

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 833

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES ROWDEN (Sponsor), TORPEY, REMOLE, JONES (50), SWAN,
KELLY (45), FITZPATRICK AND CURTIS (Co-sponsors).

1517H.01I

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 620, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the MissouriLink Network Coalition.

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

Section A. Chapter 620, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be
2 known as section 620.493, to read as follows:

**620.493. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the “MissouriLink
2 Network Coalition”.**

3 2. There is hereby created the “MissouriLink Network Coalition”.

**4 (1) The coalition shall be organized for the purpose of promoting and facilitating
5 contact among small businesses, entrepreneurs, higher education, and industry, any of
6 which may be seeking, or in need of, improved technology, business processes, research
7 and development, or other improvements and support.**

8 (a) The coalition will:

**9 a. Work to bring resources and those needing resources together through as
10 seamless an experience as possible, supported by technical assistance and policy;**

**11 b. Encourage sharing of resources and information and avoid duplication of
12 services; and**

**13 c. Work with leaders of higher education, industry, small business, and economic
14 development to encourage necessary changes in policy to support collaboration and
15 interaction between the public and private sectors, as well as industry and small business.**

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.

16 **(2) The coalition shall be administered by a board of directors consisting of eleven**
17 **members, including one member from the Missouri small business and technology**
18 **development centers (MO SBTDC), who will serve as a liaison to state government.**
19 **Additional members will be chosen by the MO SBTDC based on geographic diversity and**
20 **core competencies needed for the project. At least six of the eleven members shall**
21 **represent the MO SBTDC.**

22 **(3) The board shall appoint from its membership a chairman and vice chairman.**
23 **A quorum shall consist of a majority of appointed members, and may be met by electronic**
24 **attendance.**

25 **(4) Members appointed shall be appointed for a two-year term, or until a successor**
26 **is appointed, and may be reappointed to the board.**

27 **(5) Each member of the board shall serve without compensation.**

28 **3. The coalition shall:**

29 **(1) Develop an online resource to:**

30 **(a) Provide connections among coalition members, registrants, and technical**
31 **assistance providers;**

32 **(b) Offer access to appropriate registrant-focused support to address registrants'**
33 **needs through the MO SBTDC; and**

34 **(c) Maintain links to other statewide online resources addressing the needs of**
35 **entrepreneurs and small businesses.**

36 **(2) Present a minimum of two statewide networking and matchmaking events**
37 **focused on the needs of registrants, including financial forums, educational sessions, and**
38 **presentations.**

39 **(3) Develop, in partnership with the Missouri legislature and partner organizations,**
40 **metrics for evaluation of the coalition's performance, including but not limited to, business**
41 **start-ups and expansions, investments, sales increases, jobs created, jobs retained through**
42 **business survival, government contracts awarded, research proposals and awards,**
43 **collaborations amongst participants resulting in research and development contracts,**
44 **partnerships, new products, and production efficiencies, and satisfaction with collaborative**
45 **relationships.**

46 **(4) Give both policy and resource priority to collaborations between institutions of**
47 **higher education, industry, and small business.**

48 **(5) Encourage the Missouri legislature to provide additional resources to the**
49 **technical assistance service providers to encourage enhanced collaboration and to support**
50 **the maintenance of the online resource and annual statewide events.**

51 **4. Prior to end of the 2013 calendar year, the coalition shall have established the**
52 **online resource described in subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section, and held at least**
53 **one organizational networking event.**

54 **5. The board shall report to the Missouri house of representatives committee on**
55 **economic development at six-month intervals regarding the progress and activities of the**
56 **coalition.**

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