

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 37

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES SATER (Sponsor) AND WETER (Co-sponsor).

0133L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 105.711, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the state legal expense fund.

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

Section A. Section 105.711, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 105.711, to read as follows:

105.711. 1. There is hereby created a "State Legal Expense Fund" which shall consist of moneys appropriated to the fund by the general assembly and moneys otherwise credited to such fund pursuant to section 105.716.

2. Moneys in the state legal expense fund shall be available for the payment of any claim or any amount required by any final judgment rendered by a court of competent jurisdiction against:

(1) The state of Missouri, or any agency of the state, pursuant to section 536.050 or 536.087, RSMo, or section 537.600, RSMo;

(2) Any officer or employee of the state of Missouri or any agency of the state, including, without limitation, elected officials, appointees, members of state boards or commissions, and members of the Missouri national guard upon conduct of such officer or employee arising out of and performed in connection with his or her official duties on behalf of the state, or any agency of the state, provided that moneys in this fund shall not be available for payment of claims made under chapter 287, RSMo;

(3) (a) Any physician, psychiatrist, pharmacist, podiatrist, dentist, nurse, or other health care provider licensed to practice in Missouri under the provisions of chapter 330, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337 or 338, RSMo, who is employed by the state of Missouri or any agency of the state

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.

18 under formal contract to conduct disability reviews on behalf of the department of elementary
19 and secondary education or provide services to patients or inmates of state correctional facilities
20 on a part-time basis, and any physician, psychiatrist, pharmacist, podiatrist, dentist, nurse, or
21 other health care provider licensed to practice in Missouri under the provisions of chapter 330,
22 332, 334, 335, 336, 337, or 338, RSMo, who is under formal contract to provide services to
23 patients or inmates at a county jail on a part-time basis;

24 (b) Any physician licensed to practice medicine in Missouri under the provisions of
25 chapter 334, RSMo, and his professional corporation organized pursuant to chapter 356, RSMo,
26 who is employed by or under contract with a city or county health department organized under
27 chapter 192, RSMo, or chapter 205, RSMo, or a city health department operating under a city
28 charter, or a combined city-county health department to provide services to patients for medical
29 care caused by pregnancy, delivery, and child care, if such medical services are provided by the
30 physician pursuant to the contract without compensation or the physician is paid from no other
31 source than a governmental agency except for patient co-payments required by federal or state
32 law or local ordinance;

33 (c) Any physician licensed to practice medicine in Missouri under the provisions of
34 chapter 334, RSMo, who is employed by or under contract with a federally funded community
35 health center organized under Section 315, 329, 330 or 340 of the Public Health Services Act (42
36 U.S.C. 216, 254c) to provide services to patients for medical care caused by pregnancy, delivery,
37 and child care, if such medical services are provided by the physician pursuant to the contract
38 or employment agreement without compensation or the physician is paid from no other source
39 than a governmental agency or such a federally funded community health center except for
40 patient co-payments required by federal or state law or local ordinance. In the case of any claim
41 or judgment that arises under this paragraph, the aggregate of payments from the state legal
42 expense fund shall be limited to a maximum of one million dollars for all claims arising out of
43 and judgments based upon the same act or acts alleged in a single cause against any such
44 physician, and shall not exceed one million dollars for any one claimant;

45 (d) Any physician licensed pursuant to chapter 334, RSMo, who is affiliated with and
46 receives no compensation from a nonprofit entity qualified as exempt from federal taxation under
47 Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which offers a free health
48 screening in any setting or any physician, nurse, physician assistant, dental hygienist, dentist, or
49 other health care professional licensed or registered under chapter 330, 331, 332, 334, 335, 336,
50 337, or 338, RSMo, who provides health care services within the scope of his or her license or
51 registration at a city or county health department organized under chapter 192, RSMo, or chapter
52 205, RSMo, a city health department operating under a city charter, or a combined city-county
53 health department, or a nonprofit community health center qualified as exempt from federal

54 taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, if such
55 services are restricted to primary care and preventive health services, provided that such services
56 shall not include the performance of an abortion, and if such health services are provided by the
57 health care professional licensed or registered under chapter 330, 331, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337,
58 or 338, RSMo, without compensation. MO HealthNet or Medicare payments for primary care
59 and preventive health services provided by a health care professional licensed or registered under
60 chapter 330, 331, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337, or 338, RSMo, who volunteers at a free health clinic
61 is not compensation for the purpose of this section if the total payment is assigned to the free
62 health clinic. For the purposes of the section, "free health clinic" means a nonprofit community
63 health center qualified as exempt from federal taxation under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal
64 Revenue Code of 1987, as amended, that provides primary care and preventive health services
65 to people without health insurance coverage for the services provided without charge. In the case
66 of any claim or judgment that arises under this paragraph, the aggregate of payments from the
67 state legal expense fund shall be limited to a maximum of five hundred thousand dollars, for all
68 claims arising out of and judgments based upon the same act or acts alleged in a single cause and
69 shall not exceed five hundred thousand dollars for any one claimant, and insurance policies
70 purchased pursuant to the provisions of section 105.721 shall be limited to five hundred thousand
71 dollars. Liability or malpractice insurance obtained and maintained in force by or on behalf of
72 any health care professional licensed or registered under chapter 330, 331, 332, 334, 335, 336,
73 337, or 338, RSMo, shall not be considered available to pay that portion of a judgment or claim
74 for which the state legal expense fund is liable under this paragraph;

75 (e) Any physician, nurse, physician assistant, dental hygienist, or dentist licensed or
76 registered to practice **or lawfully practicing** medicine, nursing, or dentistry or to act as a
77 physician assistant or dental hygienist in Missouri under the provisions of chapter 332, RSMo,
78 chapter 334, RSMo, or chapter 335, RSMo, who provides medical, nursing, or dental treatment
79 within the scope of his license or registration to students of a school whether a public, private,
80 or parochial elementary or secondary school **or summer camp**, if such physician's treatment is
81 restricted to primary care and preventive health services and if such medical, dental, or nursing
82 services are provided by the physician, dentist, physician assistant, dental hygienist, or nurse
83 without compensation. In the case of any claim or judgment that arises under this paragraph, the
84 aggregate of payments from the state legal expense fund shall be limited to a maximum of five
85 hundred thousand dollars, for all claims arising out of and judgments based upon the same act
86 or acts alleged in a single cause and shall not exceed five hundred thousand dollars for any one
87 claimant, and insurance policies purchased pursuant to the provisions of section 105.721 shall
88 be limited to five hundred thousand dollars; or

89 (f) Any physician licensed under chapter 334, RSMo, or dentist licensed under chapter
90 332, RSMo, providing medical care without compensation to an individual referred to his or her
91 care by a city or county health department organized under chapter 192 or 205, RSMo, a city
92 health department operating under a city charter, or a combined city-county health department,
93 or nonprofit health center qualified as exempt from federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of
94 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or a federally funded community health center
95 organized under Section 315, 329, 330, or 340 of the Public Health Services Act, 42 U.S.C.
96 Section 216, 254c; provided that such treatment shall not include the performance of an abortion.
97 In the case of any claim or judgment that arises under this paragraph, the aggregate of payments
98 from the state legal expense fund shall be limited to a maximum of one million dollars for all
99 claims arising out of and judgments based upon the same act or acts alleged in a single cause and
100 shall not exceed one million dollars for any one claimant, and insurance policies purchased under
101 the provisions of section 105.721 shall be limited to one million dollars. Liability or malpractice
102 insurance obtained and maintained in force by or on behalf of any physician licensed under
103 chapter 334, RSMo, or any dentist licensed under chapter 332, RSMo, shall not be considered
104 available to pay that portion of a judgment or claim for which the state legal expense fund is
105 liable under this paragraph;

106 (4) Staff employed by the juvenile division of any judicial circuit;

107 (5) Any attorney licensed to practice law in the state of Missouri who practices law at
108 or through a nonprofit community social services center qualified as exempt from federal
109 taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or through
110 any agency of any federal, state, or local government, if such legal practice is provided by the
111 attorney without compensation. In the case of any claim or judgment that arises under this
112 subdivision, the aggregate of payments from the state legal expense fund shall be limited to a
113 maximum of five hundred thousand dollars for all claims arising out of and judgments based
114 upon the same act or acts alleged in a single cause and shall not exceed five hundred thousand
115 dollars for any one claimant, and insurance policies purchased pursuant to the provisions of
116 section 105.721 shall be limited to five hundred thousand dollars; or

117 (6) Any social welfare board created under section 205.770, RSMo, and the members
118 and officers thereof upon conduct of such officer or employee while acting in his or her capacity
119 as a board member or officer, and any physician, nurse, physician assistant, dental hygienist,
120 dentist, or other health care professional licensed or registered under chapter 330, 331, 332, 334,
121 335, 336, 337, or 338, RSMo, who is referred to provide medical care without compensation by
122 the board and who provides health care services within the scope of his or her license or
123 registration as prescribed by the board.

124 3. The department of health and senior services shall promulgate rules regarding contract
125 procedures and the documentation of care provided under paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) of
126 subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of this section. The limitation on payments from the state legal
127 expense fund or any policy of insurance procured pursuant to the provisions of section 105.721,
128 provided in subsection 7 of this section, shall not apply to any claim or judgment arising under
129 paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f) of subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of this section. Any claim
130 or judgment arising under paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f) of subdivision (3) of subsection
131 2 of this section shall be paid by the state legal expense fund or any policy of insurance procured
132 pursuant to section 105.721, to the extent damages are allowed under sections 538.205 to
133 538.235, RSMo. Liability or malpractice insurance obtained and maintained in force by any
134 health care professional licensed or registered under chapter 330, 331, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337,
135 or 338, RSMo, for coverage concerning his or her private practice and assets shall not be
136 considered available under subsection 7 of this section to pay that portion of a judgment or claim
137 for which the state legal expense fund is liable under paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f) of
138 subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of this section. However, a health care professional licensed or
139 registered under chapter 330, 331, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337, or 338, RSMo, may purchase liability
140 or malpractice insurance for coverage of liability claims or judgments based upon care rendered
141 under paragraphs (c), (d), (e), and (f) of subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of this section which
142 exceed the amount of liability coverage provided by the state legal expense fund under those
143 paragraphs. Even if paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f) of subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of
144 this section is repealed or modified, the state legal expense fund shall be available for damages
145 which occur while the pertinent paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f) of subdivision (3) of
146 subsection 2 of this section is in effect.

147 4. The attorney general shall promulgate rules regarding contract procedures and the
148 documentation of legal practice provided under subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section.
149 The limitation on payments from the state legal expense fund or any policy of insurance procured
150 pursuant to section 105.721 as provided in subsection 7 of this section shall not apply to any
151 claim or judgment arising under subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section. Any claim or
152 judgment arising under subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section shall be paid by the state
153 legal expense fund or any policy of insurance procured pursuant to section 105.721 to the extent
154 damages are allowed under sections 538.205 to 538.235, RSMo. Liability or malpractice
155 insurance otherwise obtained and maintained in force shall not be considered available under
156 subsection 7 of this section to pay that portion of a judgment or claim for which the state legal
157 expense fund is liable under subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section. However, an
158 attorney may obtain liability or malpractice insurance for coverage of liability claims or
159 judgments based upon legal practice rendered under subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this

160 section that exceed the amount of liability coverage provided by the state legal expense fund
161 under subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section. Even if subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of
162 this section is repealed or amended, the state legal expense fund shall be available for damages
163 that occur while the pertinent subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section is in effect.

164 5. All payments shall be made from the state legal expense fund by the commissioner
165 of administration with the approval of the attorney general. Payment from the state legal expense
166 fund of a claim or final judgment award against a health care professional licensed or registered
167 under chapter 330, 331, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337, or 338, RSMo, described in paragraph (a), (b),
168 (c), (d), (e), or (f) of subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of this section, or against an attorney in
169 subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section, shall only be made for services rendered in
170 accordance with the conditions of such paragraphs. In the case of any claim or judgment against
171 an officer or employee of the state or any agency of the state based upon conduct of such officer
172 or employee arising out of and performed in connection with his or her official duties on behalf
173 of the state or any agency of the state that would give rise to a cause of action under section
174 537.600, RSMo, the state legal expense fund shall be liable, excluding punitive damages, for:

175 (1) Economic damages to any one claimant; and

176 (2) Up to three hundred fifty thousand dollars for noneconomic damages. The state legal
177 expense fund shall be the exclusive remedy and shall preclude any other civil actions or
178 proceedings for money damages arising out of or relating to the same subject matter against the
179 state officer or employee, or the officer's or employee's estate. No officer or employee of the
180 state or any agency of the state shall be individually liable in his or her personal capacity for
181 conduct of such officer or employee arising out of and performed in connection with his or her
182 official duties on behalf of the state or any agency of the state. The provisions of this subsection
183 shall not apply to any defendant who is not an officer or employee of the state or any agency of
184 the state in any proceeding against an officer or employee of the state or any agency of the state.
185 Nothing in this subsection shall limit the rights and remedies otherwise available to a claimant
186 under state law or common law in proceedings where one or more defendants is not an officer
187 or employee of the state or any agency of the state.

188 6. The limitation on awards for noneconomic damages provided for in this subsection
189 shall be increased or decreased on an annual basis effective January first of each year in
190 accordance with the Implicit Price Deflator for Personal Consumption Expenditures as published
191 by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the United States Department of Commerce. The current
192 value of the limitation shall be calculated by the director of the department of insurance, financial
193 institutions and professional registration, who shall furnish that value to the secretary of state,
194 who shall publish such value in the Missouri Register as soon after each January first as
195 practicable, but it shall otherwise be exempt from the provisions of section 536.021, RSMo.

196 7. Except as provided in subsection 3 of this section, in the case of any claim or
197 judgment that arises under sections 537.600 and 537.610, RSMo, against the state of Missouri,
198 or an agency of the state, the aggregate of payments from the state legal expense fund and from
199 any policy of insurance procured pursuant to the provisions of section 105.721 shall not exceed
200 the limits of liability as provided in sections 537.600 to 537.610, RSMo. No payment shall be
201 made from the state legal expense fund or any policy of insurance procured with state funds
202 pursuant to section 105.721 unless and until the benefits provided to pay the claim by any other
203 policy of liability insurance have been exhausted.

204 8. The provisions of section 33.080, RSMo, notwithstanding, any moneys remaining to
205 the credit of the state legal expense fund at the end of an appropriation period shall not be
206 transferred to general revenue.

207 9. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, RSMo, that
208 is promulgated under the authority delegated in sections 105.711 to 105.726 shall become
209 effective only if it has been promulgated pursuant to the provisions of chapter 536, RSMo.
210 Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to repeal or affect the validity of any rule filed or
211 adopted prior to August 28, 1999, if it fully complied with the provisions of chapter 536, RSMo.
212 This section and chapter 536, RSMo, are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the
213 general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo, to review, to delay the effective date, or to
214 disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking
215 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 1999, shall be invalid and void.

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