

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2117

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS.

4063H.02I

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 192, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to a forgivable grant program for children with special needs.

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

Section A. Chapter 192, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 192.931, to read as follows:

192.931. 1. There is hereby established within the division of senior and disability services the "Forgivable Grant Program for Families of Adopted Children with Special Needs" to provide forgivable grants to families who adopt children with special needs to conduct home improvements or other projects to address the children's needs. The division of senior and disability services shall be the administrative agency for the implementation of the program established by this section.

2. The division of senior and disability services shall prescribe the form and the method of filing grant applications and supervise the processing, including oversight and monitoring of the program.

3. To be eligible to apply for the forgivable grant program established in this section, the following requirements shall be met:

(1) A family shall have adopted three or more children with special needs with a minimum of two of those children living in the home for more than eighteen years; and

(2) All children living in the home shall have lived in the home for a minimum of fifty cumulative years. The children living in the home under this subdivision shall be foster children or adopted children of the family, provided that the adoption for each child has been finalized.

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 **4. Once the requirements under subsection 3 of this section have been met, the**
19 **division of senior and disability services shall enter into a contract with the eligible**
20 **family who applied for a forgivable grant under this section. The contract shall detail**
21 **the terms associated with the principal and interest; however, the interest rate for the**
22 **grant shall not be more than five percent. The contract shall contain details concerning**
23 **how forgiveness is earned and the terms and conditions associated with repayment of**
24 **the grant until the grant is eligible for forgiveness. Repayment of the grant shall begin**
25 **ten calendar years after the disbursement of the grant unless the provisions of**
26 **subsection 6 of this section have been met.**

27 **5. All grants under this section shall be made from funds appropriated by the**
28 **general assembly to the forgivable grant for families of adopted children with special**
29 **needs fund established in subsection 7 of this section.**

30 **6. A family may have the grant described under this section forgiven if the**
31 **requirements of subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section have been met and the**
32 **total number of years for all children living in the home, regardless of whether the**
33 **children are foster children or adoptive children of the family, is a minimum of one**
34 **hundred cumulative years.**

35 **7. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Forgivable Grant for**
36 **Families of Adopted Children with Special Needs Fund", which shall consist of any**
37 **appropriations made by the general assembly. The state treasurer shall be custodian of**
38 **the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may**
39 **approve disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation,**
40 **moneys in this fund shall be used solely as provided in this section and for**
41 **administrative costs in administering the provisions of this section.**

42 **(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys**
43 **remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the**
44 **general revenue fund.**

45 **(3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as**
46 **other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be**
47 **credited to the fund.**

48 **8. To be eligible for the program under this section, the family and adopted**
49 **children shall be Missouri residents, and only years in which the adopted children live**
50 **with the family in this state shall count toward the cumulative years.**

51 **9. The years that count toward the cumulative years under this section shall**
52 **begin the year each adopted child with special needs is placed in the family's home as a**
53 **foster child to the year each child turns twenty-one years of age; however, years that**
54 **count toward the cumulative years may be extended beyond the child turning twenty-**

55 **one years of age if the family has obtained a guardianship over the child from a court in**
56 **this state.**

57 **10. The division of senior and disability services shall promulgate rules to**
58 **implement the provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is**
59 **defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section**
60 **shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of**
61 **chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are**
62 **nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to**
63 **chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are**
64 **subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule**
65 **proposed or adopted after August 28, 2024, shall be invalid and void.**

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