

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 409

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES BOWMAN (Sponsor), CURLS, HODGES,
OXFORD AND BLAND (Co-sponsors).

Read 1st time January 16, 2007 and copies ordered printed.

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

0905L.01I

AN ACT

To amend chapter 26, RSMo, by adding thereto four new sections relating to urban revitalization.

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

Section A. Chapter 26, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto four new sections, to be known as sections 26.800, 26.802, 26.804, and 26.806, to read as follows:

26.800. 1. There is hereby created within the office of the governor a "Revitalization and Reconstruction Commission". The governor may, by executive order, assign this commission to the office of any executive department or statewide elected official.

2. The commission is established to promote the restoration, redevelopment, and revitalization of the urban resources of the state. The commission shall devise a comprehensive plan for alleviation of problems associated with distressed urban areas in this state. The plan shall cover a period of at least ten years after the publication of the plan, and shall address the needs as listed in subsection 2 of section 26.804. The commission shall have authority over state programs, as provided by law, which are designed to remedy blight and deterioration of urban areas, and to facilitate the revitalization of, and to reverse, declining property values in distressed urban areas.

26.802. The commission shall consist of nine members, seven of whom shall be appointed by the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, not more than

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.

3 four of whom shall be of the same political party. At least two appointed members of the
4 commission shall be residents of the largest municipality in the state, at least two appointed
5 members shall be residents of the second largest municipality in the state, and at least one
6 member shall be a resident of the third largest municipality in the state. All appointed
7 members shall have knowledge of and interest in the restoration, redevelopment, and
8 revitalization of urban areas. The appointed members shall hold office for terms of six
9 years beginning on the first day of July of consecutive odd years; provided, that for the
10 original seven appointed members, the governor shall designate three members for terms
11 expiring June 30, 2014, two members for terms expiring June 30, 2016, and two members
12 for terms expiring June 30, 2018. If the governor fails to fill a vacancy caused by the death,
13 resignation, or removal from office of any appointed member of the commission, or to
14 replace an appointed member whose term has expired within thirty days of the occurrence
15 of the vacancy or term expiration, the remaining members of the commission shall fill the
16 vacancy for the unexpired term or replace the member whose term has expired for a
17 six-year term. In addition to the members of the commission appointed by the governor,
18 the state treasurer and state auditor shall serve as members of the commission. The
19 members shall receive no salary or other compensation for their services as members, but
20 shall receive reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance
21 of their duties. The members of the commission shall elect one of their members to serve
22 as chair of the commission, and may elect other officers as deemed necessary.

26.804. 1. The commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- 2 (1) To accept, from any source, moneys and property paid, offered, or granted to
3 the commission to be expended and used by the commission for the purposes specified in
4 sections 26.800 to 26.806;
- 5 (2) To designate specific distressed urban areas in the state in which the
6 commission shall direct a program of concentrated revitalization based on an assessment
7 of extraordinary need;
- 8 (3) To develop a plan to effectuate such targeted concentrated revitalization in
9 cooperation with federal, state, and local governments and agencies. Such plan may include
10 the formation of nonprofit public development corporations or the activities of existing
11 nonprofit corporations and entities, the redirection of existing programs and resources for
12 the benefit of such areas, and proposals for the creation of new or expanded programs in
13 such areas;
- 14 (4) To acquire, through purchase, donation, gift, or eminent domain, land in
15 distressed urban areas, to remove obsolete, inefficient, dilapidated, or outdated structures
16 and assemble suitable sites for building and development of industrial, business, and

17 residential facilities to attract and house new industries and business and allow expansion
18 and improvement of existing industrial, business, and residential operations. The
19 commission shall exercise the right of eminent domain in the manner provided by law for
20 the highways and transportation commission, and may sell, lease, or otherwise transfer or
21 convey, on terms it deems appropriate, any interest it has in lands owned by the
22 commission;

23 (5) To appoint an advisory commission from a distressed urban area, whose
24 members shall include residents of the distressed urban area and representatives of
25 business and industry in the distressed urban area. The advisory commission shall advise
26 the commission regarding the creation of a program of concentrated revitalization for the
27 distressed urban area based upon the commission's assessment of extraordinary need. The
28 advisory commission may advise the commission concerning how the revitalization plan
29 will be integrated with available community and governmental resources. The members
30 of the advisory commission shall receive no compensation for their service as members of
31 the advisory commission, but shall receive their necessary traveling and other expenses
32 incurred while actually engaged in the discharge of their official duties;

33 (6) To apply for and receive grants, gifts, donations, and financial assistance from
34 federal agencies or private individuals or entities to complete its duties;

35 (7) To provide relocation assistance, under sections 523.200 to 523.215, RSMo, to
36 displaced persons who relocate permanently and voluntarily from real property as a direct
37 result of the acquisition, rehabilitation, or demolition of, or the written notice of intent to
38 acquire such real property, in whole or in part, by the commission;

39 (8) To provide assistance to municipalities and community organizations engaging
40 in the improvement of economic opportunities, housing, and industrial and commercial
41 revitalization of urban areas;

42 (9) To provide comprehensive information on existing federal, state, and local
43 urban development and revitalization programs upon request to municipalities and
44 community organizations;

45 (10) To coordinate the programs of state agencies and public benefit nonprofit
46 corporations to remedy problems in distressed urban areas;

47 (11) To provide information and assistance to the governor and general assembly
48 in the coordination, consolidation, and improvement of state policy regarding urban areas;
49 and

50 (12) To represent the governor before federal agencies on matters of importance
51 to coordinate policy for the revitalization of urban areas.

52 2. The plan adopted by the commission shall address the following needs in
53 distressed urban areas of the state:

- 54 (1) Promoting a vigorous and growing economy;
55 (2) Preventing economic stagnation and encouraging of the creation of new job
56 opportunities to ameliorate the hazards of unemployment and underemployment;
57 (3) Reducing the level of public assistance;
58 (4) Reducing the rate of crime and delinquency;
59 (5) Increasing the level of education;
60 (6) Reversing declining property values in urban areas;
61 (7) Increasing revenues to the state and municipalities; and
62 (8) Achieving a diversified economy.

63 3. The comprehensive plan shall contain initial proposals for addressing
64 revitalization of each identified distressed urban area and state a proposed time line for
65 revitalization of each such area. The commission shall not be required to allocate resources
66 in a particular geographic pattern or to all distressed urban areas simultaneously, and may
67 concentrate all of its efforts in a particular distressed urban area or several distressed
68 urban areas to the exclusion of other distressed urban areas until revitalization of such
69 area is complete. The comprehensive plan shall be periodically updated by the
70 commission, but the commission shall publish and operate under a current comprehensive
71 plan prior to February 28, 2009.

72 4. For purposes of this section, "distressed urban area" means that portion of a
73 municipality or municipalities which, by reason of structural age, obsolescence, inadequate
74 or outmoded design, or physical deterioration, has become an economic or social liability;
75 that such conditions are conducive to ill health, transmission of disease, crime, or the
76 inability to pay reasonable taxes; and that conservation, restoration, redevelopment, and
77 revitalization are necessary to correct such conditions.

78 5. The commission shall compile a full report of its findings for submission to the
79 general assembly. The report shall be submitted not later than the fifteenth of January of
80 each year in which the general assembly convenes in regular session. The commission shall
81 also submit a report to the general assembly before undertaking any project, in which it
82 identifies the nature and plan of the proposed project.

26.806. 1. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Revitalization and
2 Reconstruction Fund", which shall consist of money collected under sections 26.800 to
3 26.806. Upon appropriation, money in the fund shall be used solely for the administration
4 of sections 26.800 to 26.806. The state treasurer shall deposit to the credit of the fund all
5 moneys which may be appropriated to it by the general assembly and also any gifts,

6 contributions, grants, bequests, or other aid received from federal, private, or other
7 sources.

8 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080, RSMo, to the contrary, any
9 moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of
10 the general revenue fund.

11 3. The state auditor shall periodically cause an audit to be made of the books,
12 accounts, and records of the commission with respect to its receipts, disbursements,
13 contracts, mortgages, leases, assignments, loans, and all other matters relating to its
14 financial operations. Copies of the audit shall be furnished to the governor, the speaker
15 of the house of representatives, and the president pro tem of the senate.

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