

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
[TRULY AGREED TO AND FINALLY PASSED]

HOUSE BILL NO. 1506

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4211H.01T

2014

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. 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.

**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**

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.

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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