

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1659

## 100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PROUDIE.

3991H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

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

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*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 office of workforce development within the department of higher education and workforce 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;**

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.

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

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

15 (a) The rehabilitation of substandard housing;

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

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

18 (d) Assistance for the homebound elderly;

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

20 (f) Restoration or development of park facilities;

21 (g) Trail construction and maintenance;

22 (h) Litter control; and

23 (i) Road repair;

24 (6) "Project sponsor", any state agency including, but not limited to, the  
25 department of elementary and secondary education, department of labor and industrial  
26 relations, department of natural resources, department of social services, or the University  
27 of Missouri extension system; any unit of local government, including school districts;  
28 private not-for-profit corporations or organizations; administrative entities designated  
29 pursuant to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, 113 Pub. L. 128; or  
30 community-based organizations.

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

3 2. In selecting participants for the corps, the director of the division shall give  
4 preference to persons whose income is at or below one hundred eighty-five percent of the  
5 federal poverty guidelines, as determined annually by the United States Department of  
6 Health and Human Services. The director may segregate programs and funds to serve  
7 such persons to enhance the efficiency of administering any federal funds of the Workforce  
8 Innovation and Opportunity Act, 113 Pub. L. 128, that are available to the corps.

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

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

5           **2. Participants in the program shall be paid a wage according to a work plan**  
6 **approved by the division and commensurate with the number of hours worked by the**  
7 **participant.**

**620.615. 1. The division is hereby authorized to administer the Missouri urban and**  
2 **rural renewal workforce programs and adopt rules and regulations governing their**  
3 **operation and participation requirements. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is**  
4 **defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall**  
5 **become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter**  
6 **536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and**  
7 **if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review,**  
8 **to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held**  
9 **unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted**  
10 **after August 28, 2020, shall be invalid and void.**

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

16           **3. Upon application to the division and subject to the availability of funds, the**  
17 **division is authorized to provide funding assistance through contracts with administrative**  
18 **entities, designated pursuant to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, 113 Pub.**  
19 **L. 128, and project sponsors. The application shall form the basis for the contract**  
20 **agreement and, at a minimum, shall include:**

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

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

27           **(3) The amount of total funds required to sustain the project, distinguishing**  
28 **between the amounts required for corps members' wages and stipends, if any, and the**  
29 **amounts required for other purposes;**

30           **(4) A statement of the amount and purpose of funding assistance requested from**  
31 **the division and the manner and timing of its disbursement; and**

32           **(5) A description of the interagency coordination, technical assistance, and financial**  
33 **support that, when combined with the funding assistance, the resources of the applicant,**

34 and support from other sources, is sufficient to ensure success of the project. The  
35 commitment of financial support from the project sponsor shall be no less than twenty-five  
36 percent of the total project cost.

37 4. An application shall only be submitted to the division. It shall include the  
38 signatures of the workforce development board chair.

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

2 620.616. 1. A project sponsor shall administer projects funded under sections  
2 620.608 to 620.619 in the following manner:

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

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

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

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

16 3. No funds shall be awarded for any program that replaces or supplants employees  
17 engaged in any authorized work stoppage, that replaces or supplants currently employed  
18 workers, or that impairs existing contracts for services provided by other workers.

2 620.617. 1. The Missouri workforce development board, established under section  
2 620.511, shall review and recommend criteria for evaluating project funding assistance,  
3 program criteria, and other requirements and priorities to be used by the division in the  
4 evaluation and monitoring of Missouri urban and rural renewal workforce projects.

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

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

14           **4. The division shall recognize and promote within the labor exchange system the**  
15 **corps and the potential benefits of hiring participants who have successfully completed any**  
16 **of the corps' programs.**

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

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

11           **(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys**  
12 **remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the**  
13 **general revenue fund.**

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