

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 54

WHEREAS, the governor in his budget plan for 2011 relied on \$300 million in funds from the federal government that have not been approved by Congress and may never come to fruition; and

WHEREAS, revenues in Missouri continue to fall well below estimates prepared by the state, forcing the governor to cut funds already appropriated by the legislature in order to balance the budget; and

WHEREAS, at the same time revenues have declined, state government has grown over the years, producing unnecessary programs and inefficient allocations of funds; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri General Assembly through careful planning must identify inefficient and unnecessary areas of government spending in order to ensure the state's resources are being put to a use that most benefits the citizens of this state:

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 Reducing the Size of State Government; and

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

1. Examining each department, and agency within each department, to determine programs or bureaucracies within such department that should be eliminated or reduced; and

2. Developing recommendations, strategies and plans for:

(1) Reducing the size of state government;

(2) Identifying inefficient and unnecessary uses of state funds;

(3) Addressing budget shortfalls; and

(4) Other areas that the Committee determines are vital to reducing the size of state government; and

3. Reporting its recommendations to the House Budget Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee by December 31, 2010; and

4. 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 these issues; 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 December 31, 2010; 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.