SECOND REGULAR SESSION SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

HOUSE BILL NOS. 1524 & 2260

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Pensions and Urban Affairs, May 13, 2010, with recommendation that the Senate Committee Substitute do pass.

4001S.08C

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

AN ACT

To repeal sections 41.030, 41.216, 41.560, 115.279, 115.281, 115.287, 115.291, 115.292, 143.1004, 160.545, 194.119, 447.503, and 447.559, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof twenty-seven new sections relating to military forces, with an emergency clause for certain sections.

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

Section A. Sections 41.030, 41.216, 41.560, 115.279, 115.281, 115.287,

- 2 115.291, 115.292, 143.1004, 160.545, 194.119, 447.503, and 447.559, RSMo, are
- 3 repealed and twenty-seven new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as
- 4 sections 41.025, 41.030, 41.206, 41.207, 41.216, 41.560, 41.572, 41.578, 41.582,
- 5 41.584, 41.586, 41.588, 115.156, 115.278, 115.279, 115.281, 115.287, 115.291,
- 6 115.292, 143.1004, 160.545, 194.119, 301.3158, 447.503, 447.559, 1, and 2, to read
- 7 as follows:
 - 41.025. The state of Missouri hereby recognizes the designations
- 2 of Prisoner of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) as valid
- 3 descriptions of casualty status and category classification for military
- 4 personnel.
 - 41.030. 1. The word "militia" as used in this code means all the active
- 2 and potential military forces of the state, whether organized or unorganized.
- 3 2. Whenever reference is made in the articles of Uniform Code of Military
- 4 Justice to the "military service" or to the "armed forces" of the United States the
- 5 reference is deemed to include the military service and militia of this state.
- 6 3. "Primary next of kin" are, in order of precedence, surviving

spouse, eldest child, father or mother, eldest brother or sister, or eldest grandchild.

41.206. 1. The adjutant general may establish the "Missouri Youth Challenge Academy" in order to provide positive interventions in the lives of at-risk high school age youth. The academy will utilize residential military-based training and supervised work experience to build life skills of high school dropouts. Academy participants will receive training that focuses on responsible citizenship, life-coping skills, academic skills, job training and placement, physical fitness, services to the community, personal development, group skills, professional values, and additional subjects as directed by the adjutant 10 general.

2. Rules necessary to administer and implement this section may be established by the adjutant general. Any rule or portion of a rule, 12as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the 13 authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it 14 complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, 15 16 if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly 1718 pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to 19 disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, 20then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or 21adopted after August 28, 2010, shall be invalid and void.

41.207. The "Missouri Youth Challenge Foundation Fund" is hereby created in the state treasury and shall consist of all gifts, donations, appropriations, transfers, and bequests to the fund. The adjutant general shall have the power to make grants from the fund to support the Missouri youth challenge academy as specified in section 41.206. The provisions of section 33.080 requiring all unexpended balances remaining in various state funds to be transferred and placed to the credit of the general revenue fund of the state at the end of each biennium shall not apply to the Missouri youth challenge foundation fund. Interest and moneys earned on the fund shall be credited to the 10 fund. Moneys in the fund shall be used for the sole purpose of funding the Missouri youth challenge academy established under section 41.206. 12

41.216. 1. Subject to appropriation and upon the recommendation of a panel consisting of a [command sergeants] sergeant major of the Missouri

national guard, a [command sergeants] sergeant major of a reserve component or its equivalent, and a representative of the Missouri veterans commission who shall establish criteria for the grants by the promulgation of rules and 5 6 regulations, the adjutant general shall have the power to make grants from the Missouri military family relief fund to families of persons who are members of the 7 Missouri national guard or Missouri residents who are members of the reserves 9 of the armed forces of the United States and who have been called to active duty as a result of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

11 2. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, RSMo, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become 12 effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 13 536, RSMo, and, if applicable, section 536.028, RSMo. This section and chapter 14 536, RSMo, are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general 15 16 assembly pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo, to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then 17the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 18 28, 2005, shall be invalid and void. 19

41.560. The governor is hereby authorized, upon recommendation of the adjutant general of Missouri, to present, in the name of the state of Missouri, a meritorious service medal, which shall be of suitable design, as may be 4 determined by the governor, to individuals who have done and performed valorous or meritorious military service which reflects honorably and creditably upon the state of Missouri. Not more than one meritorious military service medal shall be awarded or presented under the provisions of this section to any one person, nor shall such medal be awarded to or retained by any person whose entire service 8 subsequent to the valorous or meritorious military service shall not have been 9 honorable. In the event of the death of any person during or subsequent to the 10 meritorious military service, who, in the opinion of the governor, as recommended 11 by the adjutant general of Missouri, would be entitled to a meritorious military 12 service medal, the same may be presented to [a] the surviving [relative of the 13 deceased in the following order, to wit: widow, if not remarried, eldest living son, 14 15 eldest living daughter, father, mother, eldest living brother, eldest living sister, 16 and eldest living grandchild] primary next of kin.

41.572. The governor is hereby authorized, upon recommendation of the adjutant general of Missouri, to present, in the name of the state of Missouri, a legion of merit medal, which shall be of suitable design,

4 as may be determined by the governor, to individuals who have exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding military service and achievement reflecting honorably and creditably upon the state of Missouri. Not more than one Missouri legion of merit medal shall be awarded or presented under the provisions of this section to any one person, nor shall such medal be awarded to or retained by any person whose entire military service subsequent to the 10 exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding 11 military service and achievement shall not have been honorable. In the 12event of the death of any person during or subsequent to the 13 exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding 14 military service and achievement, who, in the opinion of the governor, 15as recommended by the adjutant general of Missouri, would be entitled 16 to a legion of merit medal, the same may be presented to the surviving 1718 primary next of kin.

41.578. The adjutant general of Missouri is hereby authorized to present, in the name of the state of Missouri, a Missouri adjutant general staff identification badge, which is of suitable design as may be determined by the adjutant general of Missouri, and is neither an award nor decoration, but is a distinguished mark of service on the adjutant general's staff. This visible sign of professional growth associated with the important duties and responsibilities of the adjutant general's staff is not automatic, but is based on demonstrated outstanding performance of duty and approval by the adjutant general of Missouri. Not more than one Missouri adjutant general staff 10 identification badge shall be presented under the provisions of this 11 section to any one person, nor shall such badge be awarded to or retained by any person whose service shall not have been honorable. In the event of the death of any person during or subsequent to their 14service, which, in the opinion of the adjutant general of Missouri, 15would be entitled to the Missouri adjutant general staff identification 16 badge, the same may be presented to the surviving primary next of kin. 17

41.582. The governor is hereby authorized, upon recommendation of the adjutant general of Missouri, to present, in the name of the state of Missouri, a Missouri Iraq campaign ribbon, which shall be of suitable design, as may be determined by the governor, to members of the Missouri national guard who have served in direct support of

Operation Iraqi Freedom. The area of eligibility encompasses all land area of the country of Iraq, and the contiguous water area out to twelve nautical miles, and all air spaces above the land area of Iraq and above the contiguous water area out to twelve nautical miles. The period of eligibility is on or after March 19, 2003, to a future date to be 10 determined by the adjutant general of Missouri or the cessation of 11 Operation Iraqi Freedom. Not more than one Missouri Iraq campaign 12ribbon shall be awarded or presented under the provisions of this 13 section to any one person, nor shall such ribbon be awarded to or 14 retained by any person whose entire service subsequent to the service 15 in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom shall not have been 16 honorable. In the event of the death of any person during or 17 subsequent to their service in direct support of Operation Iraqi 18 Freedom, who, in the opinion of the governor, as recommended by the 19 adjutant general of Missouri, would be entitled to the Missouri Iraq 20 21 campaign ribbon, the same may be presented to the surviving primary next of kin. 22

41.584. The governor is hereby authorized, upon recommendation of the adjutant general of Missouri, to present, in the name of the state of Missouri, a Missouri Afghanistan campaign ribbon, which shall be of suitable design, as may be determined by the governor, to members of the Missouri national guard who have served in direct support of 5 Operation Enduring Freedom. The area of eligibility encompasses all 7 land area of the country of Afghanistan and all air spaces above the land. The period of eligibility is on or after October 7, 2001, to a future date to be determined by the adjutant general of Missouri or the 9 cessation of Operation Enduring Freedom. Not more than one Missouri Afghanistan campaign ribbon shall be awarded or presented under the 11 provisions of this section to any one person, nor shall such ribbon be 12awarded to or retained by any person whose entire service subsequent 13 to their service in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom shall 14 not have been honorable. In the event of the death of any person 15 during or subsequent to their service in direct support of Operation 16 17 Enduring Freedom, who, in the opinion of the governor, as recommended by the adjutant general of Missouri, would be entitled to 18 the Missouri Afghanistan campaign ribbon, the same may be presented 19 to the surviving primary next of kin. 20

41.586. The governor is hereby authorized, upon recommendation of the adjutant general of Missouri, to present, in the name of the state of Missouri, a Missouri Kosovo campaign ribbon, which shall be of suitable design, as may be determined by the governor, to members of the Missouri national guard who, after March 24, 1999, participated in or served in direct support of Kosovo Operations: Allied Force; Joint Guardian; Allied Harbour; Sustain Hope/Shining Hope; Noble Anvil; or Kosovo Task Forces: Hawk; Saber; or Hunter within the Kosovo air campaign or Kosovo defense campaign areas of eligibility described as follows:

- 11 (1) Kosovo air campaign, the Kosovo air campaign began on 12 March 24, 1999, and ended on June 10, 1999. The area of eligibility for 13 the air campaign includes the total land area and air space of Serbia 14 (including Kosovo), Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, Bosnia, Croatia, 15 Hungary, Romania, Greece, Bulgaria, Italy, and Slovenia; and the 16 waters and air space of the Adriatic and Ionian Sea north of the thirty-17 ninth north latitude:
- (2) Kosovo defense campaign, the Kosovo defense campaign began on June 11, 1999, to a date to be determined. The area of eligibility for the defense campaign includes the total land area and air space of Serbia (including Kosovo), Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, and the waters and air space of the Adriatic Seas within twelve nautical miles of the Montenegro, Albania, and Croatia coastlines south of forty-two degrees and fifty-two minutes north latitude.

The period of eligibility is after March 24, 1999, to a future date to be 25determined by the adjutant general of Missouri or the cessation of the 2627Kosovo defense campaign. Not more than one Missouri Kosovo campaign ribbon shall be awarded or presented under the provisions 28of this section to any one person, nor shall such ribbon be awarded to 29or retained by any person whose entire service subsequent to their 30 Kosovo campaign service shall not have been honorable. In the event 31 32of the death of any person during or subsequent to their Kosovo service, who, in the opinion of the governor, as recommended by the 33 adjutant general of Missouri, would be entitled to the Missouri Kosovo campaign ribbon, the same may be presented to the surviving primary 35next of kin. 36

41.588. The governor is hereby authorized, upon recommendation

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of the adjutant general of Missouri, to present, in the name of the state of Missouri, a Missouri Vietnam campaign ribbon, which shall be of suitable design, as may be determined by the governor, to members of the Missouri national guard who served on active duty in the United 5 States military service at any time beginning February 28, 1961 through May 7, 1975. Not more than one Missouri Vietnam campaign ribbon shall be awarded or presented under the provisions of this section to any one person, nor shall such ribbon be awarded to or retained by any 10 person whose entire service subsequent to their service described above shall not have been honorable. In the event of the death of any 11 12person during or subsequent to their service as described above, who, in the opinion of the governor, as recommended by the adjutant general 13 of Missouri, would be entitled to the Missouri Vietnam campaign 14 ribbon, the same may be presented to the surviving primary next of kin. 15

115.156. 1. The secretary of state shall establish procedures for absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters to request, by mail or electronically, that voter registration applications be sent to the voter, and to request that such voter registration applications be sent by mail or electronically in the preferred method of transmission 5 designated by the voter. The secretary of state shall designate not less than one means of electronic communication for use by absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters to request voter registration applications and to send such voter registration applications. 10

2. No election authority shall refuse to accept and process any otherwise valid voter registration application submitted by an absent 12uniformed services voter or an overseas voter solely on the basis of restrictions on paper type. 14

115.278. The secretary of state shall establish procedures for absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters to request, by mail or electronically, that absentee ballot applications be sent to the voter, and to request that such absentee ballot applications be sent by mail or electronically in the preferred method of transmission designated by the voter. The secretary of state shall designate not less than one means of electronic communication for use by absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters to request absentee ballot applications, to send such absentee ballot applications, and to

10 provide related voting, balloting, and election information to such 11 voters.

115.279. 1. Application for an absentee ballot may be made by the applicant in person, or by mail, or for the applicant, in person, by his or her guardian or a relative within the second degree by consanguinity or affinity. The election authority shall accept applications by facsimile transmission within the limits of its telecommunications capacity.

- 2. Each application shall be made to the election authority of the jurisdiction in which the person is or would be registered. Each application shall be in writing and shall state the applicant's name, address at which he or she is or would be registered, his or her reason for voting an absentee ballot [and], the address to which the ballot is to be mailed, if mailing is requested, and for absent uniformed services and overseas applicants, the applicant's email address if electronic transmission is requested. Each application to vote in a primary election shall also state which ballot the applicant wishes to receive. If any application fails to designate a ballot, the election authority shall, within three working days after receiving the application, notify the applicant by mail that it will be unable to deliver an absentee ballot until the applicant designates which political party ballot he or she wishes to receive. If the applicant does not respond to the request for political party designation, the election authority is authorized to provide the voter with that part of the ballot for which no political party designation is required.
- 3. Except as provided in subsection 3 of section 115.281, all applications for absentee ballots received prior to the sixth Tuesday before an election shall be stored at the office of the election authority until such time as the applications are processed in accordance with section 115.281. No application for an absentee ballot received in the office of the election authority by mail, by facsimile transmission or by a guardian or relative after 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday immediately prior to the election shall be accepted by any election authority. No application for an absentee ballot submitted by the applicant in person after 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election shall be accepted by any election authority, except as provided in subsections 6, 8 and 9 of this section.
- 4. Each application for an absentee ballot shall be signed by the applicant or, if the application is made by a guardian or relative pursuant to this section, the application shall be signed by the guardian or relative, who shall note on the application his or her relationship to the applicant. If an applicant, guardian or

- relative is blind, unable to read or write the English language or physically incapable of signing the application, he or she shall sign by mark, witnessed by the signature of an election official or person of his or her own choosing. Any person who knowingly makes, delivers or mails a fraudulent absentee ballot application shall be guilty of a class one election offense.
 - 5. (1) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, any resident of the state of Missouri who resides outside the boundaries of the United States or who is on active duty with the armed forces of the United States or members of their immediate family living with them may request an absentee ballot for both the primary and subsequent general election with one application. [In addition, the election authority shall provide to each absent uniformed services voter and each overseas voter who submits an absentee ballot request an absentee ballot through the next two regularly scheduled general elections for federal office.]
 - (2) The election authority shall provide each absent uniformed services voter and each overseas voter who submits a voter registration application or an absentee ballot request, if the election authority rejects the application or request, with the reasons for the rejection.
 - (3) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, if a standard oath regarding material misstatements of fact is adopted for uniformed and overseas voters pursuant to the Help America Vote Act of 2002, the election authority shall accept such oath for voter registration, absentee ballot, or other election-related materials.
 - (4) Not later than sixty days after the date of each regularly scheduled general election for federal office, each election authority which administered the election shall submit to the secretary of state in a format prescribed by the secretary a report on the combined number of absentee ballots transmitted to, and returned by, absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters for the election. The secretary shall submit to the Election Assistance Commission a combined report of such information not later than ninety days after the date of each regularly scheduled general election for federal office and in a standardized format developed by the commission pursuant to the Help America Vote Act of 2002. The secretary shall make the report available to the general public.
 - (5) As used in this section, the terms "absent uniformed services voter" and "overseas voter" shall have the meaning prescribed in 42 U.S.C. 1973ff-6.
 - 6. An application for an absentee ballot by a new resident, as defined in section 115.275, shall be submitted in person by the applicant in the office of the

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71	election authority in the election jurisdiction in which such applicant
72	resides. The application shall be received by the election authority no later than
73	7:00 p.m. on the day of the election. Such application shall be in the form of an
74	affidavit, executed in duplicate in the presence of the election authority or any
75	authorized officer of the election authority, and in substantially the following
76	form:
77	"STATE OF
78	COUNTY OF, ss.
79	I,, do solemnly swear that:
80	(1) Before becoming a resident of this state, I resided at
81	(residence address) in (town,
82	township, village or city) of County in the state of
83	;
84	(2) I moved to this state after the last day to register to vote in such
85	general presidential election and I am now residing in the county of
86	, state of Missouri;
87	(3) I believe I am entitled pursuant to the laws of this state to vote in the
88	presidential election to be held November, (year);
89	(4) I hereby make application for a presidential and vice presidential
90	ballot. I have not voted and shall not vote other than by this ballot at such
91	election.
92	Signed
93	(Applicant)
94	
95	(Residence Address)
96	Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of
97	
98	Signed
99	(Title and name of officer authorized to administer oaths)"
100	7. The election authority in whose office an application is filed pursuant
101	to subsection 6 of this section shall immediately send a duplicate of such
102	application to the appropriate official of the state in which the new resident

8. An application for an absentee ballot by an intrastate new resident, as defined in section 115.275, shall be made in person by the applicant in the office of the election authority in the election jurisdiction in which such applicant

applicant last resided and shall file the original of such application in its office.

107	resides. The application shall be received by the election authority no later than
108	7:00 p.m. on the day of the election. Such application shall be in the form of an
109	affidavit, executed in duplicate in the presence of the election authority or an
110	authorized officer of the election authority, and in substantially the following
111	form:
112	"STATE OF
113	COUNTY OF, ss.
114	I,, do solemnly swear that:
115	(1) Before becoming a resident of this election jurisdiction, I resided at
116	(residence address) in (town,
117	township, village or city) of county in the state of
118	;
119	(2) I moved to this election jurisdiction after the last day to register to
120	vote in such election;
121	(3) I believe I am entitled pursuant to the laws of this state to vote in the
122	election to be held (date);
123	(4) I hereby make application for an absentee ballot for candidates and
124	issues on which I am entitled to vote pursuant to the laws of this state. I have
125	not voted and shall not vote other than by this ballot at such election.
126	Signed
127	(Applicant)
128	
129	(Residence Address)
130	Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of,
131	Signed
132	(Title and name of officer authorized to administer oaths)"
133	9. An application for an absentee ballot by an interstate former resident,
134	as defined in section 115.275, shall be received in the office of the election
135	authority where the applicant was formerly registered by 5:00 p.m. on the
136	Wednesday immediately prior to the election, unless the application is made in
137	person by the applicant in the office of the election authority, in which case such
138	application shall be made no later than 7:00 p.m. on the day of the election.
	115.281. 1. Except as provided in subsection 3 of this section, not
2	later than the sixth Tuesday prior to each election, or within fourteen days after

3 candidates' names or questions are certified pursuant to section 115.125, the 4 election authority shall cause to have printed and made available a sufficient

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- 5 quantity of absentee ballots, ballot envelopes and mailing envelopes. As soon as 6 possible after the proper officer calls a special state or county election, the 7 election authority shall cause to have printed and made available a sufficient
- 8 quantity of absentee ballots, ballot envelopes and mailing envelopes.
- 9 2. All absentee ballots for an election shall be in the same form as the official ballots for the election, except that in lieu of the words "Official Ballot" at the top of the ballot, the words "Official Absentee Ballot" shall appear.
 - 3. Not later than forty-five days before each general, primary, and special election for federal office, the election authority shall cause to have printed and made available a sufficient quantity of absentee ballots, ballot envelopes, and mailing envelopes for absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters and shall begin transmitting such ballots to absent uniformed services and overseas voters who have submitted an absentee ballot application.
- 115.287. 1. Upon receipt of a signed application for an absentee ballot and if satisfied the applicant is entitled to vote by absentee ballot, the election authority shall, within three working days after receiving the application, or if absentee ballots are not available at the time the application is received, within five working days after they become available, deliver to the voter an absentee ballot, ballot envelope and such instructions as are necessary for the applicant to vote. Delivery shall be made to the voter personally in the office of the election authority or by bipartisan teams appointed by the election authority, or by first class, registered, or certified mail at the discretion of the election authority, or 9 in the case of absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters, by 10 electronic transmission if electronic transmission is requested by the 11 12voter. Where the election authority is a county clerk, the members of bipartisan 13 teams representing the political party other than that of county clerk shall be selected from a list of persons submitted to the county clerk by the county 14 chairman of that party. If no list is provided by the time that absentee ballots 1516 are to be made available, the county clerk may select a person or persons from lists provided in accordance with section 115.087. If the election authority is not 17 18 satisfied that any applicant is entitled to vote by absentee ballot, it shall not deliver an absentee ballot to the applicant. Within three working days of 19 receiving such an application, the election authority shall notify the applicant and 20state the reason he or she is not entitled to vote by absentee ballot. The 21applicant may appeal the decision of the election authority to the circuit court in

23 the manner provided in section 115.223.

- 24 2. If, after 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before an election, any voter from the jurisdiction has become hospitalized, becomes confined due to illness or 25 26 injury, or is confined in an adult boarding facility, intermediate care facility, residential care facility, or skilled nursing facility, as defined in section 198.006, 2728 RSMo, in the county in which the jurisdiction is located or in the jurisdiction or 29 an adjacent election authority within the same county, the election authority 30 shall appoint a team to deliver, witness the signing of and return the voter's 31 application and deliver, witness the voting of and return the voter's absentee ballot. In counties with a charter form of government and in cities not within a 32county, and in each city which has over three hundred thousand inhabitants, and 33 is situated in more than one county, if the election authority receives ten or more 34 applications for absentee ballots from the same address it may appoint a team to 35 36 deliver and witness the voting and return of absentee ballots by voters residing at that address, except when such addresses are for an apartment building or 37 other structure wherein individual living units are located, each of which has its 38 own separate cooking facilities. Each team appointed pursuant to this subsection 39 shall consist of two registered voters, one from each major political party. Both 40 members of any team appointed pursuant to this subsection shall be present 41 42during the delivery, signing or voting and return of any application or absentee 43 ballot signed or voted pursuant to this subsection.
- 3. On the mailing and ballot envelopes for each applicant in federal service, the election authority shall stamp prominently in black the words "FEDERAL BALLOT, STATE OF MISSOURI" and "U.S. Postage Paid, 39 U.S.C. 3406".
- 48 4. No information which encourages a vote for or against a candidate or 49 issue shall be provided to any voter with an absentee ballot.
- voter shall mark the ballot in secret, place the ballot in the ballot envelope, seal the envelope and fill out the statement on the ballot envelope. The affidavit of each person voting an absentee ballot shall be subscribed and sworn to before the election official receiving the ballot, a notary public or other officer authorized by law to administer oaths, unless the voter is voting absentee due to incapacity or confinement due to the provisions of section 115.284, illness or physical disability, or the voter is an absent uniformed services voter or an overseas voter.

 9 If the voter is blind, unable to read or write the English language, or physically

- incapable of voting the ballot, the voter may be assisted by a person of the voter's own choosing. Any person assisting a voter who is not entitled to such assistance, and any person who assists a voter and in any manner coerces or initiates a request or a suggestion that the voter vote for or against or refrain from voting on any question, ticket or candidate, shall be guilty of a class one election offense.
- 15 If, upon counting, challenge or election contest, it is ascertained that any
 16 absentee ballot was voted with unlawful assistance, the ballot shall be rejected.
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 2. Except as provided in subsection 4 of this section, each absentee
 - ballot shall be returned to the election authority in the ballot envelope and shall only be returned by the voter in person, or in person by a relative of the voter who is within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity, by mail or registered carrier or by a team of deputy election authorities; except that persons in federal service, when sent from a location determined by the secretary of state to be inaccessible on election day, shall be allowed to return their absentee ballots cast by use of facsimile transmission or under a program approved by the Department of Defense for electronic transmission of election materials.
 - 3. In cases of an emergency declared by the President of the United States or the governor of this state where the conduct of an election may be affected, the secretary of state may provide for the delivery and return of absentee ballots by use of a facsimile transmission device or system. Any rule promulgated pursuant to this subsection shall apply to a class or classes of voters as provided for by the secretary of state.
 - 4. No election authority shall refuse to accept and process any otherwise valid marked absentee ballot submitted in any manner by an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter solely on the basis of restrictions on envelope type.
 - 5. As provided in the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act, the secretary of state shall, in coordination with local election authorities, develop a free access system by which an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter may determine whether the voter's absentee ballot has been received by the appropriate election authority.
 - 115.292. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a qualified absentee voter[, as described in subsection 3 of this section,] may apply for a special write-in absentee ballot within eighty days of a special, primary, or general election for federal office. Such a ballot shall be for voting for all offices being contested at such election.

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- 2. A qualified absentee voter applying for a special write-in absentee ballot pursuant to this section shall apply to the local election authority of the area which contains his last residence in this state for such ballot. The application for a special write-in absentee ballot may be made on the federal postcard application form, by letter, or on a form provided by the local election authority.
- 3. [In order to qualify for a special write-in absentee ballot, the voter shall state that he is unable to vote by any other means due to requirements of military service or due to living in isolated or extremely remote areas of the world. This statement may be made by federal postcard application, by letter, or on a form prepared by the local election authority.
- 4.] Upon receipt of the application, the election authority shall issue a special write-in absentee ballot. Such ballot shall permit the voter to cast a ballot by writing in a party preference for each office, the names of specific candidates, or the names of persons whom the voter prefers.
 - [5.] 4. The election authority shall issue a regular absentee ballot as soon as such ballots are available. If both the regular absentee ballot and the special write-in absentee ballot are returned, the regular absentee ballot shall be counted and the special write-in absentee ballot shall be voided.
 - 5. The special write-in absentee ballot provided for in this section shall be used instead of the federal write-in absentee ballot in general, special, and primary elections for federal office as authorized in Title 42, U.S.C. Section 1973ff-2(e), as amended.
- 143.1004. 1. In each taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2005, each individual or corporation entitled to a tax refund in an amount sufficient to make a designation under this section may designate that one dollar or any amount in excess of one dollar on a single return, and two dollars or any amount in excess of two dollars on a combined return, of the refund due be credited to the 5 Missouri military family relief fund. The contribution designation authorized by 7 this section shall be clearly and unambiguously printed on the first page of each income tax return form provided by this state. If any individual or corporation 9 that is not entitled to a tax refund in an amount sufficient to make a designation 10 under this section wishes to make a contribution to the Missouri military family 11 relief fund, such individual or corporation may, by separate check, draft, or other 12negotiable instrument, send in with the payment of taxes, or may send in separately, that amount, clearly designated for the Missouri military family relief 13

- fund, the individual or corporation wishes to contribute. The department of revenue shall deposit such amount to the Missouri military family relief fund as
- 16 provided in subsection 2 of this section.
- 17 2. The director of revenue shall deposit at least monthly all contributions
- 18 designated by individuals under this section to the state treasurer for deposit to
- 19 the Missouri military family relief fund. The fund shall be administered by a
- 20 [command sergeants] sergeant major of the Missouri national guard, a
- 21 [command sergeants] sergeant major of a reserve component or its equivalent,
- 22 and a representative of the Missouri veterans commission.
- 23 3. The director of revenue shall deposit at least monthly all contributions
- 24 designated by the corporations under this section, less an amount sufficient to
- 25 cover the cost of collection, handling, and administration by the department of
- 26 revenue during fiscal year 2006, to the Missouri military family relief fund, not
- 27 to exceed seventy thousand dollars.
- 28 4. A contribution designated under this section shall only be deposited in
- 29 the Missouri military family relief fund after all other claims against the refund
- 30 from which such contribution is to be made have been satisfied.
- 31 5. Moneys deposited in the Missouri military family relief fund shall be
- 32 distributed by the adjutant general in accordance with the provisions of sections
- 33 41.216 and 41.218, RSMo.
- 34 6. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same
- 35 manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such
- 36 investments shall be credited to the fund.
- 37 7. Pursuant to section 23.253, RSMo, of the Missouri sunset act:
- 38 (1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this section shall
- 39 automatically sunset six years after August 28, 2005, unless reauthorized by an
- 40 act of the general assembly; and
- 41 (2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized under this
- 42 section shall automatically sunset twelve years after the effective date of the
- 43 reauthorization of this section; and
- 44 (3) This section shall terminate on December thirty-first of the calendar
- 45 year immediately following the calendar year in which the program authorized
- 46 under this section is sunset.
 - 160.545. 1. There is hereby established within the department of
 - 2 elementary and secondary education the "A+ Schools Program" to be administered
 - 3 by the commissioner of education. The program shall consist of grant awards

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- 4 made to public secondary schools that demonstrate a commitment to ensure that:
- 5 (1) All students be graduated from school;
- 6 (2) All students complete a selection of high school studies that is 7 challenging and for which there are identified learning expectations; and
- 8 (3) All students proceed from high school graduation to a college or 9 postsecondary vocational or technical school or high-wage job with work place 10 skill development opportunities.
- 2. The state board of education shall promulgate rules and regulations for the approval of grants made under the program to schools that:
 - (1) Establish measurable districtwide performance standards for the goals of the program outlined in subsection 1 of this section; and
- 15 (2) Specify the knowledge, skills and competencies, in measurable terms, 16 that students must demonstrate to successfully complete any individual course 17 offered by the school, and any course of studies which will qualify a student for 18 graduation from the school; and
- 19 (3) Do not offer a general track of courses that, upon completion, can lead 20 to a high school diploma; and
 - (4) Require rigorous coursework with standards of competency in basic academic subjects for students pursuing vocational and technical education as prescribed by rule and regulation of the state board of education; and
- 24(5) Have a partnership plan developed in cooperation and with the advice 25of local business persons, labor leaders, parents, and representatives of college 26 and postsecondary vocational and technical school representatives, with the plan then approved by the local board of education. The plan shall specify a 27mechanism to receive information on an annual basis from those who developed 28the plan in addition to senior citizens, community leaders, and teachers to update 29 the plan in order to best meet the goals of the program as provided in subsection 30 1 of this section. Further, the plan shall detail the procedures used in the school 31 to identify students that may drop out of school and the intervention services to 32be used to meet the needs of such students. The plan shall outline counseling 33 and mentoring services provided to students who will enter the work force upon 3435 graduation from high school, address apprenticeship and intern programs, and 36 shall contain procedures for the recruitment of volunteers from the community of the school to serve in schools receiving program grants. 37
 - 3. A school district may participate in the program irrespective of its accreditation classification by the state board of education, provided it meets all

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- 4. By rule and regulation, the state board of education may determine a local school district variable fund match requirement in order for a school or schools in the district to receive a grant under the program. However, no school in any district shall receive a grant under the program unless the district designates a salaried employee to serve as the program coordinator, with the district assuming a minimum of one-half the cost of the salary and other benefits provided to the coordinator. Further, no school in any district shall receive a grant under the program unless the district makes available facilities and services for adult literacy training as specified by rule of the state board of education.
- 5. For any school that meets the requirements for the approval of the grants authorized by this section and specified in subsection 2 of this section for three successive school years, by August first following the third such school year, the commissioner of education shall present a plan to the superintendent of the school district in which such school is located for the waiver of rules and regulations to promote flexibility in the operations of the school and to enhance and encourage efficiency in the delivery of instructional services in the school. The provisions of other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the plan presented to the superintendent shall provide a summary waiver, with no conditions, for the pupil testing requirements pursuant to section 160.257 in the school. Further, the provisions of other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the plan shall detail a means for the waiver of requirements otherwise imposed on the school related to the authority of the state board of education to classify school districts pursuant to subdivision (9) of section 161.092, RSMo, and such other rules and regulations as determined by the commissioner of education, except such waivers shall be confined to the school and not other schools in the school district unless such other schools meet the requirements of this subsection. However, any waiver provided to any school as outlined in this subsection shall be void on June thirtieth of any school year in which the school fails to meet the requirements for the approval of the grants authorized by this section as specified in subsection 2 of this section.
- 6. For any school year, grants authorized by subsections 1 to 3 of this section shall be funded with the amount appropriated for this program, less those funds necessary to reimburse eligible students pursuant to subsection 7 of this section.

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- 7. The commissioner of education shall, by rule and regulation of the state board of education and with the advice of the coordinating board for higher education, establish a procedure for the reimbursement of the cost of tuition, books and fees to any public community college or vocational or technical school or within the limits established in subsection 9 of this section for any two-year private vocational or technical school for any student:
 - (1) Who has attended a public high school in the state for at least three years immediately prior to graduation that meets the requirements of subsection 2 of this section, except that students who are active duty military dependents, and students who are dependants of retired military who relocate to Missouri within one year of the date of the parent's retirement from active duty, who, in the school year immediately preceding graduation, meet all other requirements of this subsection and are attending a school that meets the requirements of subsection 2 of this section shall be exempt from the three-year attendance requirement of this subdivision; and
 - (2) Who has made a good faith effort to first secure all available federal sources of funding that could be applied to the reimbursement described in this subsection; and
 - (3) Who has earned a minimal grade average while in high school as determined by rule of the state board of education, and other requirements for the reimbursement authorized by this subsection as determined by rule and regulation of said board.
 - 8. The commissioner of education shall develop a procedure for evaluating the effectiveness of the program described in this section. Such evaluation shall be conducted annually with the results of the evaluation provided to the governor, speaker of the house, and president pro tempore of the senate.
- 9. For a two-year private vocational or technical school to obtain reimbursements under subsection 7 of this section, the following requirements shall be satisfied:
- 105 (1) Such two-year private vocational or technical school shall be a member 106 of the North Central Association and be accredited by the Higher Learning 107 Commission as of July 1, 2008, and maintain such accreditation;
- 108 (2) Such two-year private vocational or technical school shall be 109 designated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under the Internal Revenue Code 110 of 1986, as amended;
- 111 (3) No two-year private vocational or technical school shall receive tuition

- reimbursements in excess of the tuition rate charged by a public community college for course work offered by the private vocational or technical school within
- 114 the service area of such college; and
- 115 (4) The reimbursements provided to any two-year private vocational or 116 technical school shall not violate the provisions of article IX, section 8, or article
- 117 I, section 7, of the Missouri Constitution or the first amendment of the United
- 118 States Constitution.
 - 194.119. 1. As used in this section, the term "right of sepulcher" means
 2 the right to choose and control the burial, cremation, or other final disposition of
 3 a dead human body.
 - 2. For purposes of this chapter and chapters 193, 333, and 436, RSMo, and in all cases relating to the custody, control, and disposition of deceased human remains, including the common law right of sepulcher, where not otherwise defined, the term "next-of-kin" means the following persons in the priority listed if such person is eighteen years of age or older, is mentally competent, and is willing to assume responsibility for the costs of disposition:
- 10 (1) An attorney in fact designated in a durable power of attorney wherein 11 the deceased specifically granted the right of sepulcher over his or her body to 12 such attorney in fact;
- 13 (2) For a decedent who was on active duty in the United States
 14 military at the time of death, the person designated by such decedent
 15 in the written instrument known as the United States Department of
 16 Defense Form 93, Record of Emergency Data, in accordance with P.L.
 17 109-163, Section 564, 10 U.S.C. Section 1482;
- 18 **(3)** The surviving spouse;
- [(3)] (4) Any surviving child of the deceased. If a surviving child is less 19 than eighteen years of age and has a legal or natural guardian, such child shall 20 not be disqualified on the basis of the child's age and such child's legal or natural 2122guardian, if any, shall be entitled to serve in the place of the child unless such 23child's legal or natural guardian was subject to an action in dissolution from the 24deceased. In such event the person or persons who may serve as next-of-kin shall serve in the order provided in subdivisions [(4) to (8)] (5) to (9) of this 2526 subsection;
- [(4)] (5) (a) Any surviving parent of the deceased; or
- 28 (b) If the deceased is a minor, a surviving parent who has custody of the 29 minor; or

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- 30 (c) If the deceased is a minor and the deceased's parents have joint 31 custody, the parent whose residence is the minor child's residence for purposes 32 of mailing and education;
 - [(5)] **(6)** Any surviving sibling of the deceased;
- 34 [(6)] (7) The next nearest surviving relative of the deceased by 35 consanguinity or affinity;
- [(7)] (8) Any person or friend who assumes financial responsibility for the disposition of the deceased's remains if no next-of-kin assumes such responsibility;
- [(8)] (9) The county coroner or medical examiner; provided however that such assumption of responsibility shall not make the coroner, medical examiner, the county, or the state financially responsible for the cost of disposition.
- 3. The next-of-kin of the deceased shall be entitled to control the final disposition of the remains of any dead human being consistent with all applicable laws, including all applicable health codes.
 - 4. A funeral director or establishment is entitled to rely on and act according to the lawful instructions of any person claiming to be the next-of-kin of the deceased; provided however, in any civil cause of action against a funeral director or establishment licensed pursuant to this chapter for actions taken regarding the funeral arrangements for a deceased person in the director's or establishment's care, the relative fault, if any, of such funeral director or establishment may be reduced if such actions are taken in reliance upon a person's claim to be the deceased person's next-of-kin.
 - 5. Any person who desires to exercise the right of sepulcher and who has knowledge of an individual or individuals with a superior right to control disposition shall notify such individual or individuals prior to making final arrangements.
- 6. If an individual with a superior claim is personally served with written notice from a person with an inferior claim that such person desires to exercise the right of sepulcher and the individual so served does not object within forty-eight hours of receipt, such individual shall be deemed to have waived such right. An individual with a superior right may also waive such right at any time if such waiver is in writing and dated.
 - 7. If there is more than one person in a class who are equal in priority and the funeral director has no knowledge of any objection by other members of such class, the funeral director or establishment shall be entitled to rely on and

act according to the instructions of the first such person in the class to make arrangements; provided that such person assumes responsibility for the costs of disposition and no other person in such class provides written notice of his or her objection.

301.3158. Any person who has been awarded the military service award known as the legion of merit medal may apply for special motor vehicle license plates for any vehicle such person owns, either solely or jointly, other than an apportioned motor vehicle or a commercial motor vehicle licensed in excess of eighteen thousand pounds gross weight. Any such person shall make application for the special license plates on a form provided by the director of revenue and furnish such proof as a recipient of the legion of merit medal as the director may require. The director shall then issue license plates bearing letters or numbers or a combination thereof as determined by the advisory committee established in section 301.129, with the words "LEGION OF 11 MERIT" in place of the words "SHOW-ME STATE". Such license plates 12 shall be made with fully reflective material with a common color 13 scheme and design, shall be clearly visible at night, and shall be 14aesthetically attractive, as prescribed by section 301.130. Such plates 15 shall also bear an image of the legion of merit medal. There shall be an 16 additional fee charged for each set of legion of merit license plates 17issued under this section equal to the fee charged for personalized 18 license plates. There shall be no limit on the number of license plates 19 20 any person qualified under this section may obtain so long as each set of license plates issued under this section is issued for vehicles owned 21solely or jointly by such person. License plates issued under the 22provisions of this section shall not be transferable to any other person 23except that any registered co-owner of the motor vehicle shall be 24entitled to operate the motor vehicle with such plates for the duration 25of the year licensed in the event of the death of the qualified person. 26

447.503. As used in sections 447.500 to 447.595, unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms mean:

- 3 (1) "Banking organization", any bank, trust company, or safe deposit 4 company, engaged in business in this state;
- 5 (2) "Business association", any corporation, joint stock company, business 6 trust, partnership, limited partnership, or any association for business purposes, 7 or any mutual fund or other similar entity, whether operating in the form of a

- 8 corporation or a trust, including but not limited to any investment companies 9 registered under the federal Investment Company Act of 1940;
- 10 (3) "Engaged in business in this state", any transaction of business within 11 this state sufficient to support personal jurisdiction in the courts of this state;
- 12 (4) "Financial organization", any savings and loan association, credit 13 union, or loan and investment company engaged in business in this state;
- 14 (5) "Holder", any person in possession of property subject to sections 15 447.500 to 447.595 belonging to another, or who is trustee in case of a trust, or 16 is indebted to another on an obligation subject to sections 447.500 to 447.595;
 - (6) "Insurance corporation", any association or corporation transacting within this state the business of property insurance or casualty insurance or life insurance on the lives of persons or insurance appertaining thereto, including, but not by way of limitation, endowments and annuities;
 - (7) "Military medals", any decoration or award that may be presented or awarded to a member of a unit of the armed forces or national guard;
 - (8) "Owner", a depositor in case of a deposit, a beneficiary in case of a trust except a trust defined in section 456.500, RSMo, the unclaimed property of which has not escheated pursuant to the provisions of section 456.650, RSMo, a creditor, claimant, or payee in case of other choses in action, or any person having a legal or equitable interest in property subject to sections 447.500 to 447.595, or such person's legal representative;
 - [(8)] (9) "Person", any individual, business association, government or political subdivision, public corporation, public authority, estate, trust except a trust defined in section 456.500, RSMo, two or more persons having a joint or common interest, or any other legal or commercial entity;
 - [(9)] (10) "Reasonable and necessary diligence as is consistent with good business practice", efforts appropriate to and commensurate with the nature and value of the property at issue; however, the holder shall send a notice regarding the unclaimed property via first class mail postage prepaid, marked "Address Correction Requested". Such letter shall be sent by the holder within twelve months prior to turning the property over to the treasurer. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the holder may treat letters sent in the ordinary course of business, first class and "Address Correction Requested" as satisfying the definition of "reasonable and necessary diligence as is consistent with good business practice". The holder may treat notices regarding the unclaimed

- 44 property as satisfying the "reasonable and necessary standard" for contacting
- 45 owners. If the postal service provides the holder with additional information as
- 46 part of the address correction process, the holder shall send second and
- 47 subsequent notices in the same format as the first notice to any new address
- 48 provided to the holder;
- 49 [(10)] (11) "Treasurer", the Missouri state treasurer;
- [(11)] (12) "Utility", any person who owns or operates within this state,
- 51 for public use, any plant, equipment, property, franchise, or license for the
- 52 transmission of communications or the production, storage, transmission, sale,
- 53 delivery, or furnishing of electricity, water, steam, or gas or who engages in such
- 54 business in this state.
 - 447.559. All abandoned tangible personal property delivered to the
 - 2 treasurer pursuant to subdivision (4) of section 447.505 that has possible
- 3 historical significance shall be reviewed as follows:
- 4 (1) The treasurer at the treasurer's discretion shall screen such property
- 5 to determine if the property indicates a need for further review;
- 6 (2) In the event it is determined that such property needs further review,
- 7 the treasurer shall make available such property to the state historical society of
- 8 Missouri for historical review. The state historical society shall issue to the
- 9 treasurer its report and recommend to the treasurer the appropriate state
- 10 department or agency to act as custodian of any property deemed to be of such
- 11 historical significance as to be retained;
- 12 (3) The state historical society shall receive a reasonable fee for its
- 13 services. If the treasurer and the state historical society cannot agree on the
- 14 amount of the fee, the commissioner of administration shall determine the
- 15 fee. The fee shall be paid out of appropriations made from the abandoned fund
- 16 account;
- 17 (4) The state treasurer's office upon receiving military medals
- 18 shall hold and maintain such military medals until the original owner
- 19 or their respective heirs or beneficiaries can be identified and the
- 20 military medal returned. The state treasurer may designate a veteran's
- 21 organization or other appropriate organization as custodian of medals
- 22 until the original owner or their respective heirs or beneficiaries are
- 23 located.
 - Section 1. The adjutant general of Missouri is hereby authorized
 - 2 to present, in the name of the state of Missouri, a Missouri national

guard first sergeant ribbon, which shall be of suitable design, as may be determined by the governor, to individual members of the Missouri national guard who have been assigned to a unit first sergeant position for a period of three years and have been recommended by their 6 squadron or company commander. In order to qualify for the award 7 the individual must have demonstrated exceptional and honorable leadership qualities and dedication as a first sergeant. This award 9 shall be granted for those individuals who have previously served as 10 first sergeants provided their service demonstrated exceptional and 11 honorable leadership. 12

Section 2. The governor is hereby authorized, upon the recommendation of the adjutant general of Missouri, to present in the name of the state of Missouri, a governor's unit citation, which shall be of suitable design, as may be determined by the governor, to units, teams, or task forces of the Missouri national guard which served during state emergency duty or federal deployments with outstanding 6 honor and distinction, or whose service resulted in the preservation of 7 8 life and property. Individuals assigned or attached to the units, teams, or task forces will be authorized to wear the governor's unit citation 9 10 ribbon. This award will be granted to those units, teams, or task forces 11 whose service or deployments occurred after September 11, 2001.

Section B. Because of the need to address high school dropout rates in Missouri, the enactment of sections 41.206 and 41.207 of section A of this act are deemed necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, welfare, peace, and safety, and are hereby declared to be an emergency act within the meaning of the constitution, and the enactment of sections 41.206 and 41.207 of section A of this act shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval.

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