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Mr. Speaker: I am instructed by the Senate to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate has taken up and passed

**SS HCS HBs 2097 & 1905** \_\_\_\_\_ entitled:

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**AN ACT**

To repeal sections 23.295, 135.713, 135.714, 135.715, 135.716, 135.719, 160.575, 161.106, 162.261, 162.720, 166.700, 166.705, 166.710, 166.715, 174.300, 174.332, 174.450, 174.453, 174.610, 175.020, 178.530, 178.550, 178.585, 178.632, 186.019, 288.040, 620.010, 620.484, 620.490, 620.511, 620.512, and 620.513, RSMo, section 167.910 as enacted by house bill no. 1606, ninety-ninth general assembly, second regular session, and section 167.910 as enacted by house bill no. 1415, ninety-ninth general assembly, second regular session, and section 210.1700 as enacted by conference committee substitute for senate substitute for senate bill no. 1421, one hundred third general assembly, second regular session, and to enact in lieu thereof thirty-six new sections relating to education, with penalty provisions, an effective date for certain sections, and a severability clause.

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With SA 1, SA 2, SA 4 & SA 5

In which the concurrence of the House is respectfully requested.

Respectfully,

*Kristina Martin*

Kristina Martin  
Secretary of the Senate

**RECEIVED**  
MAY 14 2026  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_

SENATE AMENDMENT NO. 1


Offered by Washington of GA

Amend SS/HCS/House Bill Nos. 2097 & 1905, Page 8, Section 135.713, Line 54,

- 2 by striking the opening "[" and closing "]" brackets; and
- 3 Further amend said bill, pages 26-27, section 166.700,
- 4 lines 41-50, by striking all of said lines and inserting in
- 5 lieu thereof the following: "such professional's lawful
- 6 scope of practice; or".

*Offered 5/14/26*  
*Adopted 5/14/26*

**SENATE AMENDMENT NO. 2**

Offered by  of ZZND

Amend SS/HCS/House Bill Nos. 2097 & 1905, Page 80, Section 2, Line 320,

- 2 by inserting after all of said line the following:
- 3        "Section 3. A municipal ordinance shall not prohibit
- 4 the growth of helianthus annuus, an agricultural product,
- 5 that is used for educational or home use."; and
- 6        Further amend the title and enacting clause accordingly.

*Offered 5/14/26*

*Adopted 5/14/26*

SENATE AMENDMENT NO. 4Offered by HendersonOf 3Amend SS/HCS/House Bill Nos. 2097 & 1905, Page 32, Section 166.715, Line 10,

2 by inserting after all of said line the following:

3 "173.831. 1. As used in this section, the following  
4 terms mean:

5 (1) "Academic skill intake assessment", a criterion-  
6 referenced assessment of numeracy and literacy skills with  
7 high reliability and validity as determined by third-party  
8 research;

9 (2) "Accredited", holding an active accreditation from  
10 one of the seven United States regional accreditors  
11 including, but not limited to, the Middle States Commission  
12 on Higher Education, the New England Association of Schools  
13 and Colleges, the Higher Learning Commission, the Northwest  
14 Commission on Colleges and Universities, the Southern  
15 Association of Colleges and Schools, the Western Association  
16 of Schools and Colleges, and the Accrediting Commission for  
17 Community and Junior Colleges, as well as any successor  
18 entities or consolidations of the above including, but not  
19 limited to, AdvancEd or Cognia;

20 (3) "Adult dropout recovery services" includes, but is  
21 not limited to, sourcing, recruitment, and engagement of  
22 eligible students, learning plan development, active  
23 teaching, and proactive coaching and mentoring, resulting in  
24 an accredited high school diploma and pathway to post  
25 secondary education opportunities;

*Offered 5/14/26*

*Adopted 5/14/26*

26 (4) "Approved program provider", a public, not-for-  
27 profit, or other entity that meets the requirements of  
28 subdivision (2) of subsection 3 of this section or any  
29 consortium of such entities;

30 (5) "Average cost per graduate", the amount of the  
31 total program funding reimbursed to an approved program  
32 provider for each cohort during the period of time from the  
33 beginning of the same cohort through the subsequent twelve  
34 months after the close of the same cohort, divided by the  
35 total number of students who graduated from the same cohort  
36 within twelve months after the close of the same cohort or  
37 enrollment in postsecondary education;

38 (6) "Career pathways coursework", one or more courses  
39 that align with the skill needs of industries in the economy  
40 of the state or region that help an individual enter or  
41 advance within a specific occupation or occupational cluster;

42 (7) "Career placement services", services designed to  
43 assist students in obtaining employment, such as career  
44 interest self-assessments and job search skills such as  
45 resume development and mock interviews;

46 (8) "Coaching", proactive communication between the  
47 approved program provider and the student related to the  
48 student's pace and progress through the student's learning  
49 plan;

50 (9) "Cohort", students who enter the program between  
51 July first and June thirtieth of each program year;

52 (10) "Department", the department of elementary and  
53 secondary education;

54 (11) "Employability skills certification", a  
55 certificate earned by demonstrating professional  
56 nontechnical skills through assessment, portfolio, or  
57 observation;

- 58           (12) "Graduate", a student who has successfully  
59 completed all of the state and approved program provider  
60 requirements in order to obtain a high school diploma;
- 61           (13) "Graduation rate", the total number of graduates  
62 from a cohort who graduated within twelve months after the  
63 close of the cohort divided by the total number of students  
64 included in the same cohort;
- 65           (14) "Graduation requirements", course and credit  
66 requirements for the approved program provider's accredited  
67 high school diploma;
- 68           (15) "High school diploma", a diploma issued by an  
69 accredited institution;
- 70           (16) "Industry-recognized credential", an education-  
71 related credential or work-related credential that verifies  
72 an individual's qualification or competence issued by a  
73 third party with the relevant authority to issue such  
74 credential;
- 75           (17) "Learning plan", a documented plan for courses or  
76 credits needed for each individual in order to complete  
77 program and approved program provider graduation  
78 requirements;
- 79           (18) "Mentoring", a direct relationship between a  
80 coach and a student to facilitate the completion of the  
81 student's learning plan designed to prepare the student to  
82 succeed in the program and the student's future endeavors;
- 83           (19) "Milestones", objective measures of progress for  
84 which payment is made to an approved program provider under  
85 this section such as earned units of high school credit,  
86 attainment of an employability skills certificate,  
87 attainment of an industry-recognized credential, attainment  
88 of a technical skills assessment, and attainment of an  
89 accredited high school diploma;

90 (20) "Program", the workforce diploma program  
91 established in this section;

92 (21) "Request for qualifications", a request for  
93 interested potential program providers to submit evidence  
94 that they meet the qualifications established in subsection  
95 3 of this section;

96 (22) "Stackable credential", a third-party credential  
97 that is part of a sequence of credentials that can be  
98 accumulated over time to build up an individual's  
99 qualifications to advance along a career pathway;

100 (23) "Student", a participant in the program  
101 established in this section who is twenty-one years of age  
102 or older, who is a resident of Missouri, and who has not yet  
103 earned a high school diploma;

104 (24) "Technical skills assessment", a criterion-  
105 referenced assessment of an individual's skills required for  
106 an entry-level career, or additional training in a technical  
107 field, or other postsecondary opportunities;

108 (25) "Transcript evaluation", a documented summary of  
109 credits earned in previous public or private accredited high  
110 schools compared with the program and approved program  
111 provider graduation requirements;

112 (26) "Unit of high school credit", credit awarded  
113 based on a student's demonstration that the student has  
114 successfully met the content expectations for the credit  
115 area as defined by subject area standards, expectations, or  
116 guidelines.

117 2. There is hereby established the "Workforce Diploma  
118 Program" within the department of elementary and secondary  
119 education to assist students with obtaining a high school  
120 diploma and developing employability and career technical  
121 skills. The program may be delivered in campus-based,  
122 blended, or online modalities.

123           3. (1)           Before September 1, 2022, and annually  
124 thereafter, the department shall issue a request for  
125 qualifications for interested program providers to become  
126 approved program providers and participate in the program.  
127           (2) Each approved program provider shall meet all of  
128 the following qualifications:  
129           (a) Be an accredited high school diploma-granting  
130 entity;  
131           (b) Have a minimum of two years of experience  
132 providing adult dropout recovery services;  
133           (c) Provide academic skill intake assessments and  
134 transcript evaluations to each student. Such academic skill  
135 intake assessments may be administered in person or online;  
136           (d) Develop a learning plan for each student that  
137 integrates graduation requirements and career goals;  
138           (e) Provide a course catalog that includes all courses  
139 necessary to meet graduation requirements;  
140           (f) Offer remediation opportunities in literacy and  
141 numeracy, as applicable;  
142           (g) Offer employability skills certification, as  
143 applicable;  
144           (h) Offer career pathways coursework, as applicable;  
145           (i) Ability to provide preparation for industry-  
146 recognized credentials or stackable credentials, a technical  
147 skills assessment, or a combination thereof; and  
148           (j) Offer career placement services, as applicable.  
149           (3) Upon confirmation by the department that an  
150 interested program provider meets all of the qualifications  
151 listed in subdivision (2) of this subsection, an interested  
152 program provider shall become an approved program provider.  
153           4. (1) The department shall announce the approved  
154 program providers before October sixteenth annually, with

155 authorization for the approved program providers to begin  
156 enrolling students before November fifteenth annually.

157 (2) Approved program providers shall maintain approval  
158 without reapplying annually if the approved program provider  
159 has not been removed from the approved program provider list  
160 under this section.

161 5. All approved program providers shall comply with  
162 requirements as provided by the department to ensure:

163 (1) An accurate accounting of a student's accumulated  
164 credits toward a high school diploma;

165 (2) An accurate accounting of credits necessary to  
166 complete a high school diploma; and

167 (3) The provision of coursework aligned to the  
168 academic performance standards of the state.

169 6. (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this  
170 subsection, the department shall pay an amount as set by the  
171 department to approved program providers for the following  
172 milestones provided by the approved program provider:

173 (a) Completion of each half unit of high school credit;

174 (b) Attainment of an employability skills  
175 certification;

176 (c) Attainment of an industry-recognized credential,  
177 technical skills assessment, or stackable credential  
178 requiring no more than fifty hours of training;

179 (d) Attainment of an industry-recognized credential or  
180 stackable credential requiring at least fifty-one but no  
181 more than one hundred hours of training;

182 (e) Attainment of an industry-recognized credential or  
183 stackable credential requiring more than one hundred hours  
184 of training; and

185 (f) Attainment of an accredited high school diploma.

186 (2) No approved program provider shall receive funding  
187 for a student under this section if the approved program

188 provider receives federal or state funding or private  
189 tuition for that student. No approved program provider  
190 shall charge student fees of any kind including, but not  
191 limited to, textbook fees, tuition fees, lab fees, or  
192 participation fees unless the student chooses to obtain  
193 additional education offered by the approved program  
194 provider that is not included in the state-funded program.

195 (3) Payments made under this subsection shall be  
196 subject to an appropriation made to the department for such  
197 purposes.

198 7. (1) Approved program providers shall submit  
199 monthly invoices to the department before the eleventh  
200 calendar day of each month for milestones met in the  
201 previous calendar month.

202 (2) The department shall pay approved program  
203 providers in the order in which invoices are submitted until  
204 all available funds are exhausted.

205 (3) The department shall provide a written update to  
206 approved program providers by the last calendar day of each  
207 month. The update shall include the aggregate total dollars  
208 that have been paid to approved program providers to date  
209 and the estimated number of enrollments still available for  
210 the program year.

211 8. Before July sixteenth of each year, each provider  
212 shall report the following metrics to the department for  
213 each individual cohort, on a cohort-by-cohort basis:

214 (1) The total number of students who have been funded  
215 through the program;

216 (2) The total number of credits earned;

217 (3) The total number of employability skills  
218 certifications issued;

219 (4) The total number of industry-recognized  
220 credentials, stackable credentials, and technical skills  
221 assessments earned for each tier of funding;  
222 (5) The total number of graduates;  
223 (6) The average cost per graduate once the stipulated  
224 time to make such a calculation has passed; and  
225 (7) The graduation rate once the stipulated time to  
226 make such a calculation has passed.

227 9. (1) Before September sixteenth of each year, each  
228 approved program provider shall conduct and submit to the  
229 department the aggregate results of a survey of each  
230 individual cohort, on a cohort-by-cohort basis, who  
231 graduated from the program of the approved program provider  
232 under this section. The survey shall be conducted in the  
233 year after the year in which the individuals graduate and  
234 the next four consecutive years.

235 (2) The survey shall include at least the following  
236 data collection elements for each year the survey is  
237 conducted:

238 (a) The individual's employment status, including  
239 whether the individual is employed full time or part time;  
240 (b) The individual's hourly wages;  
241 (c) The individual's access to employer-sponsored  
242 health care; and  
243 (d) The individual's postsecondary enrollment status,  
244 including whether the individual has completed a  
245 postsecondary certificate or degree program.

246 10. (1) Beginning at the end of the second fiscal  
247 year of the program, the department shall review data from  
248 each approved program provider to ensure that each is  
249 achieving minimum program performance standards including,  
250 but not limited to:

251 (a) A minimum fifty percent average graduation rate  
252 per cohort; and

253 (b) An average cost per graduate per cohort of seven  
254 thousand dollars or less.

255 (2) Any approved program provider that fails to meet  
256 the minimum program performance standards described in  
257 subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be placed on  
258 probationary status for the remainder of the fiscal year by  
259 the department.

260 (3) Any approved program provider that fails to meet  
261 the minimum program performance standards described in  
262 subdivision (1) of this subsection for two consecutive years  
263 shall be removed from the approved program provider list by  
264 the department.

265 11. (1) No approved program provider shall  
266 discriminate against a student on the basis of race, color,  
267 religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexuality, gender,  
268 or age.

269 (2) If an approved program provider determines that a  
270 student would be better served by participating in a  
271 different program, the approved program provider may refer  
272 the student to the state's adult basic education services.

273 12. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury  
274 the "Workforce Diploma Program Fund", which shall consist of  
275 any grants, gifts, donations, bequests, or moneys  
276 appropriated under this section. The state treasurer shall  
277 be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections  
278 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve  
279 disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and, upon  
280 appropriation, moneys in the fund shall be used solely as  
281 provided in this section.

282 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080  
283 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end

284 of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the  
285 general revenue fund.

286 (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the  
287 fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any  
288 interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be  
289 credited to the fund.

290 13. The director of the department may promulgate all  
291 necessary rules and regulations for the administration of  
292 this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term  
293 is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the  
294 authority delegated in this section shall become effective  
295 only if it complies with and is subject to all of the  
296 provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section  
297 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and  
298 if any of the powers vested with the general assembly  
299 pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective  
300 date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently  
301 held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking  
302 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28,  
303 2022, shall be invalid and void.

304 14. ~~Under section 23.253 of the Missouri sunset act:~~  
305 ~~(1) The provisions of the new program authorized under~~  
306 ~~this section shall automatically sunset six years after~~  
307 ~~August 28, 2022, unless reauthorized by an act of the~~  
308 ~~general assembly; and~~  
309 ~~(2) If such program is reauthorized, the program~~  
310 ~~authorized under this section shall automatically sunset~~  
311 ~~twelve years after the effective date of the reauthorization~~  
312 ~~of this section; and~~  
313 ~~(3) This section shall terminate on September first of~~  
314 ~~the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in~~  
315 ~~which the program authorized under this section is sunset.~~

316       ~~15~~] If any provision of this section or its  
317 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid,  
318 such determination shall not affect the provisions or  
319 applications of the remainder of this act which may be given  
320 effect without the invalid provision or application, and to  
321 that end the provisions of this section are severable."; and  
322       Further amend the title and enacting clause accordingly.

SENATE AMENDMENT NO. 5Offered by Gregory of 21Amend SS/HCS/House Bill Nos. 2097 & 1905, Page 32, Section 166.715, Line 10,

2 by inserting after all of said line the following:

3 "173.365. 1. Four members of the authority shall  
4 constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business  
5 and exercising the powers of the authority. Action may be  
6 taken by the authority upon the affirmative vote of at least  
7 four of its members. Members may participate in a meeting  
8 by means of conference telephone or similar communications  
9 equipment whereby all persons participating in or attending  
10 the meeting can communicate with each other, and  
11 participation in a meeting in this manner shall constitute  
12 presence in person at the meeting for all purposes. Each  
13 meeting of the authority for any purpose whatsoever shall be  
14 open to the public. Notice of meetings shall be given as  
15 provided in the bylaws of the authority. The proceedings  
16 and actions of the authority shall comply with all statutory  
17 requirements respecting the conduct of public business by a  
18 public agency. Members of the authority shall receive no  
19 compensation for services but shall be entitled to  
20 reimbursement for necessary expenses, including traveling  
21 and lodging expenses, incurred in the discharge of their  
22 duties. Any payment for expenses shall be paid from funds  
23 of the authority.

24 2. The authority shall observe the privacy and  
25 confidentiality provisions of federal and state law in its

*Offered 5/14/26*

*Adopted 5/14/26*

26 operations including the protection of financial information  
27 and trade secrets. Notwithstanding any other provision of  
28 law to the contrary, including chapters 109, 173, or 610:

29 (1) Public records may be closed by the authority to  
30 the extent they relate in any way to student loan servicing  
31 by the authority, including, but not limited to, records  
32 pertaining to the performance of a student loan servicing  
33 contract, payments made or received pursuant to such  
34 contract, or business relationships or communications  
35 related to operations or performance pursuant to such  
36 contract, provided this closure shall not be applicable to  
37 records requests by other Missouri governmental entities; and

38 (2) Nothing in subdivision (3) of subsection 1 of  
39 section 173.385 shall be deemed to be a waiver of  
40 any legal defense of the authority, including, but not  
41 limited to, sovereign immunity in any of its forms."; and

42 Further amend the title and enacting clause accordingly.