

HOUSE BILL NO. 3470

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHMIDT.

7346H.02I

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 660, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the establishment of an assistance program within the department of social services.

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

Section A. Chapter 660, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 660.365, to read as follows:

660.365. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Hope Missouri" act.

2. For purposes of this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Missouri partner network", a group of entities, including state departments and agencies, public-private partnerships, and nonprofit, private-sector, and faith-based organizations, which provides goods or services to directly support the participants' goals and address identified barriers;

(2) "Participant", an individual who voluntarily participates in hope Missouri;

(3) "Participating state agency", a state department, division, or agency that takes part in hope Missouri at the direction of the governor.

3. (1) There shall be created within the department of social services the "Hope Missouri" program. The department, in consultation with the office of the governor, shall:

(a) Facilitate coordination and collaboration among participating state agencies to implement the provisions of this section;

(b) Expand the Missouri partner network to meet the needs of participants;

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.

17 **(c) Empower and assist participants in need to help identify and achieve**
18 **immediate, intermediate, and long-term goals and remove barriers to achievement of**
19 **personal goals;**

20 **(d) Use participating state agencies to serve families holistically in achieving self-**
21 **sufficiency, maximizing community integration, and building a prosperous future.**
22 **Barriers to self-sufficiency may include the inability to:**

23 **a. Obtain stable employment;**

24 **b. Increase wages;**

25 **c. Obtain the necessary skills for greater independence, education, or training;**

26 **d. Meet basic needs; and**

27 **e. Find stable housing; and**

28 **(g) Refer participants requiring assistance with employment or vocational**
29 **training to appropriate entities to prepare, train, and place the participants in**
30 **meaningful employment.**

31 **(2) (a) To participate in hope Missouri, an individual shall be:**

32 **a. A legal resident of this state;**

33 **b. A citizen of the United States or a permanent resident alien of the United**
34 **States, as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services;**

35 **c. (i) At least eighteen years of age;**

36 **(ii) If emancipated, at least sixteen years of age; or**

37 **(iii) If under eighteen years of age and not emancipated, authorized to**
38 **participate by written consent of his or her parent or guardian.**

39 **(b) Participation in hope Missouri is voluntary.**

40 **(3) The department shall:**

41 **(a) Develop and maintain a website for individuals to connect with hope**
42 **Missouri; and**

43 **(b) Develop and maintain a hope Missouri case management system that, at a**
44 **minimum, conducts intake for hope Missouri inquiries and makes referrals for**
45 **individuals and families in need of services.**

46 **4. (1) The hope Missouri partner network shall work to build a network of**
47 **partnerships to sustain the effectiveness of hope Missouri.**

48 **(2) (a) State agencies shall participate in hope Missouri at the direction of the**
49 **governor.**

50 **(b) In order to use government resources more effectively and efficiently,**
51 **participating state agencies shall use existing resources and personnel, to the extent**
52 **possible, to operate hope Missouri.**

✓