

SS SCS HB 2896 -- EDUCATION

WORKFORCE DIPLOMA PROGRAM (Section 173.831)

Current law provides for the Workforce Diploma Program to assist students with obtaining a high school diploma and developing employability and career technical skills, with such program scheduled to sunset on August 28, 2028.

This bill repeals the sunset provision for this section.

HIGHER EDUCATION BOARDS' APPOINTEES (Sections 174.300, 174.332, 174.450, 174.453, 174.610, 175.020, and 178.632)

This bill changes the residency requirements for board members of certain specified public colleges and universities. The bill limits the number of board appointees that can reside in the city or county of the principal administrative office of the college or university.

The bill applies to Harris-Stowe State College, Northwest Missouri State University, Missouri State University, Missouri Southern State University, University of Central Missouri, Southeast Missouri State University, Truman State University, Lincoln University of Missouri, and State Technical College of Missouri.

Additionally, the bill modifies the governing board of Missouri State University so that no less than seven members will each be residents of different congressional districts of this state; provided that no more than one member will be appointed from any one congressional district. In addition to the seven members appointed, two members will be appointed at-large and will not be required to reside in a congressional district not otherwise represented on the board.

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION (Section 178.530)

The bill ends the current pilot program for agriculture education in elementary schools and authorizes that beginning in the 2027-28 school year the program can be implemented by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education statewide for all elementary schools that elect to participate. The bill removes the requirement for reporting to the House and Senate committees on agriculture and education and instead requires the report to be posted on the Department's website.