

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1787
93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Reported from the Committee on Job Creation and Economic Development March 15, 2006 with recommendation that House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1787 Do Pass by Consent. Referred to the Committee on Rules pursuant to Rule 25(26)(f).

STEPHEN S. DAVIS, Chief Clerk

5137L.06C

AN ACT

To amend chapter 620, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the guard at home program, with an emergency clause.

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 620.515, to read as follows:

620.515. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Guard at Home"
2 **program whose purpose is to:**

3 **(1) Assist the spouse of an active duty national guard or reservist to address**
4 **immediate needs and employment in an attempt to keep the family from falling into**
5 **poverty while the primary income earner is on active duty; and**

6 **(2) Assist returning national guard troops with finding work in situations where**
7 **an individual needs to rebuild business clientele or where an individual's job has been**
8 **eliminated while such individual was deployed.**

9 **2. Subject to appropriation, the department of economic development shall enter**
10 **into a contract with qualified providers through local workforce investment boards to**
11 **provide the guard at home program. The department shall develop the criteria of the**
12 **contract based on the following criteria:**

13 **(1) Eligible participants in the program shall be those families where:**

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.

- 14 (a) The primary income earner was called to active duty in defense of the United
15 States for a period of more than four months;
- 16 (b) The family's primary income is no longer available;
- 17 (c) The family is experiencing significant hardship due to financial burdens; and
- 18 (d) The family has no outside resources available to assist with such hardships;
- 19 (2) Services that may be provided to the family will be aimed at ameliorating the
20 immediate crisis and providing a path for economic stability while the primary income is
21 not available due to the active military commitment. Services may include, but not be
22 limited to the following:
- 23 (a) Financial assistance to families facing financial crisis from overdue bills due to
24 reduced income after the deployment of a spouse;
- 25 (b) Help paying daycare costs to pursue training and or employment;
- 26 (c) Help covering the costs of transportation to training and or employment;
- 27 (d) Vocational evaluation and vocational counseling to help the individual choose
28 a visible employment goal;
- 29 (e) Vocational training to acquire or upgrade skills needed to be marketable in the
30 workforce;
- 31 (f) Paid internships and subsidized employment to train on the job; and
- 32 (g) Job placement assistance for those who don't require skills training;
- 33 (3) The department shall ensure the eligible providers are:
- 34 (a) Community-based not-for-profit agencies which have significant experience in
35 job training, placement, and social services;
- 36 (b) Providers with extensive experience providing such services to veterans and
37 implementing contracts with veteran organizations such as the department of veteran
38 affairs;
- 39 (c) Providers which have attained the distinction of being accredited through a
40 national accreditation body for training and or human services;
- 41 (d) Providers which are able to provide a twenty percent match to the program
42 either through indirect or direct expenditures; and
- 43 (e) Providers with experience in the regions targeted for the program.
- 44 3. The department shall structure the contract such that payment will be based on
45 delivering the services described in this section as well as performance to guarantee the
46 greatest possible effectiveness of the program.
- 47 4. Because of the important nature of this program to the health and welfare of
48 Missourians, this section shall become effective on July 1, 2006. The department shall

49 **make every reasonable effort to ensure that the guard at home program is serving families**
50 **by August 1, 2006.**

51 **5. The department shall prepare a report on the operations and progress of the**
52 **program to be delivered to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president**
53 **pro tem of the senate no later than January 1, 2007.**

Section B. Because immediate action is necessary to protect the health and welfare of
2 Missouri national guard troops and reservists, section A of this act is deemed necessary for the
3 immediate preservation of the public health, welfare, peace, and safety, and is hereby declared
4 to be an emergency act within the meaning of the constitution, and section A of this act shall be
5 in full force and effect on July 1, 2006, or upon its passage and approval.

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