

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 974

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR WALLINGFORD.

Read 1st time February 4, 2020, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

5257S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 209.030, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to blind pensions.

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

Section A. Section 209.030, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 209.030, to read as follows:

209.030. 1. Every adult blind person, eighteen years of age or over, of
2 good moral character who shall have been a resident of the state of Missouri for
3 one year or more next preceding the time of making application for the pension
4 herein provided and every adult blind person eighteen years of age or over who
5 may have lost his or her sight while a bona fide resident of this state and who
6 has been a continuous resident thereof since such loss of sight, shall be entitled
7 to receive, when enrolled under the provisions of sections 209.010 to 209.160, an
8 annual pension as provided for herein, payable in equal monthly installments,
9 provided, that no such person shall be entitled to or be paid a blind pension who:

10 (1) Owns property or has an interest in property to the value of thirty
11 thousand dollars or more, or if married and actually living with husband or wife,
12 if the value of his or her interest in property, together with that of such husband
13 or wife, exceeds said amount; provided that, the first one hundred thousand
14 dollars in an individual's ABLE account under sections 209.600 to 209.645 shall
15 be excluded from such asset limit; provided, further, that in determining the total
16 value of property owned, the real estate occupied by the blind person or spouse
17 as the home, shall be excluded;

18 (2) Obtains, maintains, or renews a valid driver's license in this or any
19 other state or territory, unless such license has been relinquished to 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 department of revenue and the person provides satisfactory proof of such
21 relinquishment to the department of social services. The department of social
22 services shall notify eligible blind persons with valid driver's licenses that they
23 shall surrender such licenses within sixty days of approval for a blind
24 pension. Upon receipt of a relinquished license under this subdivision, the
25 department of revenue shall, if requested by the person, issue a nondriver's
26 license card compliant with the provisions of chapter 302 at no charge to the
27 person. The department of social services and the department of revenue shall
28 jointly establish procedures and shall share any information necessary to
29 implement this subdivision;

30 (3) Operates a motor vehicle with or without a valid driver's license;

31 (4) Has a sighted spouse resident in this state who upon the investigation
32 of the family support division may be found to be able to provide for the
33 reasonable support of such applicant if the sighted spouse's annual income is
34 equal to or greater than five hundred percent of the federal poverty level for each
35 state fiscal year;

36 (5) Publicly solicits alms in any manner or through any artifice in any
37 part of this state;

38 (6) Is maintained in a private or endowed institution or is an inmate of
39 a public institution, except as a patient in a public medical institution; provided,
40 that benefits shall not be paid to a blind person under sixty-five years of age, who
41 is a patient in an institution for mental diseases or tuberculosis. In order to
42 comply with federal laws and regulations and state plans in making payments to
43 or on behalf of mentally ill individuals sixty-five years of age, or over, who are
44 patients in a state mental institution, the family support division shall require
45 agreements or other arrangements with the institution to provide a framework
46 for cooperation and to assure that state plan requirements and federal laws and
47 regulations relating to such payment will be observed. In the event the federal
48 laws or regulations will not permit approval of the state plan for benefit
49 payments to or on behalf of an individual who is sixty-five years of age, or over,
50 and is a patient in a state institution for mental diseases, this portion of this
51 subdivision shall be inoperative until approval of a state plan is obtained;

52 (7) Is otherwise not blind and not eligible for a blind pension under this
53 chapter; or

54 (8) Pleads guilty or has been found to have violated section 209.140.

55 2. Any applicant for or any recipient of a blind pension who does not

56 submit, without good cause or as otherwise specified by the department of social
57 services, to a vision test as required under section 209.040 within thirty days of
58 a request by the department shall not be eligible for a blind pension and the
59 department shall terminate payment after notice and an opportunity for a
60 hearing.

61 3. The applicant for or recipient of a blind pension shall inform the
62 department of any change of address or other contact information and any other
63 change of circumstances that may impact the applicant or recipient's eligibility
64 for a blind pension within ten days of the change. Any notice served on the
65 applicant or recipient shall be sent by [certified] mail delivered by the United
66 States Postal Service at the applicant's or recipient's address of record and shall
67 be deemed service for all purposes under sections 209.010 to 209.160.

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Bill

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