

House Concurrent Resolution No. 24

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE WALTON GRAY.

0167L.011

2 **WHEREAS**, every year in the United States over 392,000 people die from tobacco-
3 caused disease, making it the leading cause of preventable death. Another 50,000 people die
4 from exposure to secondhand smoke; and

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5 **WHEREAS**, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),
6 tobacco smoke contains a deadly mix of more than 7,000 chemicals, hundreds are toxic, and
7 about 70 can cause cancer. Tobacco smoking increases the risk for serious health problems,
8 numerous disease, and death; and

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10 **WHEREAS**, despite these increased risks, about 42 million Americans still smoke
11 cigarettes, 13.4 million Americans smoke cigars, and 2.3 million Americans smoke tobacco in
12 pipes; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, since the first Surgeon General's report in 1964, tobacco has killed more
15 than 20 million people prematurely. Most were adults with a history of smoking, but nearly 2.5
16 million were nonsmokers who died from heart disease or lung cancer caused by exposure to
17 secondhand smoke. Another 100,000 were babies who died of sudden infant death syndrome
18 (SIDS) or complications of prematurity, low birth weight, or other conditions caused by parental
19 smoking; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, more than 10 times as many United States citizens have died prematurely
22 from cigarette smoking than have died in all the wars fought by the United States during its
23 history; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, recent surveys monitoring trends in tobacco use indicate that more people
26 are using multiple tobacco products, particularly youth and young adults. The percentage of
27 United States middle and high school students who use electronic, or e-cigarettes, more than
28 doubled between 2011 and 2012; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, in response to the tobacco industry's continuing introduction and marketing
31 of new products that establish and maintain nicotine addiction, monitoring patterns of use of an
32 increasingly wide array of tobacco products across all of the diverse segments of our society is
33 necessary; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, in 2012, the CDC launched the first-ever paid national tobacco education
36 campaign - *Tips From Former Smokers* - to raise awareness of the harms to health caused by
37 smoking, encourage smokers to quit, and encourage nonsmokers to protect themselves and their
38 families from exposure to secondhand smoke; and

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40 **WHEREAS**, as a result of the CDC campaign, an estimated 1.6 million smokers made
41 an attempt to quit and at least 100,000 smokers quit for good. Additionally, millions of
42 nonsmokers talked with friends and family about the dangers of smoking and referred smokers
43 to quit smoking services; and

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45 **WHEREAS**, while the smoking rate in the United States has been cut by more than one-
46 half (from 42.7% in 1965 to 18% in 2012), in order to continue to reduce the smoking rate, a
47 comprehensive and sustained effort must be made to counteract industry marketing through
48 awareness and education programs; and

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50 **WHEREAS**, in order to eradicate the use of cigarettes and other forms of combustible
51 tobacco products, our state and nation must firmly commit to the goal of creating a society free
52 of tobacco-related death and disease by engaging all sectors of society to an equally single-
53 minded focus:

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55 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
56 Representatives of the Ninety-eighth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
57 concurring therein, hereby designate Monday, July 13, 2015, as the "Great Missouri Smokeout
58 Day" in Missouri; and

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60 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly encourages and
61 recommends that people of the State of Missouri observe the Great Missouri Smokeout Day
62 through activities which will increase awareness of the dangers of smoking and secondhand
63 smoke, and the benefits of living a tobacco-free lifestyle.

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