

House Concurrent Resolution No. 31

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MCGEE.

1843H.011

1 **WHEREAS**, in 2002 Missouri passed the Safe Place for Newborns Act to protect
2 newborn children from injury and death caused by abandonment by a parent and to provide safe
3 and secure alternatives to such abandonment; and

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5 **WHEREAS**, a baby can be left, up to 1 year old, with an on duty employee at any
6 hospital, fire department, emergency medical professional, or law enforcement agency in
7 Missouri; and

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9 **WHEREAS**, baby safe-haven laws allow you to give your baby to a responsible adult
10 at a designated location and walk away, no questions asked. If you do not return to reclaim your
11 baby, your parental rights will be terminated in a few months, and the child will be adopted by
12 a family waiting for a child; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, infant abandonment laws or "Baby Safe-Haven" laws exist to enable a
15 person to relinquish an unwanted infant anonymously. If a parent cannot care for their child, they
16 can bring that baby into a safe-haven location and leave the baby with a responsible adult, no
17 questions asked. As long as the baby has not been abused, the person may do so without fear of
18 arrest or prosecution; and

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20 **WHEREAS**, the child will be examined and given medical treatment, if needed. The
21 Social Services Administration will then take custody through Child Protective Services and
22 place the child with an appropriate caregiver; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, if a parent changes their mind, they will have a few days to come back and
25 speak with the authorities about what arrangements can be made for the baby; and

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27 **WHEREAS**, as of 2012, Missouri’s safe-haven law has been used 31 times statewide
28 since 2005:

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30 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
31 Representatives of the Ninety-ninth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
32 concurring therein, hereby designate April 6 of each year as “Safe-Haven for Newborns
33 Awareness Day” in the state of Missouri; and

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35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly recommends to the citizens
36 of this state to observe the day by educating themselves on Missouri’s safe-haven law and
37 promote awareness of safe-havens in the state.

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