

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 900

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR LAMPING.

Read 1st time February 19, 2014, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

6107S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 209.040, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to blind pension benefit requirements.

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

Section A. Section 209.040, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 209.040, to read as follows:

209.040. 1. No person shall be entitled to a pension under sections
2 209.010 to 209.160 who does not have vision with or without properly adjusted
3 glasses, up to but not including five two-hundredths, or whose best visual field
4 is five degrees as tested with five millimeter target on perimeter. No person shall
5 be entitled to receive a pension except upon a scientific vision test supported by
6 a certificate of an ophthalmologist, a physician skilled in disease of the eye, or an
7 optometrist, designated or approved by the department of social services to make
8 such examination. To continue to be eligible to receive a pension under the
9 provisions of this section, a person shall present to the department of social
10 services every fifth year after the initial vision test a new certificate of an
11 ophthalmologist, a physician skilled in disease of the eye, or an optometrist,
12 designated or approved by the department to make a scientific vision test that
13 such person continues to meet the requirements of this section. **Persons who**
14 **have been deemed by an ophthalmologist, a physician skilled in disease**
15 **of the eye, or an optometrist to have no usable vision shall be exempt**
16 **from the five-year reexamination requirement of this subsection.** Every
17 person passing the vision test and having the other qualifications provided in
18 sections 209.010 to 209.160 shall be entitled to receive a monthly pension in an
19 amount established by appropriations made by the general assembly for that
20 purpose but not less than three hundred forty dollars; except that pensions to the

21 blind as provided herein shall not be payable to a blind person unless such person
22 has been declared ineligible to receive aid under the federal supplemental
23 security income program, nor shall pensions to the blind as provided herein be
24 payable to any person who is receiving general relief assistance.

25 2. If the funds at the disposal of or which may be obtained by the
26 department of social services for the payment of benefits under this section shall
27 at any time become insufficient to pay the full amount of benefits to each person
28 entitled thereto, the amount of benefits of each one of such persons shall be
29 reduced pro rata in proportion to such deficiency in the total amount available or
30 to become available for such purpose.

31 3. Medical assistance for blind recipients eligible for such assistance
32 under the provisions of sections 208.151 to 208.158 shall be payable as provided
33 in sections 208.151 to 208.158 without regard to any durational residence
34 requirement for eligibility out of funds designated for such medical assistance and
35 not from the blind pension fund.

36 4. The monthly pension provided in subsection 1 of this section shall be
37 increased by the general assembly by an appropriation bill by a monthly pension
38 amount which equals one-twelfth of the quotient obtained by dividing seventy-five
39 percent of the annual growth of funds in the blind pension fund for the preceding
40 fiscal year by the number of persons eligible to receive the monthly pension
41 provided in subsection 1 of this section.

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