

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 393

## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES JONES (89) (Sponsor), DIECKHAUS, McNARY, BARNES,  
RICHARDSON, KOENIG, SCHOELLER AND CROSS (Co-sponsors).

0904L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To amend chapter 160, RSMo, by adding thereto four new sections relating to the parent empowerment and choice act.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 160, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto four new sections, to be  
2 known as sections 160.1200, 160.1202, 160.1204, and 160.1206, to read as follows:

**160.1200. 1. The provisions of sections 160.1200 to 160.1206 shall be known as the  
2 "Parent Empowerment and Choice Act" or the "Parent Trigger Act".**

3 **2. As used in sections 160.1200 to 160.1206, the following terms mean:**

4 **(1) "Parent", the natural parent or adoptive parent or guardian of a dependent  
5 child;**

6 **(2) "School district of enrollment", a school district other than the school district  
7 in which the parent of a pupil resides, but in which the parent of the pupil nevertheless  
8 intends to enroll the pupil under sections 160.1200 to 160.1206;**

9 **(3) "School district of residence", a school district in which the parent of a pupil  
10 resides and in which the pupil would otherwise be required to enroll under state law.**

**160.1202. 1. For all public schools where more than fifty percent of the parents of  
2 pupils attending school, or a combination of more than fifty percent of the parents of  
3 pupils attending the school and the elementary or middle schools that normally matriculate  
4 into a middle or high school, as applicable, sign a petition requesting the local educational  
5 agency to implement one or more of the three interventions identified under subsection 3**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

6 of this section, the local educational agency shall implement the option requested by the parents.

7           **2. The local educational agency shall notify the superintendent and the state board**  
8 **upon receipt of a petition and upon its final disposition of that petition. The local**  
9 **educational agency shall have one hundred eighty days to implement the chosen model of**  
10 **reform.**

11           **3. There are three school intervention models: restart model, school closure, and**  
12 **educational choice.**

13           **(1) A restart model is one in which a local educational agency converts a school or**  
14 **closes and reopens a school under a charter school operator, a charter management**  
15 **organization, or an education management organization that has been selected through a**  
16 **rigorous review process. A charter management organization is a nonprofit organization**  
17 **that operates or manages charter schools by centralizing or sharing certain functions and**  
18 **resources among schools. An education management organization is a for-profit or**  
19 **nonprofit organization that provides whole school operation services to a local educational**  
20 **agency. A restart model shall enroll, within the grades it services, any former student who**  
21 **wishes to attend the school.**

22           **(2) School closure occurs when a local educational agency closes a school and**  
23 **enrolls the students who attended that school in other schools within the local educational**  
24 **agency that are higher achieving. These other schools should be within reasonable**  
25 **proximity to the closed school and may include, but are not limited to, charter schools or**  
26 **new schools for which achievement data are not yet available. In the event no such school**  
27 **exists, the district shall implement the educational choice model.**

28           **(3) Educational choice occurs when a local educational agency implements a school**  
29 **voucher program under section 160.1204.**

**160.1204. 1. Any student of, or student who would naturally matriculate into, a**  
2 **school triggered for the educational choice reform option shall have the option to receive**  
3 **a monetary voucher to cover the cost of attendance at any private or other public school.**

4           **2. Any student of a triggered school wishing to attend a private school shall qualify**  
5 **for an annual scholarship in an amount equal to the lesser of:**

6           **(1) Seventy-five percent of the triggered school's annual cost per pupil, including**  
7 **both operational and capital facility costs; or**

8           **(2) Seventy-five percent of the dollar amount the resident school district would have**  
9 **received to serve and educate the eligible student from state and local sources had the**  
10 **student enrolled there.**

11           **3. Any student of a triggered school wishing to attend a different public school shall**  
12 **qualify for any public school with no additional fee.**

13           **4. Funds available to a student are calculated using an average of the last three**  
14 **budget years and recalculated each year.**

15           **5. Funds are made available to each student until the earlier of completion of his**  
16 **or her high school degree or his or her twenty-first birthday.**

17           **6. Students receiving voucher moneys are to be counted in the enrollment figures**  
18 **of their local educational agencies for the purposes of calculating future voucher moneys.**

19           **7. Students receiving voucher moneys more than the cost of tuition in a private**  
20 **school are given the opportunity to store that money in an educational savings account to**  
21 **be used for any additionally encumbered educational expenses. Qualifying expenses**  
22 **include but are not limited to tutoring, lessons, educational camps, school materials,**  
23 **textbooks, and educational software.**

**160.1206. There are no additional regulatory powers granted to the state in sections**  
2 **160.1200 to 160.1206. The educational voucher reform option of section 160.1204 does not**  
3 **expand the regulatory authority of the state, its officers, or any school district in any way.**  
4 **Any regulatory board in existence shall be represented in at least half by members not a**  
5 **part of the public school system.**

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