

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 207

WHEREAS, the education of its youth is one of the highest priorities of the Missouri State Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Senate strongly concurs therein; and

WHEREAS, the St. Louis Public School District and the Kansas City School District have been entrusted with that task; and

WHEREAS, the St. Louis Public School District and the Kansas City School District are political subdivisions of the state of Missouri and they derive the vast majority of their funding and their authority from the state of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the St. Louis Public School District and the Kansas City School District have closed many school buildings in recent years; and

WHEREAS, these school buildings were constructed over the course of the past century with the use of taxpayer money for the purpose of providing a free public education in accordance with the principles of the Missouri Constitution; and

WHEREAS, many of these school buildings remain suitable facilities for providing an education for Missouri's children; and

WHEREAS, the St. Louis Public School District and the Kansas City School District are attempting to sell many of their now closed school buildings; and

WHEREAS, private, religious and public charter schools also educate the youth of Missouri within the St. Louis Public School District and the Kansas City School District; and

WHEREAS, reports of discriminatory sales practices by the St. Louis Public School District and the Kansas City School District of surplus school buildings against private, religious or public charter schools have been reported; and

WHEREAS, these buildings were architecturally designed to be used as school facilities for educating children, and by such a design, cannot easily be used for other purposes; and

WHEREAS, such practices would constitute an inefficient use and a waste of limited resources that could be used in a productive and effective manner to educate children; and

WHEREAS, such practices would constitute a public discredit to institutions of state and local government by needlessly preventing their use and represents a waste of state funds and tax dollars, particularly given the difficult and challenging economic times; and

WHEREAS, such practices would be anathema to sound business practice, the Constitution of Missouri, the interests of taxpayers, the education of youth, and the Missouri Senate:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-fifth General Assembly, First Regular Session, hereby ask the members of the Special Administrative Board of the Transitional School District of the City of St. Louis, the superintendent and officers of the St. Louis Public School District, the members of the board of education of the Kansas City School District, and the superintendent and officers of the Kansas City School District to determine if any such policy of discriminatory sales practice is held or similar practice is tolerated and report their intention to cease such policy and practices immediately and to respond to the members of the Missouri Senate regarding their compliance at the next public meeting of the Special Administrative Board of the Transitional School District of the City of St. Louis and the next public meeting of the board of education of the Kansas City School District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the members of the Special Administrative Board of the Transitional School District of the City of St. Louis, the superintendent and officers of the St. Louis Public School District, the members of the board of education of the Kansas City School District, and the superintendent and officers of the Kansas City School District, and send them via the United States Postal Service, with return receipt service.