

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 1020

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR BARNITZ.

Read 1st time March 1, 2010, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

5287S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 620.515, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the hero at home program.

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

Section A. Section 620.515, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 620.515, to read as follows:

620.515. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Hero at
2 Home" program, the purpose of which is to:

3 (1) Assist the spouse of an active duty national guard or reserve
4 component service member reservist to address immediate needs and employment
5 in an attempt to keep the family from falling into poverty while the primary
6 income earner is on active duty, and during the one-year period following
7 discharge from deployment; and

8 (2) Assist returning national guard troops or reserve component service
9 member reservists with finding work in situations where an individual needs to
10 rebuild business clientele or where an individual's job has been eliminated while
11 such individual was deployed, or where the individual otherwise cannot return
12 to his or her previous employment, **or where the individual returns to**
13 **employment that is no longer suitable.**

14 2. Subject to appropriation, the department of economic development shall
15 operate the hero at home program through existing programs or by entering into
16 a contract with qualified providers through local workforce investment
17 boards. Eligibility for the program shall be based on the following criteria:

18 (1) Eligible participants in the program shall be those families where:

19 (a) The primary income earner was called to active duty in defense of the

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

20 United States for a period of more than four months;

21 (b) The family's primary income is no longer available;

22 (c) The family is experiencing significant hardship due to financial
23 burdens; and

24 (d) The family has no outside resources available to assist with such
25 hardships;

26 (2) Services that may be provided to the family will be aimed at
27 ameliorating the immediate crisis and providing a path for economic stability
28 while the primary income is not available due to the active military
29 commitment. Services shall be made available up to one year following discharge
30 from deployment. Services may include, but not be limited to the following:

31 (a) Financial assistance to families facing financial crisis from overdue
32 bills due to reduced income after the deployment of a spouse;

33 (b) Help paying day care costs to pursue training and or employment;

34 (c) Help covering the costs of transportation to training and or
35 employment;

36 (d) Vocational evaluation and vocational counseling to help the individual
37 choose a visible employment goal;

38 (e) Vocational training to acquire or upgrade skills needed to be
39 marketable in the workforce;

40 (f) Paid internships and subsidized employment to train on the job; and

41 (g) Job placement assistance for those who don't require skills training;

42 (3) The department shall ensure the eligible providers are:

43 (a) Community-based not-for-profit agencies which have significant
44 experience in job training, placement, and social services;

45 (b) Providers with extensive experience providing such services to
46 veterans and implementing contracts with veteran organizations such as the
47 department of veteran affairs;

48 (c) Providers which have attained the distinction of being accredited
49 through a national accreditation body for training and or human services; **and**

50 (d) [Providers which are able to provide a twenty percent match to the
51 program either through indirect or direct expenditures; and

52 (e)] Providers with experience in the regions targeted for the program.

53 3. The department shall structure any contract such that payment will be
54 based on delivering the services described in this section as well as performance
55 to guarantee the greatest possible effectiveness of the program.

56 4. Because of the important nature of this program to the health and
57 welfare of Missourians, this section shall become effective on July 1, 2006. The
58 department shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that the hero at home
59 program is serving families by August 1, 2006.

60 5. The department shall prepare a report on the operations and progress
61 of the program to be delivered to the speaker of the house of representatives and
62 the president pro tem of the senate no later than January 1, 2007.

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