

# SENATE BILL NO. 1717

## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR NURRENBERN.

7374S.011

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

### AN ACT

To repeal section 487.020, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the appointment of family court commissioners.

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

Section A. Section 487.020, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 487.020, to read as follows:

487.020. 1. In each circuit or a county having a family court, a majority of the circuit and associate circuit judges en banc, in the circuit, may appoint commissioners, subject to appropriations, to hear family court cases and make findings as provided for in sections 487.010 to 487.190. Any person serving as a commissioner of the juvenile division of the circuit court on August 28, 1993, shall become a commissioner of the family court. In each circuit or a county therein having a family court, a majority of the circuit and associate circuit judges en banc may appoint, in addition to those commissioners serving as commissioners of the juvenile division and becoming commissioners of the family court pursuant to the provisions of sections 487.020 to 487.040, no more than three additional commissioners to hear family court cases and make findings and recommendations as provided in sections 487.010 to 487.190. The number of additional commissioners added as

18 a result of the provisions of sections 487.010 to 487.190  
19 may be appointed only to the extent that the state is  
20 reimbursed for the salaries of the commissioners as provided  
21 in sections 487.010 to 487.190 or by federal or county funds  
22 or by gifts or grants made for such purposes. A  
23 commissioner shall be appointed for a term of four years.  
24 Commissioners appointed pursuant to sections 487.020 to  
25 487.040 shall serve in addition to circuit judges, associate  
26 circuit court judges and commissioners authorized to hear  
27 actions classified under section 487.080.

28 2. The circuit courts in the **seventh judicial circuit,**  
29 eleventh judicial circuit, the thirteenth judicial circuit,  
30 and the thirty-first judicial circuit may, in substitution  
31 of each family court commissioner currently appointed  
32 pursuant to this section whose salary is reimbursable,  
33 appoint a family court commissioner whose compensation shall  
34 be payable by the state without necessity of reimbursement.  
35 The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to  
36 allow appointment of a family court commissioner in the  
37 eleventh judicial circuit in addition to the number of such  
38 family court commissioners holding office in the eleventh  
39 judicial circuit as of January 1, 1999. The provisions of  
40 this subsection shall not be construed to allow appointment  
41 of a family court commissioner in the thirteenth judicial  
42 circuit or the thirty-first judicial circuit in addition to  
43 the number of such family court commissioners holding office  
44 in such circuits as of January 1, 2013. **The provisions of**  
45 **this subsection shall not be construed to allow appointment**  
46 **of a family court commissioner in the seventh judicial**  
47 **circuit in addition to the number of such family court**  
48 **commissioners holding office in the seventh judicial circuit**  
49 **as of January 1, 2027.** The appointment of the state-paid

50 commissioner shall be subject to appropriations for such  
51 purpose.

52         3. Each commissioner of the family court shall possess  
53 the same qualifications as a circuit judge. The  
54 compensation and retirement benefits of each commissioner  
55 shall be the same as that of an associate circuit judge,  
56 payable in the same manner and from the same source as that  
57 of an associate circuit judge.

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