

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 251

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ONDER.

Read 1st time January 15, 2015, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

1045S.011

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## AN ACT

To repeal section 162.1250, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to virtual education.

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

Section A. Section 162.1250, RSMo, is repealed and one new section  
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 162.1250, to read as follows:

162.1250. 1. School districts shall receive state school funding under  
2 sections 163.031, 163.043, and 163.087 for resident students who are enrolled in  
3 the school district and who are taking a virtual course or full-time virtual  
4 program offered by the school district. The school district may offer instruction  
5 in a virtual setting using technology, intranet, and internet methods of  
6 communications that could take place outside of the regular school district  
7 facility. The school district may develop a virtual program for any grade level,  
8 kindergarten through twelfth grade, with the courses available in accordance with  
9 district policy to any resident student of the district who is enrolled in the school  
10 district. Nothing in this section shall preclude a private, parochial, or home  
11 school student residing within a school district offering virtual courses or virtual  
12 programs from enrolling in the school district in accordance with the combined  
13 enrollment provisions of section 167.031 for the purposes of participating in the  
14 virtual courses or virtual programs.

15 2. Charter schools shall receive state school funding under section 160.415  
16 for students enrolled in the charter school who are completing a virtual course or  
17 full-time virtual program offered by the charter school. Charter schools may offer  
18 instruction in a virtual setting using technology, intranet, and internet methods  
19 of communications. The charter school may develop a virtual program for any

**EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

20 grade level, kindergarten through twelfth grade, with the courses available in  
21 accordance with school policy and the charter school's charter to any student  
22 enrolled in the charter school.

23           3. For purposes of calculation and distribution of state school funding,  
24 attendance of a student enrolled in a district or charter school virtual class shall  
25 equal, upon course completion, ninety-four percent of the hours of attendance  
26 possible for such class delivered in the nonvirtual program in the student's  
27 resident district or charter school. Course completion shall be calculated in two  
28 increments, fifty percent completion and one hundred percent completion, based  
29 on the student's completion of defined assignments and assessments, with  
30 distribution of state funding to a school district or charter school at each  
31 increment equal to forty-seven percent of hours of attendance possible for such  
32 course delivered in the nonvirtual program in a student's school district of  
33 residence or charter school.

34           4. **Any student who is a resident of this state may enroll in a**  
35 **school district other than his or her school district of residence or in**  
36 **a charter school for the purpose of attending virtual courses or**  
37 **programs. For purposes of this subsection, "virtual nonresident**  
38 **students" shall mean nonresident students who enroll in a school**  
39 **district or charter school for the purpose of attending virtual courses**  
40 **or programs. School districts or charter schools may enroll any virtual**  
41 **nonresident student. School districts and charter schools shall admit**  
42 **students under this subsection based on the time of submission of an**  
43 **application for enrollment until full capacity is reached. No student**  
44 **shall be admitted if admission of the student would cause the amount**  
45 **paid by the district of residence to exceed the aggregate amount paid**  
46 **to the district as provided in this subsection. A school district or**  
47 **charter school shall give a preference to a sibling of a student already**  
48 **enrolled. A student who enrolls in another school district or charter**  
49 **school under this subsection may remain enrolled in the virtual school**  
50 **until he or she has completed all grade levels offered or he or she**  
51 **withdraws from the school. For purposes of calculation and**  
52 **distribution of state school funding for virtual nonresident students,**  
53 **the virtual nonresident student shall be included in the average daily**  
54 **attendance of his or her school district of residence. The virtual**  
55 **nonresident student's district of residence shall pay the school district**

56 or charter school providing such virtual education an amount equal to  
57 seventy-two and one half percent of the previous year's statewide  
58 average current expenditure per average daily attendance, provided  
59 that the amount paid by any district shall not exceed the total amount  
60 due to the district under subsections 1 and 2 of section 163.031 and  
61 sections 163.043 and 163.087. Under no circumstances shall school  
62 districts or charter schools enroll or admit virtual nonresident students  
63 in excess of one and seventy-five hundredths percent of the total  
64 number of public and charter school students enrolled in this state as  
65 determined by the department of elementary and secondary education.

66 5. In addition to those entities which may sponsor charter  
67 schools under section 160.400, any institution of higher education with  
68 its primary campus located in Missouri with an approved teacher  
69 education program may sponsor virtual charter schools. Virtual  
70 charter schools are charter schools and subject to all of the applicable  
71 provisions of sections 160.400 to 160.425 and this section. Virtual  
72 charter schools may only offer instruction in a virtual setting using  
73 technology, intranet, and internet methods of communication.

74 6. When courses are purchased from an outside vendor, the district or  
75 charter school shall ensure that they are aligned with the show-me curriculum  
76 standards and comply with state requirements for teacher certification. The state  
77 board of education reserves the right to request information and materials  
78 sufficient to evaluate the online course. Online classes should be considered like  
79 any other class offered by the school district or charter school.

80 [5.] 7. Any school district or charter school that offers instruction in a  
81 virtual setting, develops a virtual course or courses, or develops a virtual program  
82 of instruction shall ensure that the following standards are satisfied:

83 (1) The virtual course or virtual program utilizes appropriate  
84 content-specific tools and software;

85 (2) Orientation training is available for teachers, instructors, and students  
86 as needed;

87 (3) Privacy policies are stated and made available to teachers, instructors,  
88 and students;

89 (4) Academic integrity and internet etiquette expectations regarding  
90 lesson activities, discussions, electronic communications, and plagiarism are  
91 stated to teachers, instructors, and students prior to the beginning of the virtual

92 course or virtual program;

93 (5) Computer system requirements, including hardware, web browser, and  
94 software, are specified to participants;

95 (6) The virtual course or virtual program architecture, software, and  
96 hardware permit the online teacher or instructor to add content, activities, and  
97 assessments to extend learning opportunities;

98 (7) The virtual course or virtual program makes resources available by  
99 alternative means, including but not limited to, video and podcasts;

100 (8) Resources and notes are available for teachers and instructors in  
101 addition to assessment and assignment answers and explanations;

102 (9) Technical support and course management are available to the virtual  
103 course or virtual program teacher and school coordinator;

104 (10) The virtual course or virtual program includes assignments, projects,  
105 and assessments that are aligned with students' different visual, auditory, and  
106 hands-on learning styles;

107 (11) The virtual course or virtual program demonstrates the ability to  
108 effectively use and incorporate subject-specific and developmentally appropriate  
109 software in an online learning module; and

110 (12) The virtual course or virtual program arranges media and content to  
111 help transfer knowledge most effectively in the online environment.

112 [6.] 8. Any special school district shall count any student's completion of  
113 a virtual course or program in the same manner as the district counts completion  
114 of any other course or program for credit.

115 [7.] 9. A school district or charter school may contract with multiple  
116 providers of virtual courses or virtual programs, provided they meet the criteria  
117 for virtual courses or virtual programs under this section.

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