

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

WHEREAS, the elementary and secondary education foundation formula has not been fully funded since fiscal year 2009 and school districts have not received the amount of funding to which they are entitled, leading to inequities of funding amongst districts; and

WHEREAS, the lack of full funding has resulted in all districts receiving a cut in state funding; and

WHEREAS, the lack of full funding has resulted in hold harmless districts receiving a cut in their state funding even though statute provides that their state funding not fall below a specified level; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that the General Assembly reexamine the existing formula for funding elementary and secondary education to ensure that the state's resources are being put to the use that best benefits the citizens of Missouri and all school districts:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-seventh General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby establish a Joint Interim Committee on Funding for Elementary and Secondary Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee shall be charged with the following:

1. Examining the current elementary and secondary education foundation formula; and
2. Studying the impact of cuts to the foundation formula on hold harmless school districts; and
3. Studying how other states fund elementary and secondary education and how they have addressed elementary and secondary education budgets during difficult fiscal times; and
4. Identifying ways in which the foundation formula might be improved; and
5. Reporting its recommendations to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 8, 2014; and
6. Such other matters as the Joint Interim Committee may deem necessary in order to determine the proper course of future legislative and budgetary action regarding these issues; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Interim Committee is authorized to function during the legislative interim between the First and Second Regular Sessions of the Ninety-seventh General Assembly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Interim Committee may solicit input and information necessary to fulfill its obligations, including, but not limited to, soliciting input and information from any state department or agency the Joint Interim Committee deems relevant, political subdivisions of this state, and the general public; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the actual and necessary 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 Contingent Fund.