

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 771

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CURLS.

1877L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 453, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to foster care and adoptive parents recruitment and retention.

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

Section A. Chapter 453, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be
2 known as section 453.600, to read as follows:

**453.600. 1. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Foster Care and
2 Adoptive Parents Recruitment and Retention Fund" which shall consist of all gifts,
3 donations, transfers, and moneys appropriated by the general assembly, and bequests to
4 the fund. The fund shall be administered by the foster care and adoptive parents
5 recruitment and retention fund board established in subsection 2 of this section.**

**6 (2) The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund and may approve
7 disbursements from the fund in accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180.
8 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys remaining
9 in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue
10 fund. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other
11 funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited
12 to the fund.**

**13 2. (1) There is hereby established the "Foster Care and Adoptive Parents
14 Recruitment and Retention Fund Board" within the department of social services. The
15 board shall be comprised of the following members or their designees:**

16 (a) The director of the department of social services;

17 (b) The director of the department of mental health;

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 (c) The director of the department of health and senior services; and
19 (d) The following six members to be appointed by the director of the department
20 of social services:
- 21 a. Two representatives of recognized foster parent associations;
 - 22 b. Two representatives of licensed child-placing agencies; and
 - 23 c. Two representatives of licensed residential treatment centers.
- 24 (2) Members appointed by the director of the department of social services shall
25 serve three-year terms, subject to reappointment. Of the members initially appointed,
26 three shall be appointed for a two-year term and three shall be appointed for a three-year
27 term. Members shall serve without compensation but shall, subject to appropriations, be
28 reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred in the performance
29 of the member's official duties as a member of the board. The department with existing
30 resources shall provide administrative support and current staff as necessary for the
31 effective operation of the board.
- 32 3. Upon appropriation, moneys in the foster care and adoptive parents recruitment
33 and retention fund shall be used to grant awards to licensed community-based foster care
34 and adoption recruitment programs. The board shall establish guidelines for disbursement
35 of moneys in the fund to certain programs. Such programs shall include, but not be limited
36 to, recruitment and retention of foster and adoptive families for children who:
- 37 (1) Have been in out-of-home placement for fifteen months or more;
 - 38 (2) Are over the age of twelve; or
 - 39 (3) Are in sibling groups.
- 40
- 41 Moneys in the fund shall not be subject to appropriation for purposes other than those of
42 evidence-based foster care and adoption programs as designated by the board.
- 43 4. Under section 23.253 of the Missouri sunset act:
- 44 (1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this section shall
45 automatically sunset six years after the effective date of this section unless reauthorized by
46 an act of the general assembly; and
 - 47 (2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized under this section
48 shall automatically sunset twelve years after the effective date of the reauthorization of this
49 section; and
 - 50 (3) This section shall terminate on September first of the calendar year immediately
51 following the calendar year in which the program authorized under this section is sunset.