

HB 2339 -- MILITARY COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT GRANT

SPONSOR: Lynch

This bill creates the Missouri Military Community Reinvestment Program within the Department of Economic Development to assist military communities in supporting and sustaining their installations, to encourage communities to initiate coordinated response programs and action plans in advance of federal government realignment and closure decisions, and to support community efforts to attract new or expanded military missions.

The department and the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission must invite public comments on the administration of the program and jointly develop and establish procedures for implementation of the program. The department must evaluate each application and make recommendations to the commission, which will approve or reject any recommended application. Upon approval, the department will administer grant awards, including tracking and monitoring the administration of the grant funds and whether grantees have achieved the goals set forth in the application.

Grants will not exceed \$300,000 per year per grantee and no more than two grants may be made in each congressional district each year. Eligible amounts for grants include certain match requirements based on an applicant's years in operation. Applications must include a coordinated program of work or a plan of action specifying how the project will be administered and accomplished, including a plan for ensuring cooperation between civilian and military authorities in the conduct of activities and a plan for public participation. The grants may be used for public-to-public partnerships with military installations, local or regional marketing to communicate the value of military installations and military service, programs to assist with the diversification of the economy of the community, performing research regarding factors that affect attractiveness of the community for future military investments, programs to develop or improve the quality of life in military communities, and developing plans to reuse closed or realigned military installations or facilities.