

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 920

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATORS COLEMAN AND BRAY.

Read 1st time January 19, 2006, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

4378S.011

AN ACT

To amend chapter 178, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the urban flight scholarship program.

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

Section A. Chapter 178, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new
2 section, to be known as section 178.232, to read as follows:

173.232. 1. There is hereby established the "Urban Flight
2 Scholarship Program", which shall be administered by the department
3 of elementary and secondary education. The program shall, upon
4 appropriation, provide scholarships, subject to the eligibility criteria
5 enumerated in this section, for eligible students who enter a teacher
6 education program and make a commitment to teach as a condition of
7 receiving such scholarship.

8 2. Subject to appropriation, each year the department of
9 elementary and secondary education shall make available to eligible
10 students up to one hundred four-year urban flight scholarships in an
11 amount that encompasses one hundred percent of the total cost of
12 eligible students' tuition and fees at a four-year college or university
13 located in Missouri. Seventy-five percent of such amount shall be paid
14 by funds appropriated to the department, and twenty-five percent of
15 such amount shall be paid by the local school district in which the
16 student agrees to teach.

17 3. As used in this section, the term "eligible student" shall mean
18 an individual who:

19 (1) Is a United States citizen and a Missouri resident who
20 attended a Missouri high school;

21 (2) Enters and makes a commitment to pursue a teacher

22 education program approved by the department of elementary and
23 secondary education and offered by a four-year college or university
24 located in Missouri;

25 (3) Signs an agreement with the department of elementary and
26 secondary education and a local school district in which the recipient
27 agrees to teach in an urban or metropolitan Missouri public school, the
28 population of which includes a higher than average "at-risk student
29 population", as such term shall be defined by the department of
30 elementary and secondary education, for two years for every one year
31 the recipient received the urban flight scholarship;

32 (4) Has graduated from high school with a cumulative grade
33 point average of at least two and one-half on a four-point scale or
34 equivalent;

35 (5) Maintains a cumulative grade point average of at least two
36 and one-half on a four-point scale or equivalent.

37 4. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of
38 scholarships or revenues available, the department of elementary and
39 secondary education may consider the financial needs of the applicant.

40 5. The scholarships provided in this section shall be available to
41 otherwise eligible students who either:

42 (1) Are currently enrolled in a community college and make a
43 commitment to pursue a teacher education program approved by the
44 department of elementary and secondary education and offered by a
45 four-year college or university located in Missouri; or

46 (2) Have completed their baccalaureate degree and agree to
47 enter a teacher education program and make a commitment to pursue
48 a teacher education program approved by the department of
49 elementary and secondary education and offered by a four-year college
50 or university located in Missouri.

51 6. Every eligible student receiving scholarships under this
52 section shall teach in an elementary or secondary public school in
53 Missouri as provided in subdivision (3) of subsection 3 of this
54 section. The student shall teach for a period of two years for every one
55 year he or she received an urban flight scholarship; otherwise, the
56 scholarship shall be treated as a loan to the eligible student, and
57 interest at the rate of nine and one-half percent per year shall be
58 charged on the unpaid balance of the amount received from the date

59 the eligible student ceases to teach until the amount received is paid
60 back to the state and the local school district. In order to provide for
61 the servicing of such loans, the department of elementary and
62 secondary education may sell such loans to the higher education loan
63 authority of the state of Missouri created pursuant to sections 173.350
64 to 173.445. For each year the student teaches, up to eight years,
65 one-eighth of the amount received pursuant to this section shall be
66 applied against the total amount received and shall not be subject to
67 the repayment requirement of this section. The department of
68 elementary and secondary education shall have the power to and shall
69 defer interest and principal payments under certain circumstances,
70 which shall include, but need not be limited to, the enrollment in a
71 graduate program or service in any branch of the armed forces of the
72 United States.

73 7. There is hereby established in the state treasury a fund to be
74 known as the "Urban Flight Scholarship Program Fund", which shall
75 consist of all moneys that may be appropriated to it by the general
76 assembly, and in addition may include any gifts, contributions, grants,
77 or bequests received from federal, state, private, or other sources. The
78 fund shall be administered by the department of elementary and
79 secondary education. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080,
80 RSMo, to the contrary, moneys in the fund shall not be transferred to
81 the credit of the general revenue fund at the end of the
82 biennium. Interest and moneys earned on the fund shall be credited to
83 the fund. Moneys in the fund shall be used solely for the purpose of
84 awarding scholarships under the provisions of this section.

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