

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 14

WHEREAS, over the past year, payroll employment in Missouri has decreased by 26,500 jobs, or 0.9 percent; and

WHEREAS, the current recession has impacted every aspect of Missouri's business market from small businesses to major multi-national corporations in every area of our economy;

WHEREAS, the economic downturn has resulted in reduced shifts, layoffs, job losses, corporate downsizing, and the collapse of various types of businesses within the state; and

WHEREAS, over the past year, the state's unemployment rate has increased to 7.3 percent; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the economic downturn experienced by the state and nation, Missouri must improve its attractiveness to new businesses while retaining and expanding upon existing industries; and

WHEREAS, in order to attract high paying jobs from businesses of the future the state must implement a comprehensive plan to increase its presence on both the national and international business markets; and

WHEREAS, such a plan should include improvements in the areas of higher education, tax policy, business regulation, environmental policy, and transportation infrastructure:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-fifth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby create the "Blue Ribbon Panel on Job Retention and Economic Growth". The panel shall meet on at least four occasions annually, including at least two occasions before the end of December of the first year the committee is fully established. The panel may hold meetings by telephone or video conference. The panel shall advise and make recommendations to the governor, general assembly, and relevant state agencies regarding matters concerning the social and economic effects of loss of major corporate presence and other businesses within the state including but not limited to loss of employment opportunities, increased reliance upon public services, decreases in charitable giving, and loss of state and local tax revenues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the panel shall be composed of sixteen members, consisting of the following:

(1) Eight members of the general assembly, with four members from the senate and four members from the house of representatives. The president pro tem of the senate shall appoint two members from the senate and the minority leader of the senate shall appoint two members from the senate. The speaker of the house shall appoint two members from the house of representatives and the minority leader of the house shall appoint two members from the house of representatives;

(2) The director of the department of economic development, or his or her designee;

(3) Five members to be selected from the business community;

(4) Two members who are either chief executive officers or board members of a not-for-profit agency organized under the laws of this state which are tax exempt entities under the provisions of section 501 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code; and

(5) Two experts in the field of economic development.

The members of the commission, other than the members from the general assembly and ex-officio members, shall be appointed jointly by the president pro tem of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives. A chair of the panel shall be selected by the members of the panel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the panel shall consist of a broad representation of Missouri businesses and not-for-profit entities which are concerned with the need for retaining existing Missouri jobs while attracting new businesses to this state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the panel shall make recommendations for developing a comprehensive statewide plan for job retention and economic growth. By February 1, 2010, the panel shall issue preliminary findings and recommendations to the general assembly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in preparing the state plan, the panel shall specifically perform the following responsibilities and report on them accordingly, in conjunction with state agencies:

(1) Conduct a case study on the social and economic impact the loss of business in various areas of the state has had on local communities and the state and report on the means for developing a comprehensive, coordinated plan to increase the attractiveness of our state to businesses in order to retain jobs and foster new business development across the state;

(2) Determine the impact business relocation out-of-state and job loss has upon charitable giving, the social well being of affected areas and the state and local economy;

(3) Study the impact current state and local tax incentives have on business decision-making and recommend the repeal, modification, or creation of additional incentives necessary to facilitate job retention, small business development, and economic growth;

(4) Assess the educational needs of existing and potential Missouri businesses and provide specific recommendations to address such needs;

(5) Examine the need for specific infrastructure improvements necessary to attract new and retain existing businesses;

(6) Develop recommendations for enhancing the attractiveness of this state to business;

(7) Assess the impact job loss has on the state and local economy and charitable giving and provide recommendations on policy changes to encourage charitable giving; and

(8) Determine the role quality of life plays in business location or relocation decision-making and provide recommendations to improve quality of life within the state to attract businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the staffs of House Research, the Joint Committee on Legislative Research, and Senate Research shall provide such legal, research, clerical, technical, and bill drafting services as the panel may require in the performance of its duties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the actual and necessary expenses of the panel, its members, and any staff assigned to the panel incurred by the panel shall be paid by the Joint Contingent Fund.

Copy