

SENATE BILL NO. 844

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR HOUGH.

5628S.011

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To repeal section 105.711, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the state legal expense fund.

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

Section A. Section 105.711, RSMo, is repealed and one new
2 section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 105.711,
3 to read as follows:

105.711. 1. There is hereby created a "State Legal
2 Expense Fund" which shall consist of moneys appropriated to
3 the fund by the general assembly and moneys otherwise
4 credited to such fund pursuant to section 105.716.

5 2. Moneys in the state legal expense fund shall be
6 available for the payment of any claim or any amount
7 required by any final judgment rendered by a court of
8 competent jurisdiction against:

9 (1) The state of Missouri, or any agency of the state,
10 pursuant to section 536.050 or 536.087 or section 537.600;

11 (2) Any officer or employee of the state of Missouri
12 or any agency of the state, including, without limitation,
13 elected officials, appointees, members of state boards or
14 commissions, and members of the Missouri National Guard upon
15 conduct of such officer or employee arising out of and
16 performed in connection with his or her official duties on
17 behalf of the state, or any agency of the state, provided

EXPLANATION-Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

18 that moneys in this fund shall not be available for payment
19 of claims made under chapter 287;

20 (3) (a) Any physician, psychiatrist, pharmacist,
21 podiatrist, dentist, nurse, or other health care provider
22 licensed to practice in Missouri under the provisions of
23 chapter 330, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337 or 338 who is employed
24 by the state of Missouri or any agency of the state under
25 formal contract to conduct disability reviews on behalf of
26 the department of elementary and secondary education or
27 provide services to patients or inmates of state
28 correctional facilities on a part-time basis, and any
29 physician, psychiatrist, pharmacist, podiatrist, dentist,
30 nurse, or other health care provider licensed to practice in
31 Missouri under the provisions of chapter 330, 332, 334, 335,
32 336, 337, or 338 who is under formal contract to provide
33 services to patients or inmates at a county jail on a part-
34 time basis;

35 (b) Any physician licensed to practice medicine in
36 Missouri under the provisions of chapter 334 and his
37 professional corporation organized pursuant to chapter 356
38 who is employed by or under contract with a city or county
39 health department organized under chapter 192 or chapter
40 205, or a city health department operating under a city
41 charter, or a combined city-county health department to
42 provide services to patients for medical care caused by
43 pregnancy, delivery, and child care, if such medical
44 services are provided by the physician pursuant to the
45 contract without compensation or the physician is paid from
46 no other source than a governmental agency except for
47 patient co-payments required by federal or state law or
48 local ordinance;

(c) Any physician licensed to practice medicine in Missouri under the provisions of chapter 334 who is employed by or under contract with a federally funded community health center organized under Section 315, 329, 330 or 340 of the Public Health Services Act (42 U.S.C. Section 216, 254c) to provide services to patients for medical care caused by pregnancy, delivery, and child care, if such medical services are provided by the physician pursuant to the contract or employment agreement without compensation or the physician is paid from no other source than a governmental agency or such a federally funded community health center except for patient co-payments required by federal or state law or local ordinance. In the case of any claim or judgment that arises under this paragraph, the aggregate of payments from the state legal expense fund shall be limited to a maximum of one million dollars for all claims arising out of and judgments based upon the same act or acts alleged in a single cause against any such physician, and shall not exceed one million dollars for any one claimant;

(d) Any physician licensed pursuant to chapter 334 who is affiliated with and receives no compensation from a nonprofit entity qualified as exempt from federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which offers a free health screening in any setting or any physician, nurse, physician assistant, dental hygienist, dentist, or other health care professional licensed or registered under chapter 330, 331, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337, or 338 who provides health care services within the scope of his or her license or registration at a city or county health department organized under chapter 192 or chapter 205, a city health department operating under a

81 city charter, or a combined city-county health department,
82 or a nonprofit community health center qualified as exempt
83 from federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the
84 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, excluding
85 federally funded community health centers as specified in
86 paragraph (c) of this subdivision and rural health clinics
87 under 42 U.S.C. Section 1396d(1)(1), if such services are
88 restricted to primary care and preventive health services,
89 provided that such services shall not include the
90 performance of an abortion, and if such health services are
91 provided by the health care professional licensed or
92 registered under chapter 330, 331, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337,
93 or 338 without compensation. MO HealthNet or Medicare
94 payments for primary care and preventive health services
95 provided by a health care professional licensed or
96 registered under chapter 330, 331, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337,
97 or 338 who volunteers at a community health clinic is not
98 compensation for the purpose of this section if the total
99 payment is assigned to the community health clinic. For the
100 purposes of the section, "community health clinic" means a
101 nonprofit community health center qualified as exempt from
102 federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal
103 Revenue Code of 1987, as amended, that provides primary care
104 and preventive health services to people without health
105 insurance coverage. In the case of any claim or judgment
106 that arises under this paragraph, the aggregate of payments
107 from the state legal expense fund shall be limited to a
108 maximum of five hundred thousand dollars, for all claims
109 arising out of and judgments based upon the same act or acts
110 alleged in a single cause and shall not exceed five hundred
111 thousand dollars for any one claimant, and insurance
112 policies purchased pursuant to the provisions of section

105.721 shall be limited to five hundred thousand dollars. Liability or malpractice insurance obtained and maintained in force by or on behalf of any health care professional licensed or registered under chapter 330, 331, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337, or 338 shall not be considered available to pay that portion of a judgment or claim for which the state legal expense fund is liable under this paragraph;

(e) Any physician, nurse, physician assistant, dental hygienist, or dentist licensed or registered to practice medicine, nursing, or dentistry or to act as a physician assistant or dental hygienist in Missouri under the provisions of chapter 332, 334, or 335, or lawfully practicing, who provides medical, nursing, or dental treatment within the scope of his license or registration to students of a school whether a public, private, or parochial elementary or secondary school or summer camp, if such physician's treatment is restricted to primary care and preventive health services and if such medical, dental, or nursing services are provided by the physician, dentist, physician assistant, dental hygienist, or nurse without compensation. In the case of any claim or judgment that arises under this paragraph, the aggregate of payments from the state legal expense fund shall be limited to a maximum of five hundred thousand dollars, for all claims arising out of and judgments based upon the same act or acts alleged in a single cause and shall not exceed five hundred thousand dollars for any one claimant, and insurance policies purchased pursuant to the provisions of section 105.721 shall be limited to five hundred thousand dollars; or

(f) Any physician licensed under chapter 334, or dentist licensed under chapter 332, providing medical care without compensation to an individual referred to his or her

care by a city or county health department organized under chapter 192 or 205, a city health department operating under a city charter, or a combined city-county health department, or nonprofit health center qualified as exempt from federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or a federally funded community health center organized under Section 315, 329, 330, or 340 of the Public Health Services Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 216, 254c; provided that such treatment shall not include the performance of an abortion. In the case of any claim or judgment that arises under this paragraph, the aggregate of payments from the state legal expense fund shall be limited to a maximum of one million dollars for all claims arising out of and judgments based upon the same act or acts alleged in a single cause and shall not exceed one million dollars for any one claimant, and insurance policies purchased under the provisions of section 105.721 shall be limited to one million dollars. Liability or malpractice insurance obtained and maintained in force by or on behalf of any physician licensed under chapter 334, or any dentist licensed under chapter 332, shall not be considered available to pay that portion of a judgment or claim for which the state legal expense fund is liable under this paragraph;

(4) Staff employed by the juvenile division of any judicial circuit;

(5) Any attorney licensed to practice law in the state of Missouri who practices law at or through a nonprofit community social services center qualified as exempt from federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or through any agency of any federal, state, or local government, if such legal

practice is provided by the attorney without compensation. In the case of any claim or judgment that arises under this subdivision, the aggregate of payments from the state legal expense fund shall be limited to a maximum of five hundred thousand dollars for all claims arising out of and judgments based upon the same act or acts alleged in a single cause and shall not exceed five hundred thousand dollars for any one claimant, and insurance policies purchased pursuant to the provisions of section 105.721 shall be limited to five hundred thousand dollars;

(6) Any social welfare board created under section 205.770 and the members and officers thereof upon conduct of such officer or employee while acting in his or her capacity as a board member or officer, and any physician, nurse, physician assistant, dental hygienist, dentist, or other health care professional licensed or registered under chapter 330, 331, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337, or 338 who is referred to provide medical care without compensation by the board and who provides health care services within the scope of his or her license or registration as prescribed by the board; [or]

(7) Any person who is selected or appointed by the state director of revenue under subsection 2 of section 136.055 to act as an agent of the department of revenue, to the extent that such agent's actions or inactions upon which such claim or judgment is based were performed in the course of the person's official duties as an agent of the department of revenue and in the manner required by state law or department of revenue rules; or

(8) Any entity, including its members, officers, or employees, that provides under contract or subcontract foster care case management services or residential services

**pursuant to chapter 210, including but not limited to
services under sections 210.112 or 210.119.**

3. The department of health and senior services shall promulgate rules regarding contract procedures and the documentation of care provided under paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) of subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of this section. The limitation on payments from the state legal expense fund or any policy of insurance procured pursuant to the provisions of section 105.721, provided in subsection 7 of this section, shall not apply to any claim or judgment arising under paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f) of subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of this section. Any claim or judgment arising under paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f) of subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of this section shall be paid by the state legal expense fund or any policy of insurance procured pursuant to section 105.721, to the extent damages are allowed under sections 538.205 to 538.235. Liability or malpractice insurance obtained and maintained in force by any health care professional licensed or registered under chapter 330, 331, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337, or 338 for coverage concerning his or her private practice and assets shall not be considered available under subsection 7 of this section to pay that portion of a judgment or claim for which the state legal expense fund is liable under paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f) of subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of this section. However, a health care professional licensed or registered under chapter 330, 331, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337, or 338 may purchase liability or malpractice insurance for coverage of liability claims or judgments based upon care rendered under paragraphs (c), (d), (e), and (f) of subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of this section which exceed the amount of

liability coverage provided by the state legal expense fund under those paragraphs. Even if paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f) of subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of this section is repealed or modified, the state legal expense fund shall be available for damages which occur while the pertinent paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f) of subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of this section is in effect.

4. The attorney general shall promulgate rules regarding contract procedures and the documentation of legal practice provided under subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section. The limitation on payments from the state legal expense fund or any policy of insurance procured pursuant to section 105.721 as provided in subsection 7 of this section shall not apply to any claim or judgment arising under subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section. Any claim or judgment arising under subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section shall be paid by the state legal expense fund or any policy of insurance procured pursuant to section 105.721 to the extent damages are allowed under sections 538.205 to 538.235. Liability or malpractice insurance otherwise obtained and maintained in force shall not be considered available under subsection 7 of this section to pay that portion of a judgment or claim for which the state legal expense fund is liable under subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section. However, an attorney may obtain liability or malpractice insurance for coverage of liability claims or judgments based upon legal practice rendered under subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section that exceed the amount of liability coverage provided by the state legal expense fund under subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section. Even if subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section is repealed

or amended, the state legal expense fund shall be available for damages that occur while the pertinent subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section is in effect.

5. All payments shall be made from the state legal expense fund by the commissioner of administration with the approval of the attorney general. Payment from the state legal expense fund of a claim or final judgment award against a health care professional licensed or registered under chapter 330, 331, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337, or 338, described in paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), or (f) of subdivision (3) of subsection 2 of this section, or against an attorney in subdivision (5) of subsection 2 of this section, shall only be made for services rendered in accordance with the conditions of such paragraphs. In the case of any claim or judgment against an officer or employee of the state or any agency of the state based upon conduct of such officer or employee arising out of and performed in connection with his or her official duties on behalf of the state or any agency of the state that would give rise to a cause of action under section 537.600, the state legal expense fund shall be liable, excluding punitive damages, for:

- (1) Economic damages to any one claimant; and
- (2) Up to three hundred fifty thousand dollars for noneconomic damages.

The state legal expense fund shall be the exclusive remedy and shall preclude any other civil actions or proceedings for money damages arising out of or relating to the same subject matter against the state officer or employee, or the officer's or employee's estate. No officer or employee of the state or any agency of the state shall be individually

liable in his or her personal capacity for conduct of such officer or employee arising out of and performed in connection with his or her official duties on behalf of the state or any agency of the state. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any defendant who is not an officer or employee of the state or any agency of the state in any proceeding against an officer or employee of the state or any agency of the state. Nothing in this subsection shall limit the rights and remedies otherwise available to a claimant under state law or common law in proceedings where one or more defendants is not an officer or employee of the state or any agency of the state.

6. The limitation on awards for noneconomic damages provided for in this subsection shall be increased or decreased on an annual basis effective January first of each year in accordance with the Implicit Price Deflator for Personal Consumption Expenditures as published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the United States Department of Commerce. The current value of the limitation shall be calculated by the director of the department of commerce and insurance, who shall furnish that value to the secretary of state, who shall publish such value in the Missouri Register as soon after each January first as practicable, but it shall otherwise be exempt from the provisions of section 536.021.

7. Except as provided in subsection 3 of this section, in the case of any claim or judgment that arises under sections 537.600 and 537.610 against the state of Missouri, or an agency of the state, the aggregate of payments from the state legal expense fund and from any policy of insurance procured pursuant to the provisions of section 105.721 shall not exceed the limits of liability as provided

in sections 537.600 to 537.610. No payment shall be made from the state legal expense fund or any policy of insurance procured with state funds pursuant to section 105.721 unless and until the benefits provided to pay the claim by any other policy of liability insurance have been exhausted.

8. The provisions of section 33.080 notwithstanding, any moneys remaining to the credit of the state legal expense fund at the end of an appropriation period shall not be transferred to general revenue.

9. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is promulgated under the authority delegated in sections 105.711 to 105.726 shall become effective only if it has been promulgated pursuant to the provisions of chapter 536. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to repeal or affect the validity of any rule filed or adopted prior to August 28, 1999, if it fully complied with the provisions of chapter 536. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 1999, shall be invalid and void.

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