



Summary of Financial Aid Legislation Impacting Higher Education

* Bill Number	Category Subcategory
Sponsor	<i>Official Description</i>
Party	Additional Comments
	Actions
	<i>* indicates activity this week</i>

Truly Agreed and Finally Passed

[HB 247](#)
[Loehner](#)

R

Grants & Scholarships

Nursing Student Loan Program

Modifies the definition of "eligible student" under the Nursing Student Loan Program.

The definition would be changed to include a student who is working toward a doctorate in nursing, or a doctorate in education, or taking courses leading to the completion of educational requirements for a licensed practical nurse. The doctoral applicant may also be a part-time student.

This bill is truly agreed and finally passed. It will now be sent to the Governor for his signature (or veto).

* [HB 427](#)
[Largent](#)

R

Grants & Scholarships

Veterans

Revises the war veteran's survivor grant created by last year's HB 1678.

The changes are primarily definitional and would not change the number or dollar amount of awards.

This bill was truly agreed and finally passed on 5/12/09. It will now be sent to the Governor for his signature -- or veto.

* [HB 490](#)
[Schad](#)

R

Grants & Scholarships

Allows all public career-technical schools to participate in the A+ Schools Program.

This bill was truly agreed and finally passed on 5/12/09. It will now be sent to the Governor for his signature -- or veto.

* [SB 152](#)
[Clemens](#)

R

Grants & Scholarships

Nursing Student Loan Program

Modifies definition of eligible student for nursing student loan program.

The revised definition would include doctoral students and would allow full- or part-time doctoral students to be eligible for the program.

This bill was truly agreed and finally passed on 5/13/09. It will now be sent to the Governor for his approval -- or veto.

Cross-Chamber: Delivered cross chamber for conference

* [HB 46](#)
[Davis](#)

R

Grants & Scholarships

Changes the laws regarding the consent requirements for obtaining an abortion and creates the crime of coercing an abortion.

This bill includes a provision that would make it a crime to knowingly coerce a woman to seek or obtain an abortion by revoking, attempting to revoke, or threatening to revoke a scholarship awarded to the woman by a public or private institution of higher education.

The House passed this bill on 3/11/09, and the Senate passed a different version on 5/13/09.

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Cross-chamber: Rules Voted Do Pass

[SB 79](#)
[Wilson](#)
 D

Grants & Scholarships A+ and Missouri Promise Programs, Bright Flight

Modifies the definition of "bullying" as used in school district antibullying policies to include cyberbullying and electronic communications.

This bill contains provisions for expansion of the A+ program, changes to the Bright Flight Scholarship Program, and the Missouri Promise Program. The bill leaves the A+ program in DESE, but removes the requirement that a student must have graduated from an A+ designated high school to get the scholarship. The bill also creates the Missouri Promise, a "completer scholarship" for students who get associate's degrees using A+ and then go on to complete bachelor's degrees at public universities. Finally, the bill includes language clarifying the award amount for Bright Flight recipients and extending the period that veterans can defer Bright Flight awards.

This bill also has provisions to remove "postsecondary education" from the definition of public benefits and describes the procedure schools must take to determine that institutional and state grant and scholarship recipients are lawfully present in the U.S.

Lastly, the bill would prohibit the use or attempted use of false or misleading diplomas for admission to higher education institutions or in connection with businesses or employment.

The Senate passed this bill on 2/25/09. The House Elementary & Secondary Education Committee passed a committee substitute on 4/28/09, and the bill was referred to the House Rules Committee on 4/29/09. The House Rules Committee voted do pass on 5/7/09.

Cross-chamber: Referred to Rules

[SB 55](#)
[Days](#)
 D

Grants & Scholarships A+ Scholarship Program

Allows school districts to maintain permanent records digitally or electronically.

The House Committee Substitute contains a provision to allow all public vocational and technical schools to participate in the A+ Schools Program without stipulations. This language is from HB 490.

This bill passed the Senate on 2/25/09. It passed the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee on 4/23/09. The bill was referred to the House Rules Committee on 4/24/09.

Cross-chamber: Referred to Committee

[HB 631](#)
[Jones](#)
 R

Grants & Scholarships

Changes the laws regarding the Missouri Teaching Fellows Program.

Currently, students sign up to participate in the Missouri Teaching Fellows Program in their senior year of high school. If the student goes on to graduate from college and teach in an unaccredited school district, they can receive up to \$5,000 a year as a stipend or as loan forgiveness. This bill would change the program to allow people who have just received their teaching certificates to sign up for the program. This would allow students to start receiving payments as early as 2011.

The House passed this bill on 4/22/09. It was assigned to the Senate Education Committee on 4/27/09.

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Perfected

[SB 558](#)

Grants & Scholarships

Missouri Promise

[Mayer](#)

Establishes the Missouri Promise Program to provide scholarship to students attending certain public and private higher education institutions.

R

The version of this bill perfected by the Senate leaves the A+ program in DESE, but removes the requirement that a student must have graduated from an A+ designated high school to get the scholarship. The bill also creates the Missouri Promise, a "completer scholarship" for students who get associate's degrees using A+ and then go on to complete bachelor's degrees at public universities. Finally, the bill includes language clarifying the award amount for Bright Flight recipients and extending the period that veterans can defer Bright Flight awards.

The Senate perfected this bill on 4/6/09. It was referred to the Governmental Accountability & Fiscal Oversight Committee, which was scheduled to consider the bill on 4/9/09. The hearing has been rescheduled for 4/14/09. This language was added to SB 291 (although it was stripped out before the bill was truly agreed and finally passed) and SB 79.

Committee Voted Do Pass

[HB 738](#)

Grants & Scholarships

Veterans

[Schaaf](#)

Revises the meaning of the term "combat veteran" in the Missouri returning heroes' act by including that it could be a person who meets the university's requirements for Missouri residency.

R

Referred to the House Veterans Committee 2/19/09. The committee voted do pass on 4/21/09.

Hearing Continued

[SB 390](#)

Grants & Scholarships

Access Missouri

[Schaefer](#)

Changes amounts of financial assistance awards for the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program.

R

The bill would not change minimum and maximum Access awards for the 2009-2010 academic year, but would change award amounts starting in the 2010-2011 academic year and each year thereafter. A student attending a public 2-year institution will be eligible for \$1,000 maximum and \$300 minimum award. A student attending a public or private 4-year institution or Linn State Technical College will be eligible for \$2,850 maximum and \$1,500 minimum award.

Students attending public institutions currently receive \$1000 - \$2,150 and students attending private institutions receive \$2,000 - \$4,600; students attending 2-year public institutions currently receive \$300 - 1,000. This bill is identical to HB 792.

The Senate Education Committee heard public testimony from supporters of this bill on 4/1/09. The committee will hear testimony from opponents of the bill on 4/8/09.

Heard by Committee

[HB 498](#)

Grants & Scholarships

[Davis](#)

Establishes the Full-time Mother Scholarship Bonus Program.

R

This new program would provide annual \$600 scholarships for eligible Missouri residents who are mothers with a child or children 15 years old or younger, who do not work outside the home, to attend the Missouri college or university of their choice. Scholarships would be general revenue-funded and the CBHE would administer the program.

The House Higher Education Committee heard testimony about this bill 2/17/09.

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Referred to Committee

[HB 332](#)
[Cunningham](#)

R

Grants & Scholarships

Allows members of the reserves of any branch of the United States armed forces to be eligible for a National Guard educational assistance grant.

This bill would change an existing scholarship program administered by the Missouri National Guard by expanding the group of potential recipients. Currently, the program only serves members of the Missouri National Guard; the bill proposes to include members of the reserves of any branch of the U.S. armed forces.

Referred to the House Veterans Committee 2/19/09.

[HB 483](#)
[Smith](#)

R

Grants & Scholarships

Establishes the Missouri National Guard and Missouri Reservists Family Education Grant.

This new grant would be funded by general revenue and could be used by students attending public two- or four-year institutions. The program would be administered by the MDHE.

Referred to the House Veterans Committee 2/5/09.

[HB 627](#)
[Schaaf](#)

R

Grants & Scholarships

Veterans

Expands the Missouri Returning Heroes' Education Act to also include combat veterans serving prior to September 11, 2001.

Referred to the House Veterans Committee 2/12/09.

[SB 40](#)
[Rupp](#)

R

Grants & Scholarships

Bright Flight

Modifies provisions of the Bright Flight Scholarship Program.

This bill would extend the period that students who enter the military can defer Bright Flight awards. It would also clarify that GED recipients and homeschool students can receive Bright Flight awards and the certain procedural issues surrounding the determination of the SAT/ACT cut-score. Finally, it would also clarify the award amounts for students in the top 3% of ACT/SAT testtakers starting in FY 11.

Referred to the Senate Education Committee 1/22/09. This language was amended onto SB 291 (although it was later stripped out in committee and not part of the bill that finally passed), SB 79, and SB 558.

[SB 493](#)
[Mayer](#)

R

Grants & Scholarships

A+ Schools

Modifies requirements for public career-technical schools to participate in the A+ Schools Program.

Current law provides the same requirements and qualifications to participate in the A+ Schools Program for private career-technical schools and public career-technical schools. This act removes public career-technical schools from those requirements.

Referred to the Senate Education Committee 3/2/09.

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Second Read

[HB 117](#)
[Storch](#)

Grants & Scholarships

Twenty-first Century Scholars Program

Establishes the "Twenty-first Century Scholars Program."

D

The program would be administered by the MDHE. A student will be eligible for the program if he or she: is a Missouri resident; is enrolled in the eighth grade in a public or private school; is eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program; signs an agreement, along with his or her parents or guardian, to finish high school, to apply for college admission and financial aid, and to not drive while intoxicated, use drugs, run away, or become truant or delinquent; and has at least a 2.0 grade point average upon graduation from high school.

The programs would provide scholarships the amount of which would vary based on the student's choice of the college and the availability of other financial assistance. Scholarships may be granted for up to eight semesters, and participating colleges must develop specific mentoring programs for scholarship recipients to assist them with academic and social counseling.

Pre-filed. First read in the House 1/7/09; second read 1/8/09.

[HB 666](#)
[Witte](#)

Grants & Scholarships

Veterans' Families

Gives military dependents eligibility for in-state tuition at public institutions of higher education.

D

Introduced and first read in the House 2/10/09; second read 2/11/09.

[HB 686](#)
[Bringer](#)

Grants & Scholarships

Foster Youth

Establishes a tuition and fee waiver program for certain incoming Missouri resident freshman who have been in foster care or residential care.

D

The program would begin in fall 2010 and is subject to appropriations to reimburse institutions for tuition and fee waivers.

Introduced and first read in the House 2/11/09; second read 2/12/09. Rep. Calloway attempted to amend this language onto SB 291 in House Rules on 5/13/09, but his amendment failed. The language was also amended on to SB 262.

[HB 792](#)
[Kingery](#)

Grants & Scholarships

Access Missouri

Modifies the Access Missouri Program.

R

The bill would not change minimum and maximum Access awards for the 2009-2010 academic year, but would change award amounts starting in the 2010-2011 academic year and each year thereafter. A student attending a public 2-year institution will be eligible for \$1,000 maximum and \$300 minimum award. A student attending a public or private 4-year institution or Linn State Technical College will be eligible for \$2,850 maximum and \$1,500 minimum award.

Students attending public institutions currently receive \$1000 - \$2,150 and students attending private institutions receive \$2,000 - \$4,600; students attending 2-year public institutions currently receive \$300 - 1,000. This bill is identical to SB 390.

Introduced and first read in the House 2/17/09; second read 2/18/09.

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[HB 903](#)
[Kingery](#)

Grants & Scholarships

Missouri Promise

Establishes the Missouri Promise Program.

R

This act creates the Missouri Promise Program within the Department of Higher Education.

It renames and expands the scholarship portion of the current A+ program to provide tuition and fee-based scholarships at any community college to all public high school graduates who meet existing criteria for the A+ program. To qualify a student must make a good faith effort to secure other sources of funding; have earned a GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale in high school; be enrolled full time at a public community college, public vocational school, public technical school, or private vocational or technical school; and maintain a grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale while enrolled and receiving a scholarship.

It also establishes scholarships to be used at public four-year institutions for students who participate in Missouri Promise at the community college level and complete a designated associate's degree. Additional eligibility requirements include: a good faith effort to first secure other sources of funding; maintaining full-time enrollment; and maintaining a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale while receiving the scholarship. A student cannot receive a Missouri Promise scholarship for more than six semesters.

If a student has a grade point average that falls below a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, the student will be granted a one semester grace period. The student will lose eligibility if the student cannot subsequently raise his or her GPA to a 3.0.

Introduced and first read in the House 2/26/08; second read 3/2/09. This language was amended into an early version of SB 291 but was stripped out before the bill was finally passed, and onto SB 79.

First Read

[HB 873](#)
[Schaaf](#)

Grants & Scholarships

Provides that homeschooled students shall be treated the same as non-homeschooled students for financial aid purposes.

R

Introduced and first read in the House 2/25/09.

Introduced

[GRP 1](#)
[Nixon](#)

Grants & Scholarships

Executive Order 09-09

Reorganization Plan, to transfer post-secondary education assistance programs from various state departments to the Department of Higher Education Executive Order 09-09.

D

Introduced 2/4/09. This order was rejected by HR 552, which was approved by the House on 3/9/09.

Pre-filed

[HR 552](#)
[Dethrow](#)

Grants & Scholarships

Executive Order 09-09

Disapproves the proposed Reorganization Plan submitted by the Governor in Executive Order 09-09, which transfers various scholarship programs to the MDHE.

R

The House approved this measure on 3/9/09.