

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 976

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SIFTON.

Read 1st time January 31, 2018, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

6258S.011

AN ACT

To amend chapter 455, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to domestic violence fatality review panels.

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

Section A. Chapter 455, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 455.560, to read as follows:

455.560. 1. A prosecuting attorney or circuit attorney may impanel a domestic violence fatality review panel for the county or city not within a county in which he or she serves to investigate the deaths of victims of homicides determined to be related to domestic violence, as the term is defined in section 455.010.

2. Members of the panel may include any representative of programs or organizations that provide services and responses to victims of domestic violence within the county or city not within a county. The panel shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following members:

(1) The prosecuting or circuit attorney;

(2) The coroner or medical examiner for the county or city not within a county;

(3) A representative of law enforcement personnel in the county or city not within a county;

(4) A provider of public health care services;

(5) A provider of emergency medical services or other medical or health care providers;

(6) A representative of any victim assistant unit for the prosecuting or circuit attorney, law enforcement organization, or court of the county or city not within a county;

22 **(7) A representative of shelters for victims of domestic violence,**
23 **as defined in section 455.200, or domestic violence services**
24 **organizations that provide services for victims within the county or**
25 **city not within a county; and**

26 **(8) A representative of rape crisis centers, as defined in section**
27 **455.003, that provide sexual assault services for victims within the**
28 **county or city not within a county.**

29 **3. A prosecuting or circuit attorney shall organize the panel and**
30 **shall call the first organizational meeting of the panel. The panel shall**
31 **elect a chairperson who shall convene the panel to meet to review all**
32 **deaths of victims of homicides determined to be related to domestic**
33 **violence.**

34 **4. The executive officer of any municipality or county may**
35 **request that a domestic violence fatality review panel be convened in**
36 **response to any fatality which occurs within the boundaries of the**
37 **municipality or county.**

38 **5. Work products of the domestic violence fatality review panel**
39 **other than the final report required by subsection 6 of this section,**
40 **including, but not limited to internal memoranda, summaries or**
41 **minutes of panel meetings, and written, audio recorded, or electronic**
42 **records and communications, are not public records as defined by**
43 **subdivision (6) of section 610.010 and are not available for public**
44 **examination, reproduction, or disclosure, and are not admissible as**
45 **evidence in any civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding.**

46 **6. The panel shall issue a final report, which shall be a public**
47 **record as defined by subdivision (6) of section 610.010, of each**
48 **investigation. The final report shall include the panel's findings and**
49 **recommendations for enhanced practices, protocols, and collaborations**
50 **to address domestic violence and prevent homicides, and a copy shall**
51 **be provided to the governor, the speaker of the house of**
52 **representatives, the president pro tempore of the senate, the executive**
53 **leadership of the government of the political subdivision of the state of**
54 **Missouri in which the panel operates, and the statewide domestic**
55 **violence coalition, as such is recognized by the United States**
56 **Department of Justice and the United States Department of Health and**
57 **Human Services. The final report shall also include a summary.**

✓