

HCS SCS SB 563 -- HIGHER EDUCATION

This bill changes the laws regarding higher education.

MISSOURI HIGHER EDUCATION SAVINGS PROGRAM (Section 166.415, RSMo)

The board of the Missouri Higher Education Savings Program is required to study investment plans of other states and contract with or negotiate to provide benefit options that are the same as or similar to other states' qualified plans for the purpose of offering additional options for members of the plan for any new contract entered into after August 28, 2012.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH (Section 172.803)

Currently, the University of Missouri Board of Curators can award an individual grant for a research project on Alzheimer's disease and related disorders for up to \$30,000 per year. The bill raises the maximum annual grant amount to \$50,000.

EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES (Section 173.300)

The bill corrects the name of the organization referred to in the provisions regarding the Compact for Education in Section 173.300 from the Educational Commission of the States to the Education Commission of the States.

HIGHER EDUCATION CAPITAL FUND (Section 173.480)

The Higher Education Capital Fund is created for the General Assembly to appropriate moneys to provide matching funds to public colleges and universities for new construction, rehabilitation, maintenance, renovation, or reconstruction, except that matching funds cannot be used for any athletic facilities, parking structures, or student housing. The state cannot issue bonds to provide funding, and no moneys in the fund can be distributed without a line item appropriation for a specific project and must be limited to 50% of the project's cost. An institution must apply to the Commissioner of Higher Education within the Department of Higher Education demonstrating that it has obtained 50% of the project's cost through private donations or grants. No moneys from the fund can be made available to match moneys that a public college or university has obtained from its operating budget, tuition, fees, the issuance of revenue or general obligation bonds, or any state appropriation. The commissioner must create an application and establish procedures for public colleges or universities to follow in order to receive matching moneys and will administer the fund. The State Treasurer is the custodian of the fund and may approve disbursements from it and must invest its moneys in

the same manner as other state funds. The fund is a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, money in the fund must be used solely for the administration of these provisions and any remaining moneys in the fund at the end of the biennium will not revert to the General Revenue Fund.

MISSOURI SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS INITIATIVE (Section 173.600)

The Missouri Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Initiative is established within the Department of Higher Education to increase interest and the number of graduates in these fields. The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Fund is created for appropriated moneys to match institutional funds to support endowed teaching professorships, scholarships, youth programs, and career enhancement programs for elementary and secondary teachers and professors at Missouri public and private colleges and universities regarding these fields of study.

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK CERTIFICATION (Sections 173.1400 and 337.647)

Accredited Missouri colleges and universities are authorized to issue a document of school social work program verification and acknowledgment of completion to anyone who has obtained a degree in social work from an accredited college or university and holds a credential in school social work issued by a nationally recognized credentialing organization or demonstrates competency in school social work by successfully passing a school social worker examination approved by the State Committee for Social Workers within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration and administered by the accredited college or university. The Department of Higher Education must develop a form containing the required information to be included in the document that the college or university may issue to qualified applicants.

The committee must develop a program verification and acknowledgment of completion and issue a document to qualified individuals who submit an application and pay the fee established by rule. Any verification and acknowledgment of completion cannot be deemed a license, certificate, registration, or permit for any purpose and conveys no authority to practice social work or to use any social work title in Missouri.

UNIVERSITY GOVERNING BOARDS (Section 174.450)

The bill specifies that not more than two voting members of the Northwest Missouri State University Board of Regents may be residents of the same county.

The term lengths for the appointments to fill six terms on the Missouri State University Board of Governors that expired in 2011 are revised so that the term of no more than three board members will expire in any given year. The term of three members will expire on January 1, 2013, three on January 1, 2015, and three on January 1, 2017. Current law requires that no more than three terms expire in any given year but does not provide for the staggered term lengths necessary to accomplish this.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROPERTY (Section 177.011)

Currently, community college districts and public school districts may own real property only within their district boundaries. The bill specifies that this provision will not apply to community college districts, and that these provisions cannot be construed to impair the duty and authority of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education in the Department of Higher Education to approve new academic programs under Section 173.005.

HIGHER EDUCATION FOUNDATION LICENSE PLATES (Sections 301.449 and 301.3150)

Currently, any community college or four-year institution of higher education in Missouri may authorize the use of the school's official emblem on a personalized license plate. The bill specifies that only a community college or four-year institution of higher education in Missouri or a foundation or organization representing the Missouri college or institution may itself authorize or may by the Director of the Department of Revenue be authorized to use the school's official emblem on a personalized license plate. An organization seeking a collegiate specialty license plate must apply directly to the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight instead of petitioning the Department of Revenue. An application to the department director for a proposed specialty license plate, except for a military or collegiate plate, must have a legislative sponsor in the same legislative session in which the application is reviewed.

MISSOURI ENTREPRENEUR RESOURCE VIRTUAL NETWORK (Section 620.2400)

The Missouri Entrepreneur Resource Virtual Network is established to provide resources for the development of businesses. The Missouri Small Business and Technology Development Centers must seek private sector funding to develop, maintain, and market a virtual network to provide seamless access to statewide resources and expertise for entrepreneurs and existing businesses using private funds. The private funds must be for the general support of the virtual network and cannot be used to sponsor specific portions of the network. The goal of the network is to assist in

the creation of new Missouri ventures, the growth of existing businesses, and the ability of Missouri entrepreneurs to compete globally. The centers must apply search engine optimization to the website's content to achieve top search engine rankings. By September 30, 2012, the centers must report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the Senate and House of Representatives committees with jurisdiction over economic development and state government finances on the plans and progress toward the development of the network, including detailed information on donations received and expenditures made by the centers.

MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY CONVEYANCES (Section 1)

The Board of Governors of Missouri State University is authorized to convey a street right-of-way at National Avenue and Monroe Street and a street right-of-way, drainage easement, and sanitary sewer easement at National Avenue and Grand Street to the City of Springfield.

The provisions of the bill regarding university governing boards and the Department of Higher Education's duties in verifying and acknowledging a person's completion of a school social work program contain an emergency clause.