

AN ACT relating to volunteerism and making an appropriation therefor.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 164 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) The General Assembly hereby establishes the Commonwealth Student Volunteer Program to incentivize student volunteerism and ensure that public postsecondary students receive appropriate credit for their volunteerism.

(2) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Cabinet" means the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet;

(b) "Eligible institution" means an institution in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System or a four (4) year Kentucky public college or university; and

(c) "Eligible student" means a person who is enrolled in an eligible institution and volunteers to work for a state cabinet, department, or agency without any compensation for that work outside of this program.

(3) The Education and Workforce Development Cabinet shall administer the Commonwealth Student Volunteer Program and shall promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A as may be needed for the administration of the program.

(4) The cabinet shall, with the advice of the Council on Postsecondary Education, facilitate, develop, implement, and maintain a statewide policy among all public postsecondary education institutions to provide appropriate academic credit or academic recognition for an eligible student's volunteer service.

(5) The cabinet may award stipends to an eligible student under this section to the extent funds are available for that purpose. The maximum stipend amount shall be determined by the cabinet, subject to the availability of funds.

(6) Stipends may be applied to an eligible student's tuition, textbooks, and required

instructional materials expenses for attendance at an eligible institution.

- (7) (a) The Commonwealth Student Volunteer Program trust fund is hereby created as a trust fund in the State Treasury to be administered by the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet for the purpose of providing stipends described in this section.
- (b) The trust fund shall consist of state general fund appropriations, gifts and grants from public and private sources, and federal funds. All moneys included in the fund shall be appropriated for the purposes set forth in this section.
- (c) Any unallotted or unencumbered balances in the trust fund shall be invested as provided in KRS 42.500(9). Income earned from the investments shall be credited to the trust fund.
- (d) Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, any fund balance at the close of the fiscal year shall not lapse, but shall be carried forward to the next fiscal year and continuously appropriated only for the purposes specified in this section.
- (8) Any state agency receiving the volunteer services of an eligible student shall record and provide data to the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet that includes but is not limited to a student's hours contributed, the county where the work was contributed, and the student's eligible institution.