

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 204

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MCGAUGH.

1028H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 105.711 and 477.600, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to proceedings of the judicial finance commission.

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

Section A. Sections 105.711 and 477.600, RSMo, are repealed and two new sections
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 105.711 and 477.600, to read as follows:

105.711. 1. There is hereby created a "State Legal Expense Fund" which shall consist
2 of moneys appropriated to the fund by the general assembly and moneys otherwise credited to
3 such fund pursuant to section 105.716.

4 2. Moneys in the state legal expense fund shall be available for the payment of any
5 claim or any amount required by any final judgment rendered by a court of competent
6 jurisdiction against:

7 (1) The state of Missouri, or any agency of the state, pursuant to section 536.050 or
8 536.087 or section 537.600;

9 (2) Any officer or employee of the state of Missouri or any agency of the state,
10 including, without limitation, elected officials, appointees, members of state boards or
11 commissions, and members of the Missouri National Guard upon conduct of such officer or
12 employee arising out of and performed in connection with his or her official duties on behalf
13 of the state, or any agency of the state, provided that moneys in this fund shall not be
14 available for payment of claims made under chapter 287;

15 (3) (a) Any physician, psychiatrist, pharmacist, podiatrist, dentist, nurse, or other
16 health care provider licensed to practice in Missouri under the provisions of chapter 330, 332,
17 334, 335, 336, 337 or 338 who is employed by the state of Missouri or any agency of the state

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 under formal contract to conduct disability reviews on behalf of the department of elementary
19 and secondary education or provide services to patients or inmates of state correctional
20 facilities on a part-time basis, and any physician, psychiatrist, pharmacist, podiatrist, dentist,
21 nurse, or other health care provider licensed to practice in Missouri under the provisions of
22 chapter 330, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337, or 338 who is under formal contract to provide services
23 to patients or inmates at a county jail on a part-time basis;

24 (b) Any physician licensed to practice medicine in Missouri under the provisions of
25 chapter 334 and his professional corporation organized pursuant to chapter 356 who is
26 employed by or under contract with a city or county health department organized under
27 chapter 192 or chapter 205, or a city health department operating under a city charter, or a
28 combined city-county health department to provide services to patients for medical care
29 caused by pregnancy, delivery, and child care, if such medical services are provided by the
30 physician pursuant to the contract without compensation or the physician is paid from no
31 other source than a governmental agency except for patient co-payments required by federal
32 or state law or local ordinance;

33 (c) Any physician licensed to practice medicine in Missouri under the provisions of
34 chapter 334 who is employed by or under contract with a federally funded community health
35 center organized under Section 315, 329, 330 or 340 of the Public Health Services Act (42
36 U.S.C. Section 216, 254c) to provide services to patients for medical care caused by
37 pregnancy, delivery, and child care, if such medical services are provided by the physician
38 pursuant to the contract or employment agreement without compensation or the physician is
39 paid from no other source than a governmental agency or such a federally funded community
40 health center except for patient co-payments required by federal or state law or local
41 ordinance. In the case of any claim or judgment that arises under this paragraph, the
42 aggregate of payments from the state legal expense fund shall be limited to a maximum of one
43 million dollars for all claims arising out of and judgments based upon the same act or acts
44 alleged in a single cause against any such physician, and shall not exceed one million dollars
45 for any one claimant;

46 (d) Any physician licensed pursuant to chapter 334 who is affiliated with and receives
47 no compensation from a nonprofit entity qualified as exempt from federal taxation under
48 Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which offers a free
49 health screening in any setting or any physician, nurse, physician assistant, dental hygienist,
50 dentist, or other health care professional licensed or registered under chapter 330, 331, 332,
51 334, 335, 336, 337, or 338 who provides health care services within the scope of his or her
52 license or registration at a city or county health department organized under chapter 192 or
53 chapter 205, a city health department operating under a city charter, or a combined city-
54 county health department, or a nonprofit community health center qualified as exempt from

55 federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended,
56 excluding federally funded community health centers as specified in paragraph (c) of this
57 subdivision and rural health clinics under 42 U.S.C. Section 1396d(l)(1), if such services are
58 restricted to primary care and preventive health services, provided that such services shall not
59 include the performance of an abortion, and if such health services are provided by the health
60 care professional licensed or registered under chapter 330, 331, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337, or
61 338 without compensation. MO HealthNet or Medicare payments for primary care and
62 preventive health services provided by a health care professional licensed or registered under
63 chapter 330, 331, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337, or 338 who volunteers at a community health
64 clinic is not compensation for the purpose of this section if the total payment is assigned to
65 the community health clinic. For the purposes of the section, "community health clinic"
66 means a nonprofit community health center qualified as exempt from federal taxation under
67 Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1987, as amended, that provides primary
68 care and preventive health services to people without health insurance coverage. In the case
69 of any claim or judgment that arises under this paragraph, the aggregate of payments from the
70 state legal expense fund shall be limited to a maximum of five hundred thousand dollars, for
71 all claims arising out of and judgments based upon the same act or acts alleged in a single
72 cause and shall not exceed five hundred thousand dollars for any one claimant, and insurance
73 policies purchased pursuant to the provisions of section 105.721 shall be limited to five
74 hundred thousand dollars. Liability or malpractice insurance obtained and maintained in
75 force by or on behalf of any health care professional licensed or registered under chapter 330,
76 331, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337, or 338 shall not be considered available to pay that portion of a
77 judgment or claim for which the state legal expense fund is liable under this paragraph;

78 (e) Any physician, nurse, physician assistant, dental hygienist, or dentist licensed or
79 registered to practice medicine, nursing, or dentistry or to act as a physician assistant or dental
80 hygienist in Missouri under the provisions of chapter 332, 334, or 335, or lawfully practicing,
81 who provides medical, nursing, or dental treatment within the scope of his license or
82 registration to students of a school whether a public, private, or parochial elementary or
83 secondary school or summer camp, if such physician's treatment is restricted to primary care
84 and preventive health services and if such medical, dental, or nursing services are provided by
85 the physician, dentist, physician assistant, dental hygienist, or nurse without compensation.
86 In the case of any claim or judgment that arises under this paragraph, the aggregate of
87 payments from the state legal expense fund shall be limited to a maximum of five hundred
88 thousand dollars, for all claims arising out of and judgments based upon the same act or acts
89 alleged in a single cause and shall not exceed five hundred thousand dollars for any one
90 claimant, and insurance policies purchased pursuant to the provisions of section 105.721 shall
91 be limited to five hundred thousand dollars; or

92 (f) Any physician licensed under chapter 334, or dentist licensed under chapter 332,
93 providing medical care without compensation to an individual referred to his or her care by a
94 city or county health department organized under chapter 192 or 205, a city health department
95 operating under a city charter, or a combined city-county health department, or nonprofit
96 health center qualified as exempt from federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal
97 Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or a federally funded community health center organized
98 under Section 315, 329, 330, or 340 of the Public Health Services Act, 42 U.S.C. Section
99 216, 254c; provided that such treatment shall not include the performance of an abortion. In
100 the case of any claim or judgment that arises under this paragraph, the aggregate of payments
101 from the state legal expense fund shall be limited to a maximum of one million dollars for all
102 claims arising out of and judgments based upon the same act or acts alleged in a single cause
103 and shall not exceed one million dollars for any one claimant, and insurance policies
104 purchased under the provisions of section 105.721 shall be limited to one million dollars.
105 Liability or malpractice insurance obtained and maintained in force by or on behalf of any
106 physician licensed under chapter 334, or any dentist licensed under chapter 332, shall not be
107 considered available to pay that portion of a judgment or claim for which the state legal
108 expense fund is liable under this paragraph;

109 (4) Staff employed by the juvenile division of any judicial circuit;

110 (5) Any attorney licensed to practice law in the state of Missouri who practices law at
111 or through a nonprofit community social services center qualified as exempt from federal
112 taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or
113 through any agency of any federal, state, or local government, if such legal practice is
114 provided by the attorney without compensation. In the case of any claim or judgment that
115 arises under this subdivision, the aggregate of payments from the state legal expense fund
116 shall be limited to a maximum of five hundred thousand dollars for all claims arising out of
117 and judgments based upon the same act or acts alleged in a single cause and shall not exceed
118 five hundred thousand dollars for any one claimant, and insurance policies purchased
119 pursuant to the provisions of section 105.721 shall be limited to five hundred thousand
120 dollars;

121 (6) Any social welfare board created under section 205.770 and the members and
122 officers thereof upon conduct of such officer or employee while acting in his or her capacity
123 as a board member or officer, and any physician, nurse, physician assistant, dental hygienist,
124 dentist, or other health care professional licensed or registered under chapter 330, 331, 332,
125 334, 335, 336, 337, or 338 who is referred to provide medical care without compensation by
126 the board and who provides health care services within the scope of his or her license or
127 registration as prescribed by the board; or

128 (7) Any person who is selected or appointed by the state director of revenue under
129 subsection 2 of section 136.055 to act as an agent of the department of revenue, to the extent
130 that such agent's actions or inactions upon which such claim or judgment is based were
131 performed in the course of the person's official duties as an agent of the department of
132 revenue and in the manner required by state law or department of revenue rules.

133 3. **Moneys in the state legal expense fund shall be available for the**
134 **reimbursement of any claim to a county of any amount incurred by the circuit court**
135 **in any proceeding of the judicial finance commission that has been paid by the county**
136 **pursuant to section 476.270.**

137 4. The department of health and senior services shall promulgate rules regarding
138 contract procedures and the documentation of care provided under paragraphs (b), (c), (d),
139 (e), and (f) of subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of this section. The limitation on payments
140 from the state legal expense fund or any policy of insurance procured pursuant to the
141 provisions of section 105.721, provided in subsection 7 of this section, shall not apply to any
142 claim or judgment arising under paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f) of subdivision (3) of
143 subsection 2 of this section. Any claim or judgment arising under paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d),
144 (e), or (f) of subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of this section shall be paid by the state legal
145 expense fund or any policy of insurance procured pursuant to section 105.721, to the extent
146 damages are allowed under sections 538.205 to 538.235. Liability or malpractice insurance
147 obtained and maintained in force by any health care professional licensed or registered under
148 chapter 330, 331, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337, or 338 for coverage concerning his or her private
149 practice and assets shall not be considered available under subsection 7 of this section to pay
150 that portion of a judgment or claim for which the state legal expense fund is liable under
151 paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f) of subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of this section.
152 However, a health care professional licensed or registered under chapter 330, 331, 332, 334,
153 335, 336, 337, or 338 may purchase liability or malpractice insurance for coverage of liability
154 claims or judgments based upon care rendered under paragraphs (c), (d), (e), and (f) of
155 subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of this section which exceed the amount of liability coverage
156 provided by the state legal expense fund under those paragraphs. Even if paragraph (a), (b),
157 (c), (d), (e), or (f) of subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of this section is repealed or modified, the
158 state legal expense fund shall be available for damages which occur while the pertinent
159 paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f) of subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of this section is in
160 effect.

161 [4-] 5. The attorney general shall promulgate rules regarding contract procedures and
162 the documentation of legal practice provided under subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this
163 section. The limitation on payments from the state legal expense fund or any policy of
164 insurance procured pursuant to section 105.721 as provided in subsection 7 of this section

165 shall not apply to any claim or judgment arising under subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this
166 section. Any claim or judgment arising under subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section
167 shall be paid by the state legal expense fund or any policy of insurance procured pursuant to
168 section 105.721 to the extent damages are allowed under sections 538.205 to 538.235.
169 Liability or malpractice insurance otherwise obtained and maintained in force shall not be
170 considered available under subsection 7 of this section to pay that portion of a judgment or
171 claim for which the state legal expense fund is liable under subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of
172 this section. However, an attorney may obtain liability or malpractice insurance for coverage
173 of liability claims or judgments based upon legal practice rendered under subdivision (5) of
174 subsection 2 of this section that exceed the amount of liability coverage provided by the state
175 legal expense fund under subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section. Even if subdivision
176 (5) of subsection 2 of this section is repealed or amended, the state legal expense fund shall be
177 available for damages that occur while the pertinent subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this
178 section is in effect.

179 ~~[5-]~~ 6. All payments shall be made from the state legal expense fund by the
180 commissioner of administration with the approval of the attorney general. Payment from the
181 state legal expense fund of a claim or final judgment award against a health care professional
182 licensed or registered under chapter 330, 331, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337, or 338, described in
183 paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f) of subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of this section, or
184 against an attorney in subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section, shall only be made for
185 services rendered in accordance with the conditions of such paragraphs. In the case of any
186 claim or judgment against an officer or employee of the state or any agency of the state based
187 upon conduct of such officer or employee arising out of and performed in connection with his
188 or her official duties on behalf of the state or any agency of the state that would give rise to a
189 cause of action under section 537.600, the state legal expense fund shall be liable, excluding
190 punitive damages, for:

- 191 (1) Economic damages to any one claimant; and
- 192 (2) Up to three hundred fifty thousand dollars for noneconomic damages.

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194 The state legal expense fund shall be the exclusive remedy and shall preclude any other civil
195 actions or proceedings for money damages arising out of or relating to the same subject
196 matter against the state officer or employee, or the officer's or employee's estate. No officer
197 or employee of the state or any agency of the state shall be individually liable in his or her
198 personal capacity for conduct of such officer or employee arising out of and performed in
199 connection with his or her official duties on behalf of the state or any agency of the state. The
200 provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any defendant who is not an officer or
201 employee of the state or any agency of the state in any proceeding against an officer or

202 employee of the state or any agency of the state. Nothing in this subsection shall limit the
203 rights and remedies otherwise available to a claimant under state law or common law in
204 proceedings where one or more defendants is not an officer or employee of the state or any
205 agency of the state.

206 ~~[6-]~~ 7. The limitation on awards for noneconomic damages provided for in this
207 subsection shall be increased or decreased on an annual basis effective January first of each
208 year in accordance with the Implicit Price Deflator for Personal Consumption Expenditures as
209 published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the United States Department of
210 Commerce. The current value of the limitation shall be calculated by the director of the
211 department of commerce and insurance, who shall furnish that value to the secretary of state,
212 who shall publish such value in the Missouri Register as soon after each January first as
213 practicable, but it shall otherwise be exempt from the provisions of section 536.021.

214 ~~[7-]~~ 8. Except as provided in subsection 3 of this section, in the case of any claim or
215 judgment that arises under sections 537.600 and 537.610 against the state of Missouri, or an
216 agency of the state, the aggregate of payments from the state legal expense fund and from any
217 policy of insurance procured pursuant to the provisions of section 105.721 shall not exceed
218 the limits of liability as provided in sections 537.600 to 537.610. No payment shall be made
219 from the state legal expense fund or any policy of insurance procured with state funds
220 pursuant to section 105.721 unless and until the benefits provided to pay the claim by any
221 other policy of liability insurance have been exhausted.

222 ~~[8-]~~ 9. The provisions of section 33.080 notwithstanding, any moneys remaining to
223 the credit of the state legal expense fund at the end of an appropriation period shall not be
224 transferred to general revenue.

225 ~~[9-]~~ 10. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is
226 promulgated under the authority delegated in sections 105.711 to 105.726 shall become
227 effective only if it has been promulgated pursuant to the provisions of chapter 536. Nothing
228 in this section shall be interpreted to repeal or affect the validity of any rule filed or adopted
229 prior to August 28, 1999, if it fully complied with the provisions of chapter 536. This section
230 and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly
231 pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a
232 rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any
233 rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 1999, shall be invalid and void.

477.600. 1. There is hereby created within the judicial department a "Judicial
2 Finance Commission". The commission shall be composed of seven members appointed by
3 the supreme court. At least one member of the commission shall be a member of a county
4 governing body from a county of the third class, one member of the commission shall be a
5 member of the county governing body of a county of the first class, and one member of the

6 commission shall be a member of a county governing body from any class of county. The
7 supreme court shall designate one member to serve as chairman and one member as vice
8 chairman. The vice chairman shall preside in the absence of the chairman.

9 2. The members of the commission shall serve for terms of three years and until their
10 successors are appointed and qualified; except that of the initial members appointed, three
11 shall serve for terms of one year, two shall serve for terms of two years and two shall serve for
12 terms of three years, as designated by the court.

13 3. If a vacancy occurs the court shall appoint a replacement. The replacement shall
14 serve the unexpired portion of the term and may be appointed to successive terms.

15 4. The commission shall promulgate rules of procedure which shall become effective
16 upon approval by the supreme court. The supreme court may adopt such other rules as it
17 deems appropriate to govern the procedures of the commission.

18 5. The commission shall:

19 (1) Examine the budget request of the circuit court upon the petition by the county
20 governing body as provided in section 50.640 or any budget or item in the budget estimated
21 by the court including, but not limited to, compensation of deputy sheriffs and assistants, as
22 set forth in section 57.250;

23 (2) Issue a written opinion addressed to the presiding circuit judge and the presiding
24 officer of the county. The opinion shall state the conclusions of the commission as to the
25 reasonableness of the circuit court budget request. The opinion of the commission shall state
26 clearly the reasons for its decision. Any member of the commission who disagrees with the
27 commission's findings may file a minority report;

28 (3) Maintain accurate records of the cost and expenses of the judicial and law
29 enforcement agencies for each county;

30 (4) Submit an annual report to the governor, general assembly, and supreme court on
31 the finances of the judicial department. The report shall examine both the revenues of the
32 department and the expenses of the department. The report shall include the information
33 from all divisions of the circuit court of each county including the circuit, associate circuit,
34 probate, juvenile and municipal divisions. The information shall be reported separately
35 except where the divisions are combined or consolidated. In lieu of separate publication, the
36 supreme court may direct the annual report described in this subdivision to be consolidated
37 with any annual report prepared by the supreme court or the office of state courts
38 administrator, provided that such report is distributed to the parties described in this
39 subdivision.

40 6. In discharging its responsibilities, the commission may:

41 (1) Conduct public hearings, take testimony, summon witnesses, and subpoena
42 records and documents;

43 (2) Conduct surveys and collect data from county governments and the circuit courts
44 on the operations of the judicial and law enforcement agencies in each county. The
45 commission and its staff shall be granted access at any reasonable time to all books, records,
46 and data the commission deems necessary for the administration of its duties;

47 (3) Within the limits of appropriations made for the purpose, appoint special
48 committees, accept and expend grant funds, and employ consultants and others to assist the
49 commission in its work.

50 7. Upon receipt of the written opinion of the commission or upon refusal of the
51 commission to accept a petition for review, the circuit court or the county governing body
52 may seek a review by the supreme court by filing a petition for review in the supreme court
53 within thirty days of the receipt of the commission's opinion. If a petition for review is not
54 filed in the supreme court, then the recommendation of the commission shall take effect
55 notwithstanding the provisions of section 50.600. If the commission refused to review a
56 petition and no petition is filed in the supreme court, the circuit court budget is approved as
57 submitted to the county governing body. The supreme court shall consider the petition for
58 review de novo.

59 8. The commission shall meet as necessary at the call of the chairman or on written
60 request of four members. Four members constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
61 Upon request of the chairman, the supreme court may appoint a temporary replacement for
62 any commissioner who is unable to hear a case or who is disqualified from any case. No
63 member of the commission shall participate in any proceeding involving the county or circuit
64 where the member resides.

65 9. Members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services but
66 shall be reimbursed out of funds appropriated for this purpose for their actual and necessary
67 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

68 10. The clerk of the supreme court shall provide suitable staff for the commission out
69 of any funds appropriated for this purpose. The commission may also employ court reporters
70 as necessary to take testimony at hearings held pursuant to section 50.640. The reporters shall
71 be compensated at a rate established by the commission out of any funds appropriated for this
72 purpose.

73 **11. Any legal services required for representation of the circuit court in a**
74 **proceeding of the judicial finance commission, including the review of any petitions**
75 **pursuant to section 50.640, shall be provided by the attorney general, unless hiring of**
76 **private council is authorized by the circuit court. Any legal services required for**
77 **representation of the county in a proceeding of the judicial finance commission,**
78 **including the review of any petitions pursuant to section 50.640, shall be provided by the**
79 **county prosecuting attorney or county attorney, unless hiring of private council is**

80 **authorized by the county commission. Application for reimbursement of any fees, costs,**
81 **and expenses paid by the county pursuant to section 476.270 may be made by the county**
82 **to the state legal expense fund established by section 105.711.**

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