

HB 867 -- Missouri Biosciences Eminent Scholars Program

Sponsor: Barnes

This bill establishes the Missouri Biosciences Eminent Scholars Program at the University of Missouri to provide grants to raise funds for the university system and foundations to endow chairs to attract eminent bioscience scholars. When a campus receives an award under the program, it must deposit the moneys into a new or existing endowment fund and use the income generated from the fund to finance the program. Any award received under the program must not be used in any manner so as to conflict with provisions of state law that prohibit life sciences research performed with public funding from including human cloning or abortion. The President of the University of Missouri Board of Curators must make awards in a manner that the aggregate, statewide amount of money pledged to the program in each fiscal year equals at least 100% of the total amount of money awarded under the program that year and must distribute awards so that all regions of the state benefit.

The Missouri Biosciences Eminent Scholars Endowment Trust Fund is created which will consist of moneys appropriated by the General Assembly as a separate line item appropriation with the board of curators as trustees of the fund. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2014, up to \$500,000 may be appropriated to the program in addition to the university's base appropriation each year. The trustees may make challenge grants to foundations, which require at least 50% but no more than 75% of the amount necessary to endow a chair, although the percentages may be revised at any time by the trustees. The bill establishes procedures for creating the endowed chairs.

The provisions of the bill will expire six years after the effective date.