

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 43

Whereas, the Missouri State Capitol is the people's building; and

Whereas, the Constitution of the state of Missouri affirms the right of the people to petition their elected officials; and

Whereas, the members of the General Assembly have noted the continuing need for increased space in the State Capitol building for the citizens of this state, including those with physical disabilities, to exercise fully this right and meet with their elected representatives; and

Whereas, currently, a sizeable number of legislative offices are located in physical spaces that cannot be accessed by those citizens with physical disabilities; and

Whereas, statewide elected officers and other entities currently occupy physical space in the State Capitol building for job duties that could be performed in other state-owned buildings; and

Whereas, in order to ensure accessibility to the State Capitol building for all citizens of this state and accommodate the needs of the public, it is necessary to reallocate, for use by the General Assembly, physical space currently utilized by certain statewide elected officers and other entities listed in this resolution; and

Whereas, section 8.010, RSMo, establishes the Board of Public Buildings and grants it general supervision and charge of the public property of the state at the seat of government; and

Whereas, subsection 1 of section 8.460, RSMo, states "The board of public buildings may build an office building in the City of Jefferson to house state offices which are presently located in rented quarters within the county of Cole, and they shall remove as many offices from the State Capitol building as the General Assembly deems necessary to provide adequate space for its members"; and

Whereas, the General Assembly is duty bound to investigate the appropriate space needs of the members of the General Assembly in the State Capitol building in order to demand the Board of Public Buildings to remove the appropriate number of offices from the State Capitol building:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved by the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-eighth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby establish the "Joint Committee on Capitol Improvements" to examine the appropriate space needs of the General Assembly, certain statewide elected officers, and other entities within the State Capitol building; and

Be it further resolved that the Joint Committee on Capitol Improvements shall be composed of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of the Representatives, two members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House; one member of the Senate appointed by the Senate Minority Leader, and one member of the House of Representatives appointed by the House Minority Leader. The President Pro Tempore and the Speaker of the House shall be co-chairpersons of the Committee. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. Meetings of the Joint Committee may be called at such time and place as one or both of the chairpersons designate; and

Be it further resolved that the Joint Committee may hold hearings as it deems advisable and may obtain any input or information necessary to fulfill its obligations. The Joint Committee may make reasonable requests for staff assistance from the research and appropriations staffs of the House and Senate and the Committee on Legislative Research; and

Be it further resolved that the Joint Committee may prepare a final report, together with its recommendations for any demands for reallocation of space within the State Capitol building to the Board of Public Buildings pursuant to subsection 1 of section 8.460, RSMo, for submission to the General Assembly by December 31, 2016, at which time the Joint Committee shall be dissolved; and

Be it further resolved that members of the Joint Committee and any staff personnel assigned to the Joint Committee shall receive reimbursement for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Joint Committee; and

Be it further resolved that the actual expenses of the Joint Committee, its members, and any staff assigned to the Joint Committee incurred by the Joint Committee shall be paid by the Joint Contingent Fund; and

Be it further resolved that the Joint Committee is authorized to function during the legislative interim between the Second Regular Session of the Ninety-eighth General Assembly and the First Regular Session of the Ninety-ninth General Assembly through December 31, 2016, as authorized by State v. Atterbury, 300 S.W.2d 806 (Mo. 1957).