



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2585		DATE: 3/3/2026	
COMMITTEE: Higher Education and Workforce Development			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 11:43 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am in Favor of this Bill and providing Federal Pell-Grants to Trade Schools and Courses.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BRIAN MILLNER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-541-3860	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 2420 HYDE PARK RD.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CHANCE HEPOLA		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: JAMES HARRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-761-7875
REPRESENTING: FGA ACTION		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 122 E. HIGH., SUITE 200		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: THOMAS E HOHN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2026 8:40 AM
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I only want to submit testimony



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2026 11:04 AM
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HB 2585 modifies the Missouri Workforce Development Board and establishes a state approval structure for workforce Pell grant-eligible programs. The principal constitutional exposure arises from delegation, incorporation of federal law, and conditional rulemaking provisions.

**1. Dynamic Incorporation of Federal Law
 (Mo. Const. Art. II §1 – Separation of Powers)**

Section 620.511 provides that if a federal law supplants WIOA, references automatically apply to the new federal law. Section 620.514 similarly defers to federal workforce Pell grant requirements and provides that federal law governs in case of conflict.

Automatic incorporation of future federal statutes or regulations raises separation-of-powers concerns if Missouri law is altered prospectively without further legislative action.

Courts may scrutinize whether this constitutes an improper delegation of legislative authority to federal actors.

**2. Delegation of Approval Authority
 (Mo. Const. Art. II §1)**

The governor, in consultation with the board, is authorized to approve workforce training programs based on broad criteria (“high-skill,” “high-wage,” “in-demand”). These terms rely on projections and board-determined data standards.

While the statute provides general criteria, it leaves substantial discretion to executive actors to define eligibility metrics and evidentiary standards by rule.

Missouri permits delegation with adequate standards. Litigation exposure would focus on whether the statutory definitions sufficiently constrain executive discretion.

**3. Rulemaking and Legislative Review Clause
 (Mo. Const. Art. II §1)**

Section 620.512 includes a nonseverability clause tied to legislative review powers under Chapter 536. If legislative review authority were invalidated, rulemaking authority becomes void.

Although not independently unconstitutional, this clause embeds conditional instability and could invalidate the program if separation-of-powers litigation arises concerning legislative veto authority.

**4. Equal Protection Considerations
(U.S. Const. Amend. XIV; Mo. Const. Art. I §2)**

The statute differentiates between programs based on wage levels, skill requirements, and labor market demand. These are economic classifications reviewed under rational basis. No suspect classifications are present.

Facial equal protection risk is low. As-applied challenges could arise if approval decisions are arbitrary.

5. Federal Preemption Structure

Section 620.514(4) provides that federal law governs in the event of conflict. This savings clause reduces, rather than increases, preemption risk. However, it reinforces the dynamic federal incorporation concern noted above.

Vote no.