

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 52

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR EIGEL.

3159S.04I

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Submitting to the qualified voters of Missouri, an amendment to article I of the Constitution of Missouri, by adding thereto one new section relating to foreign ownership of agricultural land.

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring therein:

That at the next general election to be held in the
2 state of Missouri, on Tuesday next following the first Monday
3 in November, 2024, or at a special election to be called by
4 the governor for that purpose, there is hereby submitted to
5 the qualified voters of this state, for adoption or
6 rejection, the following amendment to article I of the
7 Constitution of the state of Missouri:

Section A. Article I, Constitution of Missouri, is amended
2 by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 35(a),
3 to read as follows:

**Section 35(a). 1. That no alien or foreign business
2 shall acquire by grant, purchase, devise, descent, or
3 otherwise agricultural land in the state after the effective
4 date of this section.**

**2. Within twelve months after January 1, 2025, the
6 department of agriculture shall perform an audit to
7 ascertain the total agricultural acreage in the state owned
8 by aliens or foreign businesses. The audit shall be made
9 public on the department's website within thirty days after
10 the audit is complete. Within twelve months after January**

11 1, 2026, aliens and foreign businesses shall divest interest
12 in agricultural land in the state.

13 3. If the director finds that an alien or a foreign
14 business did not divest interest in agricultural land within
15 the twelve months after January 1, 2026, the director shall
16 report the violation to the attorney general. The attorney
17 general shall institute a forfeiture action in a court of
18 competent jurisdiction and file a notice of pendency of the
19 action as provided by law.

20 4. If the court finds that there is reasonable cause
21 to believe that an alien or foreign business did not divest
22 interest in agricultural land within the time frame
23 specified in this section, it shall issue an order directing
24 the sheriff of the county or other authorized law
25 enforcement agency where the agricultural land is located to
26 seize the agricultural land.

27 5. A forfeiture proceeding shall be governed by the
28 Missouri rules of civil procedure.

29 6. After the sheriff, or other authorized law
30 enforcement agency, seized the agricultural land, such
31 agricultural land shall be sold at a public action to the
32 highest bidder within six months after the seizure. The
33 sheriff, or other authorized law enforcement agency, shall
34 post a notice of sale at the front door of the courthouse
35 where the forfeiture proceeding of the agricultural land
36 took place at least thirty days prior to the public
37 auction. The attorney general shall ensure that the buyer
38 of the agricultural land is a citizen of the United States
39 before the sale of the agricultural land is finalized.

40 7. Any land classified as agricultural land, as
41 defined in the current law, for the past thirty years shall

42 be subject to the prohibition on alien and foreign ownership
43 of agricultural land in the state under this section.

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