

House Resolution No. 95

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PETERS.

0803H.011

1 **WHEREAS**, St. Louis City's Medium Security Institution, also known as "the
2 Workhouse", has been in operation on Hall Street since the mid-1960s; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, over the years, there have been numerous reports and news stories
5 regarding problems with the Medium Security Institution; and

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7 **WHEREAS**, of those reports and news stories, there have been many complaints
8 regarding the physical conditions of the Medium Security Institution, with one person describing
9 it as deplorable; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, other complaints regarding the physical conditions of the Medium Security
12 Institution include cold temperatures inside the facility during cold Missouri winters and black
13 mold, which could impose many health hazards; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, in addition to the deteriorating physical conditions, there have been
16 numerous complaints regarding medical care within the Medium Security Institution; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, in an investigative report by a news station, an inmate of the Medium
19 Security Institution attempted to obtain medical attention after being struck in the head; however,
20 such inmate was not given adequate treatment and ultimately lost his hearing; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, in 2012, there was an ACLU settlement over alleged "deliberate
23 indifference to a serious medical condition" for an HIV-positive inmate; and

24 **WHEREAS**, numerous inmates have escaped from the Medium Security Institution, with
25 one inmate using nunchucks he made from prison-issued bed sheets; and

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27 **WHEREAS**, there have been reports regarding guards forcing inmates to fight, which
28 some have described as "gladiator-style" fighting within the facility; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, a lawsuit was brought against two guards who allegedly orchestrated and
31 watched two inmates fight on a surveillance camera; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, at least one of those guards pled guilty to third-degree assault for the
34 altercation between the inmates; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, seven correctional officers were fired from an incident in 2013 for violating
37 the code of ethics for exceeding the use of force; and

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39 **WHEREAS**, while uncorroborated, the ACLU of Missouri interviewed correctional
40 officers, who remained anonymous, but admitted to observing state and federal laws being
41 violated; such correctional officers described another correctional officer's involvement in
42 transporting contraband, including illicit drugs, to inmates in exchange for use by correctional
43 officers; and

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45 **WHEREAS**, according to a 2013 United States Justice Report, the Medium Security
46 Institution had one of the highest rates of sexual misconduct among jails in the country; and

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48 **WHEREAS**, such report was based on a survey given to inmates within the Medium
49 Security Institution, in which two hundred twenty inmates responded; and

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51 **WHEREAS**, of those inmates that responded, the United States Justice Report found that
52 6.3 percent of inmates in the Medium Security Institution have been sexually victimized:

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54 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the members of the Missouri House
55 of Representatives, Ninety-ninth General Assembly, First Regular Session, hereby urge the City
56 of St. Louis and the city's Division of Corrections to close the Medium Security Institution; and

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58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
59 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
60 Mayor of the City of St. Louis, the Director of Public Safety for the City of St. Louis, and the
61 President of the Board of Aldermen for the City of St. Louis.

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