

# SENATE BILL NO. 468

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR HOSKINS.

2190S.01H

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary

## AN ACT

To repeal section 620.750, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to rural regional development grants.

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

Section A. Section 620.750, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 620.750, to read as follows:

620.750. 1. **This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Missouri Rural Economic (MORE) Development Act".**

2. The department of economic development, subject to an appropriation not to exceed five million dollars each fiscal year, shall develop and implement rural regional development grants as provided in this section.

[2.] 3. Rural regional development grants may be provided to qualified rural regional development groups.

After the award of a grant, the group shall:

(1) Track and monitor job creation and investment in the region using quantitative measures that measure progress toward preestablished goals;

(2) Establish a process for enrolling commercial and industrial development sites in the region in the state-certified sites program or maintain a list of state-certified commercial and industrial development sites in the region;

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

- 19           (3) Measure the skills of the region's workforce;
- 20           (4) Provide an organizational chart demonstrating that
- 21 private businesses and local governmental and educational
- 22 officials are involved in the group; and
- 23           (5) Provide documentation of the group's financial
- 24 activities for the current year.

25           **[3.] 4.** A rural regional development group shall not

26 qualify for a rural regional development grant if:

- 27           (1) The group's region includes a county or portion of
- 28 another state outside the state of Missouri; or
- 29           (2) The group maintains an operating budget greater
- 30 than two hundred fifty thousand dollars.

31           **[4.] 5.** Applications for rural regional development

32 grants shall only be submitted for a rural regional

33 development group by a regional planning commission created

34 under chapter 251 or other legally created regional planning

35 commission. A regional planning commission may submit

36 applications on behalf of more than one rural regional

37 development group, except that a regional planning

38 commission shall not submit an application on behalf of a

39 group that the regional planning commission does not

40 recognize as the economic development authority for the

41 county that the authority represents.

42           **[5.] 6.** The regional planning commission may charge an

43 application fee for the grants developed under this

44 section. The regional planning commission shall be allowed

45 to claim reimbursement from the grant recipient for actual

46 costs of administering the grants.

47           **[6.] 7.** A single grant shall not exceed one hundred

48 fifty thousand dollars. Each of the nineteen regions of the

49 state represented by a regional planning commission created

50 under chapter 251 or other legally created regional planning

51 commission shall not receive more than two grants per region  
52 annually.

53 [7.] 8. Grants provided under this section shall be  
54 distributed based on a rural regional development group's  
55 years in operation. The eligible amount shall be:

56 (1) For a group in operation two years or more on a  
57 matching basis of three dollars of state funds for every one  
58 dollar of funds provided or raised by the rural regional  
59 development group, including the value of in-kind services,  
60 supplies, or equipment;

61 (2) For groups in operation less than two years on a  
62 matching basis of one dollar of state funds for every one  
63 dollar of funds provided or raised by the rural regional  
64 development group, including the value of in-kind services,  
65 supplies, or equipment.

66 [8.] 9. Uses for the grants may include, but are not  
67 limited to, the following activities:

68 (1) Workforce development activities, such as  
69 evaluation and education;

70 (2) Entrepreneurship training for pre-venture and  
71 existing businesses;

72 (3) Development of regional marketing techniques and  
73 activities;

74 (4) International trade training for new-to-export  
75 businesses in the region;

76 (5) In-depth market research and financial analysis  
77 for businesses in the region;

78 (6) Demographic and market opportunity research to  
79 assist regional planning commissions in developing their  
80 comprehensive economic development strategy.

81 [9.] 10. The grant recipient shall annually report to  
82 the governor; the director of the department of economic

83 development; the senate committee on commerce, consumer  
84 protection and the environment; the house committee on  
85 economic development and any successor committees thereto,  
86 the allocation of the grants and the purposes for which the  
87 funding was used.

88 [10.] 11. The department of economic development may  
89 promulgate rules governing the award of grants under this  
90 section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is  
91 defined in section 536.010, that is created under the  
92 authority delegated in this section shall become effective  
93 only if it complies with and is subject to all the  
94 provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section  
95 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and  
96 if any of the powers vested with the general assembly  
97 pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective  
98 date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently  
99 held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking  
100 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28,  
101 2014, shall be invalid and void.

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