouri Southern State University to include health and life sciences and immersive learning experiences.

HIGHER EDUCATION CORE CURRICULUM (Section 178.786)

This bill specifies that the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, with the assistance of an advisory committee composed of a representative from each public community college and four-year institution of higher education, must approve a 60 credit hour, transferable, lower-division course, and common course numbering equivalency matrix for the five applicable degree programs outlined in the bill beginning in the 2028-29 academic year. For any community college or public institution of higher education, offering the approved degree programs, must adopt and include an approved 60 hour program equivalency matrix, as specified in the bill.

If a student successfully completes the transferable lower-division courses at a public institution of higher education, such courses may be transferred and will be substituted for core curriculum courses in the same degree program at a receiving institution. The transferring student receives credit toward the student's degree and is not required to take additional core classes for the same degree program at the receiving institution. Transferring students who have not fully completed the transferable coursework curriculum may be required to satisfy further course requirements at the receiving institution.

The bill includes procedures for dispute resolution for institutions and an appeals process for students if the student is not awarded credit as required in the bill.

The coordinating board shall maintain a website providing students with clear information on the articulation pathways and must report to the House of Representatives Higher Education Committee and the Senate Education Committee on progress related to the requirements of the bill by December 31, 2026.

MISSOURI STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (Section 191.600-191.615)

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.

Currently, 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, are liable to the State for the amount that has been paid on their behalf under the contract. This bill repeals that provision.

LICENSING OF CHILD CARE FACILITIES (Section 210.221)

This bill allows the DESE to grant a temporary child care license to a child care provider, upon submission of a complete license application to expand an existing site or add a new location, provided that the provider's license is in good standing and also submits approved fire-safety, state and local sanitation inspections, city inspections, staff background checks, and evidence of completion of required staff training for the site being added or expanded. The new facility will be subject to an unannounced inspection by the Office of Childhood, within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, within 60 days of opening the new facility. Temporary licenses will be valid for up to 12 months or until the DESE makes a final determination on full licensure.

Prior to obtaining the temporary child care license for another facility, the child care provider has to have been in operation for at least 13 months. If a child care facility is an existing child care facility but there is a change in ownership, the facility will be subject to an unannounced inspections by the Office of Childhood within 60 days of the change of ownership.

LICENSURE RECIPROCITY FOR SPOUSES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT (Section 324.009)

Currently, an oversight body for professional licenses must waive any examination, educational, or experience requirements within 30 days for a resident military spouse or a nonresident military spouse and issue the applicant a license if the applicant meets all

other requirements. This bill provides a waiver to resident and nonresident spouses of Missouri law enforcement officers.

EMBALMERS (Section 333.041)

The bill provides that a practicum embalming student licensee may assist, under the direct supervision of a licensed embalmer, in a licensed funeral establishment after approval by the State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors (Board), within the Division of Professional Registration, but cannot assist when not under supervision.

This bill repeals the current requirements to become a licensed embalmer and replaces them with new requirements.

In the bill, an applicant for an embalmer license must provide evidence to the Board that he or she:

- (1) Is 18eighteen years of age or older;
- (2) Possesses a high school diploma, a general equivalency diploma, or equivalent, as determined, at its discretion, by the Board;
- (3) Has completed a funeral service education program accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education, any successor organization, or other accrediting entity as approved by the Board;
- (4) Received passing scores on the National Board Examination-Sciences and the Missouri law examination administered by the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, any successor organization, or other organization approved by the Board; and
- (5) Has been employed in a qualifying embalmer's apprentice program for six months and has personally embalmed at least 25 dead human bodies under the supervision of a licensed embalmer. The first 12 embalmings must be conducted under the direct supervision of the licensed embalmer.

Upon written request to the Board, any person licensed under this section may, at his or her election, sit for the National Board Examination-Arts administered by the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, any successor organization, or other organization approved by the Board.

Currently, if an applicant does not complete all requirements for licensure within five years from the date of his or her completion of an accredited program, his or her registration as an apprentice

embalmer is automatically canceled. The applicant is required to file a new application and pay applicable fees. The applicant cannot use the previous apprenticeship for the new application. This bill repeals that provision.

The bill adds the requirement to pass the Missouri law examination in order to become a licensed embalmer.

Currently, if any applicant fails to pass the national board examination of the Conference of Funeral Service Examining, he or she may retake the examination at the next regular examination meeting. The applicant must notify the Board office of his or her desire to retake the examination at least 30 days prior to the date of the examination. Each time the examination is retaken, the applicant must pay a new examination fee in an amount established by the Board. This bill removes the 30 day requirement and specifies that the examination is the National Board Examination-Arts. The bill repeals a provision requiring the Board to hold the examinations at least twice a year.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS (Section 333.042)

This bill repeals the current requirements to become a licensed funeral director and replaces them with new requirements.

In the bill, an applicant for a funeral director license must provide evidence to the Board that he or she is 18 years of age or older and possesses a high school diploma or the equivalent thereof and has either:

(1) Completed a funeral service education program accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education, any successor organization, or other accrediting entity as approved by the Board and received passing scores on the National Board Examination- Arts and the Missouri law examination. The Board can accept, in lieu of a passing score on the National Board Examination-Arts, a passing score on an administration of the Missouri arts examination that occurred before the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards ended all administrations of the Missouri arts examination on January 1, 2023; or

(2) Made application for a funeral director provisional license and successfully either:

(a) Within 24 months of receipt of the provisional license:

(i) Completed a 12-month qualifying funeral director apprentice program as determined by the board during which the applicant arranged and conducted 10 funeral services. The program must be

under the personal supervision of a licensed funeral director in a Missouri funeral establishment licensed for the care and preparation for burial and transportation of the human dead in this state; and

(ii) Received passing scores on the National Board Examination-Arts and the Missouri law examination. The Board can accept, in lieu of a passing score on the National Board Examination-Arts, a passing score on an administration of the Missouri arts examination that occurred before the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards ended all administrations of the Missouri arts examination on January 1, 2023; or

(b) Within 36 months of receipt of the provisional license:

(i) Completed an 18-month qualifying funeral director apprentice program as determined by the Board during which the applicant arranged and conducted 25 funeral services. The program must be under the personal supervision of a licensed funeral director in a Missouri funeral establishment licensed for the care and preparation for burial and transportation of the human dead in this state; and

(ii) Received a passing score on the Missouri law examination.

Any person holding a provisional license can be eligible, upon written request to the Board, to sit for the National Board Examination-Arts and the Missouri law examination at any time during the period in which his or her provisional license is effective.

Any licensed funeral director who has not previously sat for the National Board Examination-Arts may, at his or her election and upon written request to the board, sit for the examination.

A person can apply for a limited license to work only in a funeral establishment licensed for cremation. A person holding a limited funeral director license can perform duties related to cremation. To qualify for a limited funeral director license, an applicant must be 18 years of age or older and successfully complete the Missouri law examination. Completion of a qualifying funeral director apprentice program will not be required to obtain a limited funeral director license.

Currently, the board must, upon request, waive any requirement to become a licensed funeral director and issue a temporary funeral director's license, valid for six months, to the surviving spouse or next of kin or the personal representative of a licensed funeral director, or to the spouse, next of kin, employee or conservator of

a licensed funeral director disabled because of sickness, mental incapacity or injury. This bill adds that the waiver can allow the spouse, next of kin, personal representative, or conservator of the absent director to conduct business until a licensed funeral director can be obtained or business arrangements are made to close or sell the establishment. The waiver does not allow for any services to be provided for which formal funeral service education is required.

SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION (Sections 337.600, 337.604, 337.615, 337.627, 337.628, 337.644, and 337.645)

Currently, an individual can become a social worker if he or she has received a baccalaureate or master's degree in social work. The social work programs must be accredited and approved by the Council on Social Work Education.

This bill allows individuals to get a master's degree from a social work program in candidacy and precandidacy for accreditation that is recognized and approved by the committee for social workers.

This bill is similar to provisions of HCS for HB 32, HCS HB 33, HB 168, HB 183, HB 265, HCS HB 268, HCS HB 331, HB 419, HB 720, HB 834, HB 850, 53 & 482, HB 946, HCS HB 1017 & 291, and HB 1269, (2025).