

HOUSE BILL NO. 1698

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ROWDEN.

4582H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 620, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the meet in Missouri act.

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 known as section 620.1620, to read as follows:

620.1620. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the “Meet in Missouri Act”.

2. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:

(1) “Director”, the director of the department of economic development;

(2) “Eligible commission”, any regional convention and visitors commission created under section 67.601; any body designated by the division of tourism official destination marketing organization for a Missouri county which is designated as the single representative organization for the county to solicit and service tourism;

(3) “Eligible major convention event costs”, all operational costs of the venue of a major convention event including, but not limited to, costs related to the following: security, venue utilities, cleaning, production of the event, installation and dismantling, facility rental charges, personnel, construction to prepare the venue, and other temporary facility construction;

(4) “Fund”, the major economic convention event in Missouri fund established in this section;

(5) “Grant”, an amount of money equal to the total amount of eligible major convention event costs listed in an approved major convention plan to be disbursed at the

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.

18 requested date from the fund to an eligible commission by the state treasurer at the
19 direction of the director, which shall not exceed the amount of estimated total sales taxes
20 to be received by the state generated by sleeping rooms paid by guests of hotels and motels
21 reasonably believed to be occupied due to the major convention event;

22 (6) "Major convention event", any convention if more than fifty percent of
23 attendees travel to the convention from outside of Missouri and require overnight hotel
24 accommodations; and

25 (7) "Major convention plan", a written plan for the administration of a major
26 convention event, containing such information as shall be requested by the director to
27 establish that the event covered by the application is a major convention event including,
28 but not limited to, the start and end dates of the major convention event, an identification
29 of the organization planning the event, the location of the event, projected total and out-of-
30 state attendance, projected contracted and actual hotel room nights, projected costs and
31 revenues anticipated to be received by the eligible commission in connection with the event,
32 the eligible major convention event costs, and evidence of satisfaction of the conditions of
33 subsection 5 of this section.

34 3. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Major Economic
35 Convention Event in Missouri Fund", which shall consist of moneys appropriated from the
36 general revenue fund as prescribed in subsection 6 of this section and any gifts,
37 contributions, grants, or bequests received from federal, private, or other sources. The
38 state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and
39 30.180, the state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund
40 and, upon appropriation, moneys in the fund shall be used solely for the administration of
41 this section.

42 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys
43 remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the
44 general revenue fund.

45 (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other
46 funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited
47 to the fund.

48 4. For major convention plans, which have complied with subsection 5 of this
49 section, in addition to funds otherwise made available under Missouri law, a grant shall
50 be paid from the fund by the department of economic development to the eligible
51 commission at the requested date. Any transfer of a grant from the fund to the treasurer
52 or other designated financial officer of an eligible commission with an approved major
53 convention plan shall be deposited in a separate, segregated account of such commission.

54 **The eligible commission shall agree to hold such funds until the major convention event has**
55 **occurred and not disburse the funds until such time as the report in subsection 7 has been**
56 **submitted.**

57 **5. The director shall not disburse a grant until the director or his or her designee**
58 **has approved a written major convention plan submitted to the department of economic**
59 **development by an eligible commission requesting a grant. The director or his or her**
60 **designee shall not approve any submitted major convention plan unless he or she finds that**
61 **the following conditions have been met:**

62 **(1) The applicant submitting the major convention plan is an eligible commission;**

63 **(2) The projected start and end dates of the planned major convention event and**
64 **the requested date of disbursement of the grant are no later than five years from the date**
65 **of the application; and**

66 **(3) There is sufficient evidence that:**

67 **(a) The event shall qualify as a major convention event under this section including,**
68 **but not limited to, evidence of the actual number of contracted advance hotel reservations**
69 **or projected out-of-state attendance numbers and actual hotel room usage from**
70 **comparable past events;**

71 **(b) A request for proposal or similar documentation demonstrates the applicant**
72 **eligible commission is competing for the event against non-Missouri cities;**

73 **(c) Without the grant, the major convention event would not be reasonably**
74 **anticipated to occur in Missouri; and**

75 **(d) The economic benefit to the state through any and all taxes attributable to the**
76 **major convention event exceeds the amount of the major convention grant. In reviewing**
77 **such evidence, the director shall take into account any expenditures by an attendee for**
78 **sleeping rooms paid by guests of the hotels and motels typically constitute less than fifty**
79 **percent of the expenditures by such attendees at a major convention event.**

80 **6. (1) Upon verification that the major convention plan complies with the terms of**
81 **subsection 5 of this section, the director, or his or her designee, shall issue a certificate of**
82 **approval to the eligible commission stating the date on which such grant shall be disbursed**
83 **and the total amount of the grant, which shall be equal to the eligible major convention**
84 **event costs listed in the approved major convention plan. The amount of any grant shall**
85 **not exceed more than fifty percent of the cost of hosting the major convention event or one**
86 **million dollars, whichever is less.**

87 **(2) The director shall annually request that the general assembly make an**
88 **appropriation from the general revenue fund to the fund in an amount equal to the**

89 aggregate total of all approved grants scheduled for disbursement that year. Any such
90 appropriation shall not exceed three million dollars in any year.

91 (3) Upon such annual appropriation and transfer into the fund from the general
92 revenue fund, the director shall disburse all grants pursuant to certificates of approval.

93 7. Within one hundred eighty days of the conclusion of any major convention event
94 for which a grant was disbursed under this section, the eligible commission that received
95 such grant shall provide a written report to the director detailing the final amount of
96 eligible major convention event costs incurred and actual attendance figures which certify
97 compliance with subsection 2 of this section. If the final amount of total eligible major
98 convention event costs is less than the amount of the grant disbursed to the eligible
99 commission under an approved major convention plan, such commission shall refund to
100 the state treasurer the excess greater than fifty percent of the actual cost for deposit into
101 the fund. If the actual attendance figures for the major convention event are less than the
102 fifty percent requirement of subsection 2 of this section, but are more than twenty-five
103 percent, the eligible commission shall refund to the state treasurer a portion of the grant
104 funds received equal to the excess received that is greater than the actual percentage of out-
105 of-state attendance to the state treasurer for deposit into the fund. If twenty-five percent
106 or less of the attendees meet the requirement, the entire amount of the grant shall be
107 refunded to the state treasurer for deposit into the fund.

108 8. Any amounts that are refunded from a grant under this section shall be returned
109 to the major economic convention event in Missouri fund to be used for future grants.

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