

SENATE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 218

AN ACT

To repeal section 178.530, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to agricultural education programs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section A. Section 178.530, RSMo, is repealed and one new
2 section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 178.530,
3 to read as follows:

4 178.530. 1. The state board of education shall establish
5 standards and annually inspect, as a basis for approval, all
6 public prevocational, vocational schools, State Technical College
7 of Missouri, departments and classes receiving state or federal
8 moneys for giving training in agriculture, industrial, home
9 economics and commercial subjects and all schools, departments
10 and classes receiving state or federal moneys for the preparation
11 of teachers and supervisors of such subjects. The public
12 prevocational and vocational schools, State Technical College of
13 Missouri, departments, and classes, and the training schools,
14 departments and classes are entitled to the state or federal
15 moneys so long as they are approved by the state board of
16 education, as to site, plant, equipment, qualifications of
17 teachers, admission of pupils, courses of study and methods of
18 instruction. All disbursements of state or federal moneys for
19 the benefit of the approved prevocational and vocational schools,

1 State Technical College of Missouri, departments and classes
2 shall be made semiannually. The school board of each approved
3 school or the governing body of State Technical College of
4 Missouri shall file a report with the state board of education at
5 the times and in the form that the state board requires. Upon
6 receipt of a satisfactory report, the state board of education
7 shall certify to the commissioner of administration for his
8 approval the amount of the state and federal moneys due the
9 school district or State Technical College of Missouri. The
10 amount due the school district shall be certified by the
11 commissioner of administration and proper warrant therefor shall
12 be issued to the district treasurer or State Technical College of
13 Missouri.

14 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1 of this
15 section, the state board of education shall establish standards
16 for agricultural education that may be adopted by a private
17 school accredited by an agency recognized by the United States
18 Department of Education as an accreditor of private schools that
19 wishes to provide quality vocational programming outside the
20 requirements of, but consistent with, the federal Vocational
21 Education Act. Such standards shall be sufficient to qualify a
22 private school to apply to the state chapter for approval of a
23 local chapter of a federally chartered national agricultural
24 education association on a form developed for that purpose by the
25 department of elementary and secondary education without
26 eligibility to receive state or federal funding for agricultural
27 vocational education. The provisions of this subsection shall
28 not be construed to create eligibility for a private school to

1 receive state or federal funding for agricultural vocational
2 education, but shall not prohibit a private school from receiving
3 state or federal funds for which such private school would
4 otherwise be eligible for agricultural vocational education. Any
5 such private school shall reimburse the department annually for
6 the cost of oversight and maintenance of the program.

7 3. (1) The department of elementary and secondary
8 education, through its agricultural education section, shall be
9 authorized to establish a pilot program, beginning in the 2020-
10 2021 school year, to provide for agricultural education in
11 elementary schools in the state. The purpose of the pilot
12 program shall be to determine whether and how to implement an
13 elementary agricultural education program statewide.

14 (2) The department, through its employees who work in the
15 agricultural education section, is authorized to select from
16 among applications submitted by the public elementary schools a
17 minimum of sixteen public elementary schools for participation in
18 the pilot program. The department shall develop an application
19 process for public elementary schools to apply to participate in
20 the pilot program. The local school board for each elementary
21 school selected to be in the pilot program shall agree to
22 implement and fully fund an elementary agricultural education
23 program in such school and to continue to provide such elementary
24 agricultural education program for a period no shorter than three
25 years. The local school district may employ an agricultural
26 education teacher to provide such program for the elementary
27 school.

28 (3) The department, through its employees who work in the

1 agricultural education section, and local school districts shall
2 collaborate to establish the instructional model for each
3 elementary agricultural education program. Such instructional
4 model shall be grade-appropriate and include instruction in an
5 organized classroom, collaborative learning experiences through
6 investigation and inquiry, including laboratory and site-based
7 learning activities, and personal, leadership, and career
8 development opportunities.

9 (4) The department, through its agricultural education
10 section, shall provide for a program evaluation regarding the
11 success and impact of the pilot program upon completion of the
12 third year of the pilot program and shall report the results of
13 such evaluation to the relevant house and senate committees on
14 agriculture and education.

15 4. The department shall maintain an adequate number of
16 full-time employees, certified in agricultural education and
17 distributed regionally throughout the state, to provide
18 accountability for program delivery of agricultural education, to
19 continue to develop and maintain pertinent agricultural education
20 instructional models and standards, to assist local school
21 districts on matters related to agricultural education, and to
22 coordinate regional and state-wide activities supporting K-12
23 agricultural education programming.

24 5. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require
25 public elementary schools to participate in the pilot program.