

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

[PERFECTED]

HOUSE BILL NO. 526

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES FRANKLIN (Sponsor), KELLEY (127), HOSKINS, MCGAUGH,
MUNTZEL, MILLER, BROWN AND LYNCH (Co-sponsors).

0954H.01P

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 620, RSMo, by adding thereto 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. Chapter 620, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be
2 known as section 620.750, to read as follows:

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

**4 2. Rural regional development grants may be provided to qualified rural regional
5 development groups. For a rural regional development group to qualify for the grant, the
6 group shall:**

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

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

12 (3) Measure the skills of the region's workforce;

**13 (4) Provide an organizational chart demonstrating that private businesses and local
14 governmental and educational officials are involved in the group; and**

15 (5) Provide documentation of the group's financial activities for the current year.

**16 3. A rural regional development group shall not qualify for a rural regional
17 development grant if:**

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 **(1) The group’s region includes a county or portion of another state outside the state**
19 **of Missouri; or**

20 **(2) The group maintains an operating budget greater than two hundred fifty**
21 **thousand dollars.**

22 **4. Applications for rural regional development grants shall only be submitted for**
23 **a rural regional development group by a regional planning commission created under**
24 **chapter 251 or other legally created regional planning commission. A regional planning**
25 **commission may submit applications on behalf of more than one rural regional**
26 **development group, except that a regional planning commission shall not submit an**
27 **application on behalf of a group that the regional planning commission does not recognize**
28 **as the economic development authority for the county that the authority represents.**

29 **5. The regional planning commission may charge an application fee for the grants**
30 **developed under this section. Revenue generated from the application fee shall be used to**
31 **defray the cost of administering the grants.**

32 **6. The regional small business and technology development center will serve as the**
33 **facilitator of the rural regional development group for purposes of this grant program.**
34 **The facilitator's role will be to convene the group, provide support for the development of**
35 **an action plan for the implementation of the grant in the region, and handle reporting**
36 **responsibilities on the pre-determined metrics that demonstrate the results from the**
37 **economic development activities in the region.**

38 **7. A single grant shall not exceed one hundred fifty thousand dollars. Each of the**
39 **nineteen regions of the state represented by a regional planning commission created under**
40 **chapter 251 or other legally created regional planning commission shall not receive more**
41 **than two grants per region.**

42 **8. Grants provided under this section shall be distributed based on a rural regional**
43 **development group’s years in operation. The eligible amount shall be:**

44 **(1) For a group in operation two years or more on a matching basis of three dollars**
45 **of state funds for every one dollar of funds provided or raised by the rural regional**
46 **development group.**

47 **(2) For groups in operation less than two years on a matching basis of one dollar of**
48 **state funds for every one dollar of funds provided or raised by the rural regional**
49 **development group.**

50 **9. Uses for the grants may include, but are not limited to, the following activities:**

51 **(1) Workforce development activities, such as evaluation and education;**

52 **(2) Entrepreneurship training for pre-venture and existing businesses;**

53 **(3) Development of regional marketing techniques and activities;**

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

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

56 **(6) Demographic and market opportunity research to assist regional planning**
57 **commissions in developing their comprehensive economic development strategy.**

58 **10. The facilitator shall annually report to the governor; the director of the**
59 **department of economic development; the senate committee on commerce, consumer**
60 **protection and the environment and the house committee on economic development and**
61 **any successor committees thereto, the allocation of the grants and the purposes for which**
62 **the funding was used.**

63 **11. The department of economic development may promulgate rules governing the**
64 **award of grants under this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined**
65 **in section 536.010 that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become**
66 **effective only if it complies with and is subject to all the provisions of chapter 536, and, if**
67 **applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of**
68 **the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, to review, to delay**
69 **the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held**
70 **unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted**
71 **after August 28, 2013, shall be invalid and void.**

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