

CCS HCS SB 997 -- HIGHER EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION ENTITY PARTICIPATION IN MISSOURI CONSOLIDATED HEALTH CARE PLAN (Sections 103.003 and 103.079, RSMo)

This bill allows a participating higher education entity to elect to participate in the Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan, as stipulated.

PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS (Section 105.1445)

On or before April 1, 2017, the governing body of each public employer shall adopt a policy that provides up-to-date, accurate, and complete information to each new employee regarding eligibility within 10 days of the start of employment. Public employers shall provide current employees with the same information on or before June 30, 2017.

POST-SECONDARY COURSE OPTIONS (Section 167.223)

Currently, public high schools may, in cooperation with public community colleges and public or private four-year colleges and universities, offer postsecondary course options to high school students. This bill broadens community colleges to two-year colleges.

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION WEBSITE (Section 173.005)

This bill will require the Coordinating Board for Higher Education to maintain and publish on its website a list of post-secondary educational institutions meeting requirements described within the bill.

This provision of the bill contains an emergency clause.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER ED WEBSITE (Section 173.035)

This bill requires the Department of Higher Education to develop, maintain, and operate a website containing information for public and private institutions of higher education in Missouri directing students to resources including, but not limited to, academic programs, financial aid, and how courses may be transferred from one institution of higher education to another. The information on the website must be made available to the public and must be accessible from various devices including, but not limited to, computers, tablets, and other electronic communication devices. Inclusion of institution information on the website is voluntary, and institutions of higher education may elect to have institutional information included on the website by notifying the

department.

WARTIME VETERAN'S SURVIVOR GRANT (Section 173.234)

This bill also reauthorizes the Wartime Veteran's Survivor Grant program, which provides higher education financial aid to the spouses and children of wartime veterans. Children and spouses of injured veterans shall be covered by this program if they were children or spouses within five years subsequent to the injury. This provision shall sunset on August 28, 2020, unless reauthorized by the General Assembly.

This provision of the bill contains an emergency clause.

DUAL CREDIT (Section 173.2500)

This bill establishes a process for certifying an institution of higher education as an approved dual credit provider. To become an approved dual credit provider, an institution of higher education shall annually submit a written application to the Coordinating Board of Higher Education, as described in the bill.

A dual credit course may not be advertised or represented as being delivered by an approved dual credit provider unless an application is approved by the Coordinating Board.

DUAL SCHOLARSHIP ACT (Section 173.2505)

This bill establishes the "Dual Credit Scholarship Act," which provides funds, subject to appropriation, for eligible students enrolled in dual credit courses. The scholarship shall reimburse students for up to 50% of the tuition cost paid by the student, with a total amount not to exceed \$500 annually. To be eligible, a student shall: Be a United States citizen or permanent resident, be a Missouri resident, be enrolled in an approved dual credit program offered by an approved dual credit provider, have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 point scale, and meet one or more requirements based on economic need, as described in the bill.

The bill creates the "Dual Credit Scholarship Fund," which consists of moneys appropriated by the General Assembly and private donations made to the fund.

15 TO FINISH ACT (Section 173.2510)

This bill establishes the "15 to Finish Act." The Coordinating Board, in cooperation with public institutions of higher education, will develop policies that promote the on-time completion of degree

programs by students. The policies must: include a definition of on-time completion, provide financial incentives for students to stay/become on pace to graduate in no more than eight semesters, and reduce, when feasible, the number of credit hours required to earn a degree.

GUIDED PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS ACT (Section 173.2515)

This bill establishes the "Guided Pathways to Success Act." The Coordinating Board, in cooperation with the state's colleges and universities, must create a pilot program that will include at least two of the following: Majors organized into semester-by-semester sets of courses that lead to on-time completion; degree-based transfer pathways between participating institutions; available meta-majors, as defined in the bill; student commitment to a structured schedule of courses; and clear degree maps, proactive advising, as defined in the bill; and guarantees that required courses are available when needed by students. By January 1, 2020, the Coordinating Board shall report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the outcomes of the program.

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PILOT PROGRAM (Section 173.2520)

The Coordinating Board will establish a concurrent enrollment pilot program, in which students are enrolled in courses at both a four-year and two-year participating institution at the same time and for which the coursework is officially recorded by both institutions. The purpose of the pilot program is to provide a broader range of academic and student support services while streamlining the path to degree completion. By January 1, 2020, the Coordinating Board shall report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the outcomes of the program and provide a recommendation regarding the expansion of the program statewide.

HIGHER EDUCATION CORE CURRICULUM (Sections 178.780, 178.785, 178.786, 178.787, 178.788, and 178.789)

This bill establishes a standard core curriculum and a common course numbering equivalency matrix for lower division courses at community colleges and public four-year institutions of higher learning. The Coordinating Board of Higher Education will work in conjunction with an advisory committee, composed of representatives from community colleges and public four-year institutions, to develop a recommended core curriculum.

The core curriculum must be comprised of at least 42 semester credit hours and will cover the basic competencies to be met, including communicating, higher-order thinking, managing information, valuing, including the knowledge of areas of social

and behavioral sciences, humanities and fine arts, mathematics, and life and physical sciences. All undergraduate students of the above institutions must complete the core curriculum as a requirement of graduation.

Each community college and public four-year institution must adopt a core curriculum of no less than 42 credit hours. Such curriculum must include specific courses and be based on the core curriculum recommended by the Coordinating Board of Higher Education.

The Coordinating Board must also approve a common course numbering equivalency matrix for lower-division courses at all institutions of higher learning in the state. Beginning in the 1018-19 academic year, community colleges and four-year institutions must include in their course listings the corresponding numbers from the common course numbering equivalency matrix.

Students will be able to transfer credits earned under the core curriculum, as described within the bill. The Coordinating Board must also develop criteria to evaluate the transfer practices each public institution of higher learning in the state and subsequently evaluate each institution. Institutions of higher education must publish in its course catalogs and on its website the evaluation policies of the Coordinating Board. Students enrolled in professional programs must complete the appropriate core curriculum that is required for the corresponding accreditation or licensure.

EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION (Section 1)

If the spouse of a full time employee of a public institution of higher learning incurs out of state travel costs that are paid for or reimbursed by such institution, the employee must file a quarterly travel report with the Missouri Ethics Commission listing certain information, as described within the bill.

In addition to the quarterly reports, any spouse of a full-time employee of such institution must file reports if the spouse has such travel as described above during the one year period immediately before the effective date of this section, as described within the bill.