

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

Whereas, on August 21, 2017, the moon will orbit between the earth and the sun and obstruct the light of the sun, thus creating a total solar eclipse; and

Whereas, the last total solar eclipse visible in the continental United States occurred in 1979; and

Whereas, this total solar eclipse will travel across the continental United States from Oregon to South Carolina; and

Whereas, the last total solar eclipse visible in Missouri occurred in 1869; and

Whereas, the center of this solar eclipse will travel directly from St. Joseph, Missouri to Perryville, Missouri, and the moon will cast a seventy-mile-wide shadow over the cities of Rock Port, Savannah, Kansas City, Chillicothe, Marshall, Moberly, Sedalia, Columbia, Jefferson City, Chesterfield, Farmington, and Cape Girardeau; and

Whereas, the moment when the moon's leading edge first obstructs the sun's light and the moon begins to cast a partial shadow is called first contact; and

Whereas, the moment when the moon's leading edge obstructs the other edge of the sun and the moon first fully obstructs the sun and casts a full shadow is called second contact; and

Whereas, the moment when the trailing edge of the moon begins receding from the sun's edge and the moon again casts a partial shadow is called third contact; and

Whereas, the time between second contact and third contact when the moon obstructs all of the sun's direct light is called the totality; and

Whereas, during both the second contact and third contact when the sun is not quite entirely obstructed by the moon, bits of sunlight will shine only through the valleys and craters of the moon creating bright spots called Baily's Beads; and

Whereas, during the totality day turns to night, stars can be seen in the sky, insects chirp, the temperature cools, the sun produces a halo effect around the black orb of the moon, and the sky on the horizon in every direction is the color of a sunset; and

Whereas, the moment when the moon's trailing edge fully passes away from the sun and no longer casts any shadow is called fourth contact; and

Whereas, first contact will occur at 11:40 A.M. on the western border of Missouri and at 11:51 A.M. on the eastern border of Missouri; and

Whereas, the time between first contact and fourth contact will be approximately two hours and fifty-five minutes; and

Whereas, the totality's Greatest Duration is located so that the length of the totality throughout all of Missouri will be within two seconds of the Greatest Duration: two minutes and forty seconds; and

Whereas, the rare event of a total solar eclipse will be an economic boon to the state; and

Whereas, over an estimated half million people will travel to Missouri to experience this total solar eclipse; and

Whereas, counties along the path of the eclipse expect to double and triple their populations for the day; and

Whereas, hotel rooms are already fully booked, public viewing areas have been designated, buses have been chartered, and small businesses are gearing up for large crowds; and

Whereas, Rosecrans Memorial Airport in St. Joseph was reserved as a viewing area five years in advance of the eclipse; and

Whereas, Faurot Field at the University of Missouri - Columbia has sold out its seventy-one thousand seats for viewing the eclipse; and

Whereas, over five hundred thousand special viewing glasses have been ordered for the multiple eclipse-related events across Missouri; and

Whereas, hundreds of people across the state have worked for two years in anticipation of the economic opportunity the total solar eclipse presents to the state by holding meetings, providing educational packets to schools, and creating events to inform the public; and

Whereas, various communities throughout the state will host eclipse-related celebrations, festivals, and activities; and

Whereas, schools and colleges are planning eclipse-related education lessons and events; and

Whereas, no picture can do the experience of a total solar eclipse justice, and one must be seen in person; and

Whereas, Missouri is an ideal location to view the 2017 total solar eclipse:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Senate of the Ninety-ninth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby designate August 21, 2017, as "Total Eclipse Day" in the State of Missouri; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the citizens of and visitors to this state are encouraged to observe the day with appropriate events and activities to witness the total solar eclipse.