

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 165

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE FRANZ.

0543L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 484.350, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to standards for representation of children by guardians ad litem.

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

Section A. Section 484.350, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 484.350, to read as follows:

484.350. Recognizing that Missouri children have a right to adequate and effective representation in child welfare cases, the September 17, 1996, Missouri supreme court standards for representation by guardians ad litem shall be **updated and** adopted statewide and each circuit shall devise a plan for implementation which takes into account the individual needs of their circuit as well as the negative impact that excessive caseloads have upon effectiveness of counsel. These plans shall be approved by the supreme court en banc and fully implemented by July 1, 2011.

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EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.