AN ACT

To amend chapter 455, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to domestic violence fatality review panels.

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

Section A. Chapter 455, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 455.560, to read as follows:

455.560. 1. The prosecuting attorney or the circuit attorney may impanel a domestic violence fatality review panel for the county or city not within a county in which he or she serves to investigate the deaths of victims of homicides determined to be related to domestic violence as the term is defined in section 455.010. The panel shall be formed by the department of social services.

2. The panel may include any representative of programs or organizations that provide services and responses to victims of domestic violence within the county or city not within a county. The panel shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

(1) The prosecuting or circuit attorney;
(2) The coroner or medical examiner for the county or city not within a county;
(3) Law enforcement personnel in the county or city not within a county;
(4) A representative of the department of social services;
(5) A provider of public health care services;
(6) A representative of the local office of the department of public safety;
(7) A provider of emergency medical services or other medical or health care providers;
(8) A representative of any victim assistant unit for the
prosecuting or circuit attorney, law enforcement organization, or court
of the county or city not within a county;

(9) Representatives of domestic violence shelters, as defined in
455.220, and domestic violence services organizations that provide
services for victims within the county or city not within a county;

(10) Representatives of sexual assault centers and sexual assault
services organizations, as defined in 455.003, that provide sexual
assault services for victims within the county or city not within a
county.

3. The prosecuting or circuit attorney shall organize the panel
and shall call the first organizational meeting of the panel. The panel
shall elect a chairman who shall convene the panel to meet to review
all deaths of victims of homicides determined to be related to domestic
violence. In addition, the panel may review at its own discretion any
homicide reported to it by the medical examiner or coroner, even if it
does not meet criteria for review as set forth by the department. The
panel shall issue a final report, which shall be a public record, of each
investigation, its findings and recommendations for enhanced
practices, protocols, and collaborations to address domestic violence
and prevent homicides, to the governor, the speaker of the house of
representatives, the president pro tempore of the senate, the executive
leadership of the government of the political subdivision of the state of
Missouri in which the panel operates, and the statewide domestic
violence coalition, as such is recognized by the United States
Department of Justice and the United States Department of Health and
Human Services. The final report shall include a summary. The
department of health and senior services shall analyze the domestic
violence fatality review panel reports and periodically prepare reports
which describe the incidence, causes, location, and other factors
pertaining to domestic violence fatalities.

4. The domestic violence fatality review panel shall enjoy such
official immunity as exists at common law.

5. Work products of the domestic violence fatality review panel
other than the final report required by subsection 3 of this section,
including, but not limited to internal memoranda, summaries or
minutes of panel meetings, and written, audio recorded, or electronic
records and communications, are not public records as defined by subdivision (6) of section 610.010 and are not available for public examination, reproduction, or disclosure, and are not admissible as evidence in any civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding.

6. The executive officer of any municipality or county may request that a domestic violence fatality review panel be convened in response to any fatality which occurs within the boundaries of the municipality or county.