

SENATE BILL NO. 705

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR BEAN.

4333S.01H

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapter 21, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the establishment of the joint committee on rural economic development.

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

Section A. Chapter 21, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto
2 one new section, to be known as section 21.915, to read as
3 follows:

21.915. 1. There is established a permanent joint
2 committee of the general assembly to be known as the "Joint
3 Committee on Rural Economic Development" which shall be
4 composed of five members of the senate, appointed by the
5 president pro tempore of the senate, and five members of the
6 house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the
7 house of representatives. A majority of the members of the
8 committee shall constitute a quorum. The members shall
9 annually select one of the members to be the chair and one
10 of the members to be the vice chair. The speaker of the
11 house of representatives and the president pro tempore of
12 the senate shall appoint the respective majority members.
13 The minority leader of the house of representatives and the
14 minority leader of the senate shall appoint the respective
15 minority members. The members shall receive no additional
16 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for actual and
17 necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of
18 their duties. No major party shall be represented on the

19 committee by more than three members from the senate nor by
20 more than three members from the house of representatives.
21 The committee is authorized to meet and act year round and
22 to employ the necessary personnel within the limits of
23 appropriations. The staff of the committee on legislative
24 research, house research, and senate research shall provide
25 necessary clerical, research, fiscal, and legal services to
26 the committee, as the committee may request.

27 2. It shall be the duty of the committee to:

28 (1) Examine any trending population declines
29 throughout rural counties in Missouri utilizing data from
30 the last previous decennial census of the United States,
31 including identifying any anomalous rural areas that saw
32 population increases;

33 (2) Identify economic opportunities for third class
34 counties, including identifying viable industries for rural
35 areas of the state and businesses that are relocating from
36 other states;

37 (3) Monitor the deployment and adoption of broadband
38 internet in rural areas of the state;

39 (4) Examine the issue of restricted access to quality
40 healthcare and insurance in rural areas of the state;

41 (5) Identify the need for and development of expanded
42 learning opportunities in rural areas, including workforce
43 development, skilled labor training, and online training;

44 (6) Examine infrastructure issues in rural areas in
45 the state, including opportunities to mitigate geographical
46 isolation and a review of transportation development plans
47 to embolden economic vitality in rural areas of the state;

48 (7) Identify key contributors and solutions to poverty
49 and unemployment trends in rural areas of the state;

50 (8) Develop policies to maximize existing state
51 programs, including existing economic development tax credit
52 programs and tourism programs; and

53 (9) Identify and examine any other issues that the
54 committee determines to be affecting rural areas of the
55 state.

56 3. The committee may compile a full report of its
57 activities for submission to the general assembly, which
58 shall include any recommendations which the committee may
59 have for legislative action as well as any recommendations
60 for administrative or procedural changes in the internal
61 management or organization of state government agencies and
62 departments. Copies of the report containing such
63 recommendations shall be sent to the appropriate directors
64 of state departments and agencies included in the report.

65 4. All state departments, commissions, and offices
66 shall cooperate with and assist the committee in the
67 performance of its duties and shall make available all
68 books, records, and information requested.

✓