

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 847

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES DIXON (Sponsor), SCHOELLER, MARSH, DENISON,
WASSON AND LAMPE (Co-sponsors).

Read 1st time February 13, 2007 and copies ordered printed.

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

1915L.01I

AN ACT

To repeal section 487.020, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to family court commissioners.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 487.020, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 487.020, to read as follows:

487.020. 1. In each circuit or a county having a family court, a majority of the circuit and associate circuit judges en banc, in the circuit, may appoint commissioners, subject to appropriations, to hear family court cases and make findings as provided for in sections 487.010 to 487.190. Any person serving as a commissioner of the juvenile division of the circuit court on August 28, 1993, shall become a commissioner of the family court. In each circuit or a county therein having a family court, a majority of the circuit and associate circuit judges en banc may appoint, in addition to those commissioners serving as commissioners of the juvenile division and becoming commissioners of the family court pursuant to the provisions of sections 487.020 to 487.040, no more than three additional commissioners to hear family court cases and make findings and recommendations as provided in sections 487.010 to 487.190. The number of additional commissioners added as a result of the provisions of sections 487.010 to 487.190 may be appointed only to the extent that the state is reimbursed for the salaries of the commissioners as provided in sections 487.010 to 487.190 or by federal or county funds or by gifts or grants made for such purposes. A commissioner shall be appointed for a term of four

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 years. Commissioners appointed pursuant to sections 487.020 to 487.040 shall serve in addition
16 to circuit judges, associate circuit court judges and commissioners authorized to hear actions
17 classified under section 487.080.

18 2. The circuit court in the eleventh judicial circuit may, in substitution of a family court
19 commissioner currently appointed pursuant to this section whose salary is reimbursable, appoint
20 one family court commissioner whose compensation shall be payable by the state without
21 necessity of reimbursement. The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to allow
22 appointment of a family court commissioner in addition to the number of such family court
23 commissioners holding office in the eleventh judicial circuit as of January 1, 1999, and the
24 appointment of the state-paid commissioner shall be subject to appropriations for such purpose.

25 3. **Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1 of this section, the circuit court**
26 **in the thirty-first judicial circuit may appoint one family court commissioner whose**
27 **compensation shall be payable by the state without necessity of reimbursement.**

28 4. Each commissioner of the family court shall possess the same qualifications as a
29 circuit judge. The compensation and retirement benefits of each commissioner shall be the same
30 as that of an associate circuit judge, payable in the same manner and from the same source as that
31 of an associate circuit judge.

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