

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed, and President Obama signed, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA); and

WHEREAS, the ARRA allocates federal stimulus and stabilization money to the various states via several funds that come with different stipulations as to the use of the allocated moneys; and

WHEREAS, the state of Missouri's share of the federal stimulus and stabilization money could be approximately four billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, some of the ARRA funds will use preexisting formulas to determine how much money will go to certain programs, such as worker training, food stamps and renewable energy promotion; and

WHEREAS, other ARRA funds, such as those that come from the stabilization fund, provide the state with more discretion as to how such funds are spent by the state; and

WHEREAS, with such a great deal of discretionary funds available to the state, the possibility of misuse or waste of such funds exists; and

WHEREAS, in order to ensure that the funds are used properly, efficiently and effectively, and not misused or wasted, it is necessary for the General Assembly to oversee how the discretionary funds are utilized and disbursed:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-fifth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby establish a Joint Interim Committee on Oversight of Federal Stimulus and Stabilization Funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall be charged with the following:

(1) Overseeing the utilization and distribution of federal stimulus and stabilization dollars received under ARRA in order to ensure that such moneys are being used in accordance with Missouri law as well as in an efficient and effective manner; and

(2) Such other matters as the Joint Interim Committee may deem necessary in order to determine the proper course of future legislative and budgetary action regarding the utilization and distribution of the federal stimulus and stabilization dollars; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall be composed of ten members, three majority party members and two minority party members of the Senate, to be appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate, and three majority party members and two minority party members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Interim Committee is authorized to function during the legislative interim between the Second Regular Session of the Ninety-fifth General Assembly through January 15, 2011, of the First Regular Session of the Ninety-sixth General Assembly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Interim Committee may solicit input and information necessary to fulfill its obligations, including but not limited to soliciting input and information from any state department or agency the Joint Interim Committee deems relevant, political subdivisions of this State, and the general public; and

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

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