

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 55

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR HOLSMAN.

Pre-filed December 1, 2016, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

0575S.011

## AN ACT

To amend chapter 251, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to grants for urban agriculture.

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

Section A. Chapter 251, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 251.450, to read as follows:

**251.450. 1. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:**

**(1) "Agricultural products", the same as defined in section 262.900;**

**(2) "Board", the empowerment microgrants board established under this section within the Missouri department of agriculture;**

**(3) "Director", the director of the Missouri department of agriculture;**

**(4) "Poverty area", a census tract with at least twenty percent of the population living at or below the poverty level as of the last decennial census;**

**(5) "Program", the empowerment microgrants program established under this section;**

**(6) "Urban agriculture", the production of agricultural products within a metropolitan statistical area for the purpose of delivery to the market.**

**2. There is hereby created the "Empowerment Microgrants Program" which shall provide grants, subject to appropriations, to persons living in impoverished areas and who engage in urban agriculture.**

**3. The program shall be administered by the empowerment**

22 microgrants board within the department of agriculture, comprised of  
23 an individual appointed by the governor from each congressional  
24 district, with the advice and consent of the senate. The director shall  
25 also be a permanent member of the board. Members of the board shall  
26 serve terms of four years in length, except that the director shall  
27 stagger the terms of the initial appointments so that four members  
28 serve terms of two years, and four members serve terms of four  
29 years. There is no limit on the number of terms a member may  
30 serve. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner of representation  
31 as the original appointments. Board members shall meet no less than  
32 twice annually, as determined by the chairperson, who shall be elected  
33 by the board at its first meeting and once every calendar year  
34 thereafter. Members of the board shall serve without compensation but  
35 shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred  
36 in the performance of their duties.

37 4. To be eligible for grants provided through the program, a  
38 person shall meet the following qualifications:

- 39 (1) Currently reside in a poverty area;
- 40 (2) Have resided in a poverty area for the past twelve months;
- 41 (3) Have an income no greater than two hundred percent of the  
42 federal poverty level at the time of application;
- 43 (4) Not be related to any person on the board or employee of the  
44 board within the first or second degree of consanguinity;
- 45 (5) Sign a grant award contract which shall include claw-back  
46 provisions; and
- 47 (6) Engage in urban agriculture.

48 5. Persons seeking a grant shall submit to the board any  
49 documents the board may require.

50 6. No individual shall qualify for a grant of more than twenty-  
51 five thousand dollars. Grant award contracts shall include provisions  
52 requiring repayment of the grant should the recipient fail to use the  
53 grant funds in the manner required by the grant contract. Amounts  
54 required to be repaid shall not bear interest.

55 7. The board shall not spend more than five percent of its funds  
56 on overhead and administration of grants.

57 8. There is hereby created in the state treasury the  
58 "Empowerment Microgrants Fund", which shall consist of money

59 appropriated to such fund and any private donations. The state  
60 treasurer shall be custodian of the fund and may approve  
61 disbursements from the fund in accordance with sections 30.170 and  
62 30.180. Upon appropriation, money in the fund shall be used solely for  
63 the administration of this section. Notwithstanding the provisions of  
64 section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the  
65 end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general  
66 revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in  
67 the same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys  
68 earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.

69 9. Pursuant to section 23.253 of the Missouri sunset act:

70 (1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this  
71 section shall sunset automatically six years after the effective date of  
72 this section unless reauthorized by an act of the general assembly; and

73 (2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized  
74 under this section shall sunset automatically six years after the  
75 effective date of the reauthorization of this section; and

76 (3) This section shall terminate on September first of the  
77 calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the  
78 program authorized under this section is sunset.

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