

HB 2123 -- MISSOURI COURSE ACCESS PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Spencer

This bill establishes the Missouri Course Access Program. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Specifies that the purpose of the program is to allow public school eligible students to enroll in on-line, blended, and face-to-face courses to supplement coursework offered at the school where the student is enrolled separate from the Missouri Virtual Instruction Program as provided (Section 161.1010, RSMo);
- (2) Allows the local education agency to review enrollment requests to ensure courses are academically appropriate and feasible to keep a student on track for an on-time graduation and requires the agency to inform students and families of their right to appeal any enrollment denials to the Department of Elementary decision within seven days (Section 161.1011);
- (3) Requires the department to establish an authorization process for course providers, no later than 90 days from the initial submission date, that meets established criteria, provide courses offering instructional rigor and scope (Section 161.1012);
- (4) Requires the department to publish the process established under these provisions, including any deadlines and any guidelines applicable to the submission and authorization process for providers (Section 161.1013);
- (5) Specifies the requirements for the department including publishing criteria; creating the catalog; publishing a link to the catalog on the department's website; establishing a time frame, including withdrawal dates; and maintaining an informed choice report on the website that includes specified information (Section 161.1014);
- (6) Requires the department to submit an annual report on the program and the participation of entities to the Governor and the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Joint Committee on Education that includes specified information. The report must be published on-line in an open format (Section 161.1017);
- (7) Requires school districts and charter schools to notify students and parents as part of any course enrollment period or process of the availability of program courses in correspondence that is written in simple and accurate language, provide information by letter or email to students and parents at home and by at least two other means, and publish information and

eligibility guidelines on the school and school district's websites (Section 161.1018);

(8) Requires the performance data of students who are enrolled in a course under these provisions to be counted in the school performance score for the school in which the student is enrolled full time (Section 161.1018);

(9) Specifies the determinations for per-course tuition under the program (Section 161.1019);

(10) Clarifies that the funding mechanism for the program must be paid from the department to the local education agency and from the local education agency to the course provider only for courses in which a student is enrolled and any remaining funds must remain with the local education agency in which the student is enrolled full time (Section 161.1019); and

(11) Bases the payment of tuition to course providers upon student success and the tuition to be made on a specified ratio (Section 161.1019).

The effective date for these provisions is January 1, 2017.

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

This bill is similar to HB 565 (2015).