

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2173

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HOUX.

3854H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 620, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to grants to employers for the purpose of enhancing cybersecurity.

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

Section A. Chapter 620, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 620.2550, to read as follows:

620.2550. 1. The department of economic development shall distribute to any employer a one-time grant for the purpose of enhancing cybersecurity, subject to the requirements of this section. No employer shall receive more than one grant under this section.

2. Grants distributed under this section shall not exceed ninety percent of the total cost of the cybersecurity enhancement.

3. In making grants to employers under this section, the department of economic development shall reserve fifty percent of the funding for qualifying employers with at least one but not more than fifty employees. Any reserved amount not issued or awarded to an employer with at least one but not more than fifty employees by January first may be issued to an employer otherwise eligible for an award under this section.

4. Subject to appropriation, no more than ten million dollars shall be distributed under this section in any fiscal year. No more than fifteen thousand dollars shall be distributed to any one employer.

5. (1) The department of economic development shall create an online application form as part of its website, which shall be the sole means of applying for grants under this section. Any employer seeking a grant under this section shall submit

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 an application to the department using such form on the department's website. The
19 employer shall submit documents showing how the employer plans to enhance
20 cybersecurity, including plans for how the employer will cover ten percent of the cost
21 for its cybersecurity enhancement.

22 (2) In assessing an employer's plans for covering ten percent of the cost, the
23 department shall consider only costs for the following:

24 (a) Hardware;

25 (b) Software, whether leased or purchased;

26 (c) Contracts for an external cybersecurity provider;

27 (d) Installation costs for cybersecurity;

28 (e) Costs related to increased square footage in the employer's place of business;

29 (f) Employee training costs;

30 (g) New employee salaries; and

31 (h) Existing employee salaries due to new cybersecurity duties.

32 (3) Any employer applying for a grant shall submit documentation to the
33 department showing how grant funds will be used.

34 6. The department shall prescribe the time of filing applications and supervise
35 the processing thereof, provided that applications shall be accepted by the department
36 beginning March 1, 2025.

37 7. The department shall select qualified recipients to receive grants and
38 determine the manner and method of payment to the recipients.

39 8. Any employer who receives a grant under this section shall submit
40 documentation to the department no later than one year after the distribution showing
41 how the grant funds were spent.

42 9. In the case of employers with employees and locations in more than one state,
43 grant funds distributed under this section shall be used only for locations in Missouri
44 and employees residing in Missouri.

45 10. For purposes of this section, the terms "enhancing cybersecurity" and
46 "cybersecurity enhancement" mean:

47 (1) Cybersecurity improvement investments;

48 (2) Cybersecurity risk assessment costs;

49 (3) Costs associated with cyber-attack prevention employee training programs;

50 and

51 (4) Costs associated with upskilling employees with cybersecurity-related
52 certifications or credentials.