

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 572

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR COLEMAN.

2098S.01H

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapter 163, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to parental choice in educational opportunities, with an emergency clause.

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

Section A. Chapter 163, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 163.420, to read as follows:

163.420. 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, each parent or guardian of a child between the ages of seven years and the compulsory attendance age for the district, as defined in section 167.031, in which the parent or guardian resides, shall be afforded the opportunity at the time of enrollment to direct that state aid under this chapter that would be used to educate the student at a school within the district of residence shall be remitted to a qualified school of the parent or guardian's choice, if the parent or guardian chooses a school outside of the district of residence. A parent or guardian may choose to enroll their student in a different school within the school district of residence. The state treasurer shall create and provide to each school district a form for use by a parent or guardian at the time of enrollment to indicate the parent or guardian's choice as to the qualified school their student will attend for that school year.

19 2. The school district shall transmit any forms
20 received, as provided in subsection 1 of this section, to
21 the state treasurer. The school district shall also notify
22 the department of elementary and secondary education within
23 seven days of the parent submitting the form to the school.

24 3. Upon receipt of the form, the state treasurer shall
25 remit, within thirty days, state aid under this chapter that
26 would have been remitted to the school district of residence
27 for the purpose of educating the student to the qualified
28 school chosen by the parent or guardian if the parent or
29 guardian chooses a school outside of the school district of
30 residence.

31 4. The school district shall notify the department of
32 elementary and secondary education, within seven days of the
33 parent or guardian submitting the form, that the student
34 shall no longer be attending a school within the district,
35 if applicable. If the student enrolls in a qualified
36 school, other than a public school located in the same
37 school district of residence, the student shall not be
38 counted in the resident school district's weighted average
39 daily attendance as a resident student for purposes of
40 determining state and federal aid for the student's resident
41 school district.

42 5. As used in this section, the term "qualified
43 school" shall include any of the following entities that is
44 incorporated in Missouri and that does not discriminate on
45 the basis of race, color, or national origin:

46 (1) A charter school as defined in section 160.400;

47 (2) A private school, which shall mean a school that
48 is not part of the public school system of the state of
49 Missouri and that charges tuition for the rendering of
50 elementary and secondary educational services;

51 (3) A public school as defined in section 160.011; or

52 (4) A public or private virtual school.

53 6. As used in this section, the term "state aid" shall
54 mean the lesser of the state adequacy target for the student
55 or the amount of tuition at the qualified school.

Section B. Because of the need to provide parents with
2 certainty regarding schooling and child care arrangements
3 for the upcoming school year, section A of this act is
4 deemed necessary for the immediate preservation of the
5 public health, welfare, peace and safety, and is hereby
6 declared to be an emergency act within the meaning of the
7 constitution, and section A of this act shall be in full
8 force and effect upon its passage and approval.

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