

HOUSE COMMITTEE BILL NO. 8

AN ACT

To amend chapter 620, RSMo, by adding thereto nine new sections relating to the Missouri Urban and Rural Renewal Workforce Act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI,
AS FOLLOWS:

Section A. Chapter 620, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto nine new sections, to be known as sections 620.608, 620.609, 620.610, 620.611, 620.613, 620.615, 620.616, 620.617, and 620.619, to read as follows:

620.608. Sections 620.608 to 620.619 shall be known and may be cited as the "Missouri Urban and Rural Renewal Workforce Act".

620.609. There is hereby established a "Missouri Urban and Rural Renewal Workforce", which shall provide employability skills training, and meaningful work experience leading to credentials and employment necessary to better prepare the citizens in urban and rural areas for meeting basic work requirements and their civic responsibility.

620.610. As used in sections 620.608 to 620.619 the following terms mean:

(1) "Corps", the Missouri urban and rural renewal workforce;

(2) "Division", the division of workforce development within the department of economic development;

(3) "Local workforce development boards", the local

workforce development boards established under Section 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, 113 Pub. L. 128, or any succeeding administrative body established by subsequent federal legislation to provide for the local administration and expenditure of funding for employment and job training and approved by the division;

(4) "Participant", a person who has been hired and who meets the program eligibility criteria established under sections 620.608 to 620.619;

(5) "Project", an undertaking designed to provide, or assist in providing, services to promote public health, education, or the welfare of the general population. The term includes, but is not limited to:

(a) The rehabilitation of substandard housing;

(b) The repair, restoration, and maintenance of public facilities and amenities;

(c) Assistance with the organization or delivery of educational or health services;

(d) Assistance for the homebound elderly;

(e) Delivery of food to the hungry and elderly;

(f) Restoration or development of park facilities;

(g) Trail construction and maintenance;

(h) Litter control; and

(i) Road repair;

(6) "Project sponsor", any state agency including, but not limited to, the department of elementary and secondary education, department of labor and industrial relations, department of

1 natural resources, department of social services, or the
2 University of Missouri extension system; any unit of local
3 government, including school districts; private not-for-profit
4 corporations or organizations; administrative entities designated
5 pursuant to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, 113
6 Pub. L. 128; or community-based organizations.

7 620.611. 1. The Missouri urban and rural renewal workforce
8 shall consist of a year-round community employment program for
9 urban and rural residents.

10 2. In selecting participants for the corps, the director of
11 the division shall give preference to persons whose income is at
12 or below one hundred eighty-five percent of the federal poverty
13 guidlines, as determined annually by the United States Department
14 of Health and Human Services. The director may segregate
15 programs and funds to serve such persons to enhance the
16 efficiency of administering any federal funds of the Workforce
17 Innovation and Opportunity Act, 113 Pub. L. 128, that are
18 available to the corps.

19 3. Participants shall be at least twenty-five years of age
20 and unemployed at the time of their enrollment.

21 620.613. 1. The employment program shall consist of
22 projects that offer paid work experience integrated with
23 educational activities, which may include, but are not limited
24 to, employability skills training. Participants shall be
25 unemployed at the time of their enrollment.

26 2. Participants in the program shall be paid a wage
27 according to a work plan approved by the division and

1 commensurate with the number of hours worked by the participant.

2 620.615. 1. The division is hereby authorized to
3 administer the Missouri urban and rural renewal workforce
4 programs and adopt rules and regulations governing their
5 operation and participation requirements. Any rule or portion of
6 a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is
7 created under the authority delegated in this section shall
8 become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all
9 of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section
10 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if
11 any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to
12 chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to
13 disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held
14 unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any
15 rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2019, shall be invalid
16 and void.

17 2. In delivering corps programs, the division shall
18 cooperate with and may directly contract with any state agency,
19 local unit of government, governor's advisory council or
20 commission, private not-for-profit organization, or other private
21 entity. For purposes of this section, the contracting process of
22 the division with these entities need not be governed by the
23 provisions of chapter 34.

24 3. Upon application to the division and subject to the
25 availability of funds, the division is authorized to provide
26 funding assistance through contracts with administrative
27 entities, designated pursuant to the Workforce Innovation and

1 Opportunity Act, 113 Pub. L. 128, and project sponsors. The
2 application shall form the basis for the contract agreement and,
3 at a minimum, shall include:

4 (1) A general project description, including the extent to
5 which it satisfies community development or resource conservation
6 objectives and whether such objectives are stated within any
7 municipal, county, regional, or state agency plan;

8 (2) The number of corps members to be assigned to each
9 project, a description of the nature and duration of their
10 employment or volunteer work, and a description of combinations
11 or sequences of education or vocational training to be provided;

12 (3) The amount of total funds required to sustain the
13 project, distinguishing between the amounts required for corps
14 members' wages and stipends, if any, and the amounts required for
15 other purposes;

16 (4) A statement of the amount and purpose of funding
17 assistance requested from the division and the manner and timing
18 of its disbursement; and

19 (5) A description of the interagency coordination,
20 technical assistance, and financial support that, when combined
21 with the funding assistance, the resources of the applicant, and
22 support from other sources, is sufficient to ensure success of
23 the project. The commitment of financial support from the
24 project sponsor shall be no less than twenty-five percent of the
25 total project cost.

26 4. An application shall only be submitted to the division.
27 It shall include the signatures of the workforce development

1 board chair.

2 5. The division shall ensure that all affected state
3 agencies are made aware of the application and are provided the
4 opportunity to offer comments related to the project feasibility,
5 including the identification of other available funds for the
6 project.

7 620.616. 1. A project sponsor shall administer projects
8 funded under sections 620.608 to 620.619 in the following manner:

9 (1) Participants, except those enrolled in the volunteer
10 program, shall be paid at least the minimum wage as established
11 by federal or state law at the time of employment;

12 (2) Persons employed through any of the corps programs
13 shall be exempt from merit system requirements and shall not be
14 eligible for membership in any public employees' retirement
15 system. All participants shall be so advised by the project
16 sponsor and the regulating authority; and

17 (3) Services performed by a participant in any corps
18 program shall not constitute "employment" within the meaning of
19 the Missouri employment security law in chapter 288, if the
20 program is operated as a work-relief or work-training program in
21 accordance with subdivision (5) of subsection 9 of section
22 288.034.

23 2. No more than ten percent of the funds distributed to a
24 project sponsor may be expended for administrative expenses.
25 Administrative expenses shall be approved by the division.

26 3. No funds shall be awarded for any program that replaces
27 or supplants employees engaged in any authorized work stoppage,

1 or that replaces or supplants currently employed workers, or that
2 impairs existing contracts for services provided by other
3 workers.

4 620.617. 1. The Missouri workforce development board,
5 established under section 620.511, shall review and recommend
6 criteria for evaluating project funding assistance, program
7 criteria, and other requirements and priorities to be used by the
8 division in the evaluation and monitoring of Missouri urban and
9 rural renewal workforce projects.

10 2. The division may work with the department of higher
11 education; the department of elementary and secondary education;
12 and any college, university, or lending institution throughout
13 the state to develop a system of academic credit, tuition grants,
14 and deferred loan repayment incentives for urban and rural
15 residents who enroll and complete participation in corps
16 programs. The division shall adopt rules under chapter 536
17 designed to implement any such incentive programs.

18 3. The division shall establish and promote the recruitment
19 of "Show-Me Employers", which shall consist of Missouri-based
20 corporations and businesses agreeing to interview, for
21 entry-level jobs, participants successfully completing a corps
22 program.

23 4. The division shall recognize and promote within the
24 labor exchange system the corps and the potential benefits of
25 hiring participants who have successfully completed any of the
26 corps' programs.

27 620.619. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury

1 the "Urban and Rural Renewal Workforce Fund", which shall consist
2 of moneys appropriated to it by the general assembly or received
3 as gifts, contributions, grants, or bequests from federal,
4 private, or other sources. The fund shall be a dedicated fund,
5 and moneys in the fund shall be used solely for the purposes of
6 sections 620.608 to 620.619. The general assembly shall
7 appropriate moneys in the urban and rural renewal workforce fund.

8 (2) The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In
9 accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer
10 may approve disbursements. The state treasurer shall invest
11 moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are
12 invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments
13 shall be credited to the fund.

14 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the
15 contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the
16 biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue
17 fund.