

HB 1059 -- FUNDS BENEFITING CHILDREN

SPONSOR: Curtis

This bill changes the laws regarding funds benefiting children.

COUNTY YOUTH INITIATIVE FUND (Section 67.1780, RSMo)

The bill specifies that the governing body of any city, any city not within a county, or any county of this state may, after voter approval, levy a sales tax not to exceed one-quarter of one cent for the purpose of juvenile delinquency prevention and rehabilitation programs; programs that provide opportunities for at-risk children and youth who are affected by adverse community dynamics; and programs that attempt to address the tenuous social infrastructure that often leads to crime, welfare dependency, drug and alcohol abuse, high school dropouts, and extended unemployment.

The bill creates the County Youth Initiative Fund. All sales taxes collected by the Director of the Department of Revenue under these provisions on behalf of any city or county or city not within a county, less 1% for the cost of collection, must be deposited in the fund and these funds must not be deemed to be state funds and must not be commingled with any funds of the state.

The director must keep accurate records of the amount of money in the fund, and the records must be open to the inspection of officers of each city or county or city not within a county and the general public. No later than the tenth day of each month, the director must distribute all funds deposited in the fund during the preceding month by distributing the sum, as certified by the director, due the city or county or city not within a county. The director may authorize the State Treasurer to make refunds from the amounts in the fund and credited to any city or county or city not within a county for erroneous payments and overpayments made and may redeem dishonored checks and drafts deposited to the credit of the counties.

COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S SERVICES FUND (Section 210.860)

The bill allows St Louis County to use up to 50% of the tax revenue that is deposited into the Community Children's Services Fund for services to prevent juvenile delinquency and opportunities for at-risk children and youth.

COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S SERVICES FUND BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Section 210.861)

Currently, each Community Children's Services Fund has a board of

directors. The bill requires the board to meet biennially to conduct a needs assessment. The board or the agency contracting with the board must submit an action plan for the provision of services based on the board's needs assessment that gives priority to low-income populations and communities in greatest need of the services. The board must approve the action plans and at least twice per year review the activities of the agency for compliance with its action plan based on the board's needs assessment. If the board determines that an agency is deficient and not in compliance with the action plan based on the board's needs assessment, the board must require a remedial action plan from the agency. The agency must correct any deficiencies and become compliant by the next periodic review by the board or the agency contact must be terminated.

COUNTY YOUTH INITIATIVE FUND BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Section 210.970)

When the tax prescribed by Section 67.1780 is established, the governing body of the entity creating the fund must appoint a board of directors consisting of nine members who must be residents of the city or county or city not within a county.

All board members must be appointed to serve for a term of three years, except that of the first board appointed, three members must be appointed for one-year terms, three members for two-year terms, and three members for three-year terms. Board members may be reappointed. The directors must not receive compensation for their services but may be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses. The board must elect a chairman, vice chairman, treasurer, and other officers as it deems necessary for its membership.

The board is authorized to contract with public or nonprofit agencies licensed or certified where appropriate to provide qualified services and may place conditions on the use of the funds. The board must reserve the right to audit the expenditure of any and all funds, and the board and any agency with which the board contracts may establish eligibility standards for the use of the funds and the receipt of services. Members of the board are prohibited from serving on the governing body, having any financial interest in, or being employed by any agency which is a recipient of funds generated under these provisions.

Any county youth initiative board of directors may vote to consolidate with a neighboring county youth initiative board of directors to combine resources and services provided.

MISSOURI YOUTH FUNDS LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (Section 210.1060)

The bill establishes the Missouri Youth Funds Legislative Oversight Committee consisting of three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and three members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate.

The committee must:

(1) Ensure that each agency contracted by the board is in compliance with its action plan to give priority to providing services to low-income populations and communities in the greatest need of services and that all youth funds in the state are audited annually and the audits are submitted to the committee;

(2) Report to the Governor, President Pro Tem of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives on the activities of all youth funds in the state and compliance with the required action plans during the preceding fiscal year no later than October 1 of each year; and

(3) Determine the best practices for youth programs and services and analyze further needs from the state perspective.

Members of the committee must not receive any compensation in addition to their salary as members of the General Assembly but may receive their necessary expenses while attending meetings of the committee.