

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

WHEREAS, the State of Missouri is currently facing a budget crisis and has limited resources for state spending; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is a co-equal branch of state government and is responsible for the appropriation of state funds for various governmental entities; and

WHEREAS, the public expects and requires the General Assembly to ensure that state resources are being used as efficiently and effectively as possible; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Transportation's statewide construction program has averaged \$1.2 billion in the immediate past and moving forward it will be about approximately half that amount; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has entered into maintenance mode, which means it will have to direct all available resources to taking care of highways and bridges the state currently owns and not build new projects; and

WHEREAS, the good highways and bridges Missourians have enjoyed since the passage of Amendment 3 will start to deteriorate without more money for transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly understands the importance of finding innovative ways to fund the transportation infrastructure needs of this state:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-sixth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby establish the Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Needs in Missouri; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee shall be composed of four majority party members to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and three minority party members to be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, and four majority party members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and three minority party members to be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee shall conduct a comprehensive analysis of the transportation infrastructure needs of this state, examine any other issues that the Committee deems relevant, and make any recommendations for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of funding Missouri's transportation needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee be authorized to hold hearings as it deems advisable, and may solicit any input or information necessary to fulfill its obligations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the staffs of House Research, Senate Research and the Committee on Legislative Research shall provide such legal, research, clerical, technical and bill drafting services as the Committee may require in the performance of its duties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee, its members, and any staff personnel assigned to the Committee shall receive reimbursement for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Committee or any subcommittee thereof; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the actual expenses of the Joint Interim Committee, its members, and any staff assigned to the Joint Interim Committee incurred by the Joint Interim Committee shall be paid by the Joint Contingency Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Interim Committee is authorized to function during the legislative interim between the Second Regular Session of the Ninety-sixth General Assembly and the First Regular Session of the Ninety-seventh General Assembly through December 31, 2012, as authorized by State v. Atterbury, 300 S.W. 2d 806 (Mo. 1957); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee report its recommendations and findings to the Missouri General Assembly by January 1, 2013, and the authority of such Committee shall terminate on December 31, 2012.