

HB 833 -- Missouri Link Network Coalition

Sponsor: Rowden

This bill establishes the Missouri Link Program which consists of a coalition that is formed to promote and facilitate contact among small businesses, entrepreneurs, higher education, and industry. The coalition will work to bring resources to those needing it and will encourage the sharing of resources and information to avoid the duplication of services. To accomplish this, the coalition will work with leaders of higher education, industry, small business, and economic development to encourage changes to policy and support interaction between the public and private sectors.

The coalition will be administered by an 11 member board of directors consisting of at least six members that represent the Missouri small business and technology centers (MO SBTDC), one of whom will serve as a liaison to the state government.

The coalition must develop an online resource to provide connections between coalition members, registrants, and technical assistance providers; support for registrants through the MO SBTDCs; and links to other statewide resources.

The coalition will present a minimum of two statewide networking events that include financial and educational sessions, and must develop, in partnership with the Missouri legislature and other partnering organizations, a metric for evaluating the coalition's performance. Prior to the end of 2013, the coalition must complete the online resource and hold at least one organizational networking event. The board must report the progress and activities of the coalition to the Economic Development Committee of the House of Representatives every six months.