

SENATE BILL NO. 150

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CARTER.

0068S.01I

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the career-tech certificate program.

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

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto
2 one new section, to be known as section 173.836, to read as
3 follows:

173.836. 1. This section shall be known and may be
2 cited as the "Career-Tech Certificate (CTC) Program".

3 2. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

4 (1) "Approved institution", an institution of
5 postsecondary education that is subject to the coordinating
6 board for higher education under section 173.005, offers
7 eligible programs of study or training programs, and is at
8 least one of the following:

9 (a) A public community college or vocational or
10 technical school as provided under subsection 8 of section
11 160.545;

12 (b) A two-year private vocational or technical school
13 authorized to obtain reimbursements under subsection 8 of
14 section 160.545 as provided under subsection 10 of section
15 160.545;

16 (c) An approved virtual institution, as defined in
17 section 173.1102; or

18 (d) An eligible training provider;

19 (2) "Department", the department of higher education
20 and workforce development;

21 (3) "Eligible program of study", a program of
22 instruction for which the required length for completion of
23 such program does not exceed the equivalent of sixty credit
24 hours or the equivalent under a different measure of student
25 progress and that results in the award of a nongraduate
26 level certificate or other industry-recognized credential
27 below the graduate level that has been designated by the
28 coordinating board for higher education as preparing
29 students to enter an area of occupational shortage as
30 determined and updated annually by such board under
31 subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of section 173.2553;

32 (4) "Eligible student", any student that meets the
33 eligibility requirements for reimbursement of tuition,
34 books, and fees under the "A+ Schools Program" created in
35 section 160.545, provided that such student has not received
36 a reimbursement for tuition, books, or fees under section
37 160.545;

38 (5) "Eligible training provider", a training
39 organization listed in the state of Missouri eligible
40 training provider system maintained by the office of
41 workforce development in the department of higher education
42 and workforce development that is not a four-year
43 institution of higher education;

44 (6) "Training program", a program of study that leads
45 to a certificate or degree and is offered by an approved
46 institution but that does not meet the length-of-program
47 requirements for an eligible program under 34 CFR 668.8, as
48 amended. The term includes, but is not limited to,
49 certified nurse assistant (CNA) programs, certified
50 medication technician (CMT) programs, level 1 medication

51 aide (L1MA) programs, insulin administration programs, or
52 commercial driver's license (CDL) programs.

53 3. (1) Beginning in the 2026-27 academic year and all
54 subsequent academic years, the department shall, by rule,
55 establish a procedure for the reimbursement of the costs of
56 tuition, books, and fees from the career-tech certificate
57 (CTC) program fund to the approved institution at which an
58 eligible student is enrolled in an eligible program of study
59 or a training program.

60 (2) No tuition reimbursements in excess of the tuition
61 rate charged by a public community college for coursework
62 offered by a two-year private vocational or technical
63 school, approved virtual institution as defined under
64 section 173.1102, or eligible training provider within the
65 service area of such college shall be reimbursed under this
66 section.

67 (3) No tuition reimbursement shall be provided under
68 this section to an eligible student who enrolls in a private
69 vocational or technical school, virtual institution, or
70 eligible training provider if a public community college or
71 vocational or technical school located within a forty-mile
72 radius of such student's domicile offers the same or a
73 substantially similar eligible program of study or training
74 program, as determined by the department on a case-by-case
75 basis.

76 (4) The reimbursements provided under this section to
77 a two-year private vocational or technical school, approved
78 virtual institution as defined under section 173.1102, or
79 eligible training provider shall not violate the provisions
80 of Article IX, Section 8, or Article I, Section 7, of the
81 Constitution of the state of Missouri, or the First
82 Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

83 4. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury
84 the "Career-Tech Certificate (CTC) Program Fund", which
85 shall consist of any moneys appropriated annually by the
86 general assembly, gifts, bequests, grants, public or private
87 donations, or transfers. The state treasurer shall be
88 custodian of the fund. The department shall administer the
89 fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the
90 state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall
91 be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, moneys in this
92 fund shall be used solely by the department for
93 reimbursements as provided in this section.

94 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080
95 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end
96 of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the
97 general revenue fund.

98 (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the
99 fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any
100 interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be
101 credited to the fund.

102 5. No rule promulgated by the department under this
103 section shall prohibit students enrolled in an eligible
104 program of study or a training program from qualifying for
105 tuition reimbursement under this section solely because the
106 eligible program of study or training program does not meet
107 the length-of-program requirements for an eligible program
108 under 34 CFR 668.8, as amended, or because the eligible
109 training provider at which a student enrolls does not
110 participate in federal student aid programs.

111 6. Eligibility for tuition, books, and fees
112 reimbursement to an approved institution as provided under
113 this section shall expire upon the earliest of:

114 (1) Receipt of the reimbursement for the required
115 length for completion of such program as determined by the
116 department;

117 (2) A student's successful completion of an eligible
118 program of study or training program; or

119 (3) A student's completion of one hundred fifty
120 percent of the time usually required to complete an eligible
121 program of study or training program.

122 7. The department may promulgate all necessary rules
123 and regulations for the implementation and administration of
124 this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term
125 is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the
126 authority delegated in this section shall become effective
127 only if it complies with and is subject to all of the
128 provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section
129 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and
130 if any of the powers vested with the general assembly
131 pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective
132 date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently
133 held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking
134 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28,
135 2025, shall be invalid and void.

✓