

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 904

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CURTIS.

1869L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 161, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the establishment of the 8 in 6 program.

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

Section A. Chapter 160, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 161.980, to read as follows:

161.980. 1. There is hereby established within the department of elementary and secondary education a program to be known as the "8 in 6 Program". Under this program, the two years of seventh and eighth grade, the four years of high school, and the first two years of college or professional-technical preparation that normally take eight years to complete are compressed into six years by taking full-course loads during the school year and one or two online courses during the summer or as online overload courses. Students who successfully complete the program will conclude high school with an associates degree. For purposes of this section, the following terms mean:

- (1) "Full-course load", no fewer than fourteen credits per school year;**
- (2) "Overload course", a course taken that is in excess of or more than the number of courses taken in the normal school day as a normal school day is defined for purposes of average-daily attendance under section 163.011;**
- (3) "Parent", parent or parents or guardian or guardians;**
- (4) "School district", a Missouri school district or a public charter school that provides education to any grades 7 through 12;**

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.

16 (5) "School year", the normal school year that begins upon the conclusion of the
17 break between grades and ends upon the beginning of the same break of the following year.

18 2. Under the 8 in 6 program, the department of elementary and secondary
19 education shall pay for a portion of the cost of summer online courses and online overload
20 courses as provided for in subdivision (2) of this subsection from moneys appropriated for
21 this purpose. In order to participate in the program, a student and his or her parent shall
22 sign an agreement that the student will:

23 (1) Take and successfully complete dual credit or professional-technical education
24 courses for at least a portion of the student's courses during the eleventh and twelfth grade
25 years. Funding for this requirement will not be provided by the 8 in 6 program; and

26 (2) Take and successfully complete at least one summer online or online overload
27 course and a full-course load of at least fourteen credits per-school year. The state shall
28 pay two hundred twenty-five dollars per-one credit summer online course or one-credit
29 online overload course taken in this program. Provided however, that if the Missouri K-12
30 Virtual Instruction Program (MoVIP) receives a state guarantee or appropriation of at
31 least five million dollars for fiscal year 2015, the state shall pay no moneys for the 8 in 6
32 program for that fiscal year, and MoVIP shall provide the online courses necessary to meet
33 the needs of the 8 in 6 program for that fiscal year, at a cost not to exceed seventy-five
34 dollars per course. The state shall pay for no more than two credits of online overload
35 courses per student per-school year. The state shall pay for no more than two credits of
36 summer online courses per student per summer. The state shall pay for no more than a
37 combined total of four credits of summer online or online overload courses per student per
38 year. The state shall pay for no more than a combined total of eight credits of summer
39 online and online overload courses per student during such student's participation in the
40 program.

41 3. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "8 in 6 Program Fund". The
42 state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and
43 30.180, the state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund
44 and, upon appropriation, money in the fund shall be used solely for the administration of
45 this section. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080, to the contrary, any moneys
46 remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the
47 general revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same
48 manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments
49 shall be credited to the fund.

50 4. Participation in the 8 in 6 program shall be limited to no more than twenty-five
51 percent of students in each grade 7 through 12. Such limitation shall be applied initially

52 on a school district-by-school district, grade-by-grade basis. If any grades do not fully
53 utilize their available participation slots, the school district shall reallocate said
54 participation slots to those grades in which more than twenty-five of the students have
55 applied for participation in the program. If any school districts do not fully utilize their
56 available participation slots by July first, the department of elementary and secondary
57 education shall reallocate the participation slots to those districts in which more than
58 twenty-five percent of the students have applied for participation in the program. Students
59 accepted into the program shall remain in the program from year to year unless they sign
60 a withdrawal form developed by the department of elementary and secondary education.
61 If a participating student transfers from one school district to another, such student shall
62 remain enrolled in the program, the twenty-five percent participation limitation of the
63 student's new school district notwithstanding. The department of elementary and
64 secondary education shall maintain a list of participants.

65 5. If the number of students applying for participation in the program exceeds the
66 number of participation slots available in the school district, the school district shall
67 establish participation preference criteria. Such criteria shall include students who have
68 successfully completed at least one online course prior to participating in the program, and
69 may include any of the following:

- 70 (1) Grade-point average;
- 71 (2) State achievement test results;
- 72 (3) Other school district administered student assessments.

73 6. If a student participating in the program fails to complete with a grade of C or
74 better one or more summer online or online overload courses while in the program, the
75 student shall pay for and successfully complete a summer online or online overload course
76 with a grade of C or better before continuing in the program.

77 7. The school district shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that any student who
78 considers participating in the program considers the challenges and time necessary to
79 succeed in the program. Such efforts by the district shall be performed prior to a student
80 participating in the program.

81 8. To qualify as an eligible course for the program, the course must be offered by
82 a provider accredited by the organization that accredits Missouri high schools or an
83 organization whose accreditation of providers is recognized by the organization that
84 accredits Missouri high schools. Dual credit, advanced placement, and concurrent
85 enrollment courses are not eligible under the program.

86 9. The department of elementary and secondary education may promulgate all
87 necessary rules and regulations for the administration of this section. Any rule or portion

88 of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority
89 delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all
90 of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and
91 chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly
92 pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul
93 a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and
94 any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2015, shall be invalid and void.

95 10. Under section 23.253 of the Missouri sunset act:

96 (1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this section shall
97 automatically sunset six years after the effective date of this section unless reauthorized by
98 an act of the general assembly; and

99 (2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized under this section
100 shall automatically sunset twelve years after the effective date of the reauthorization of this
101 section; and

102 (3) This section shall terminate on September first of the calendar year immediately
103 following the calendar year in which the program authorized under this section is sunset.

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