

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1506

## 97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES FRANKLIN (Sponsor), KORMAN, MILLER, GUERNSEY,  
WALKER, HANSEN, NEELY, LYNCH, ENTLICHER, WOOD, MCGAUGH, CRAWFORD,  
MUNTZEL AND REMOLE (Co-sponsors).

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D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To amend chapter 620, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to rural regional development grants.

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*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. After the award of a grant, the group shall:**

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

28           **5. The regional planning commission may charge an application fee for the grants**  
29 **developed under this section. The regional planning commission shall be allowed to claim**  
30 **reimbursement from the grant recipient for actual costs of administering the grants.**

31           **6. A single grant shall not exceed one hundred fifty thousand dollars. Each of the**  
32 **nineteen regions of the state represented by a regional planning commission created under**  
33 **chapter 251 or other legally created regional planning commission shall not receive more**  
34 **than two grants per region annually.**

35           **7. Grants provided under this section shall be distributed based on a rural regional**  
36 **development group's years in operation. The eligible amount shall be:**

37           **(1) For a group in operation two years or more on a matching basis of three dollars**  
38 **of state funds for every one dollar of funds provided or raised by the rural regional**  
39 **development group, including the value of in-kind services, supplies, or equipment.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

51           **9. The grant recipient shall annually report to the governor; the director of the**  
52 **department of economic development; the senate committee on commerce, consumer**  
53 **protection and the environment; the house committee on economic development and any**  
54 **successor committees thereto, the allocation of the grants and the purposes for which the**  
55 **funding was used.**

56           **10. The department of economic development may promulgate rules governing the**  
57 **award of grants under this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined**  
58 **in section 536.010 that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become**  
59 **effective only if it complies with and is subject to all the provisions of chapter 536, and, if**  
60 **applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of**  
61 **the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, to review, to delay**  
62 **the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held**  
63 **unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted**  
64 **after August 28, 2014, shall be invalid and void.**

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