

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 949

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SCOTT.

Read 1st time January 15, 2008, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

4302S.011

## AN ACT

To repeal section 135.903, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to rural empowerment zone criteria.

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

Section A. Section 135.903, RSMo, is repealed and one new section  
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 135.903, to read as follows:

135.903. 1. To qualify as a rural empowerment zone, an area shall meet  
2 all the following criteria:

3 (1) The area is one of pervasive poverty, unemployment, and general  
4 distress;

5 (2) At least sixty-five percent of the population has earned income below  
6 eighty percent of the median income of all residents within the state according  
7 to the last decennial census or other appropriate source as approved by the  
8 director;

9 (3) The population of the area is at least four hundred but not more than  
10 three thousand five hundred at the time of designation as a rural empowerment  
11 zone;

12 (4) The level of unemployment of persons, according to the most recent  
13 data available from the division of employment security or from the United States  
14 Bureau of Census and approved by the director, within the area exceeds one and  
15 one-half times the average rate of unemployment for the state of Missouri over  
16 the previous twelve months, or the percentage of area residents employed on a  
17 full-time basis is less than fifty percent of the statewide percentage of residents  
18 employed on a full-time basis;

19 (5) The area is situated more than ten miles from any existing rural

**EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

20 empowerment zone;

21 (6) The area is situated in [a county of the third classification without a  
22 township form of government and with more than eight thousand nine hundred  
23 twenty-five but less than nine thousand twenty-five] **any county with sixteen**  
24 **thousand or fewer** inhabitants; and

25 (7) The area is not situated in an existing enterprise zone.

26 2. The governing body of any county in which an area may be designated  
27 a rural empowerment zone shall submit to the department an application showing  
28 that the area complies with the requirements of subsection 1 of this section. The  
29 department shall declare the area a rural empowerment zone if upon  
30 investigation the department finds that the area meets the requirements of  
31 subsection 1 of this section. If the area is found not to meet the requirements,  
32 the governing body shall have the opportunity to submit another application for  
33 designation as a rural empowerment zone and the department shall designate the  
34 area a rural empowerment zone if upon investigation the department finds that  
35 the area meets the requirements of subsection 1 of this section.

36 3. There shall be no more than two rural empowerment zones **per county**  
37 as created under sections 135.900 to 135.906 in existence at any time.

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