

House Concurrent Resolution No. 30

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES ROORDA (Sponsor) AND WEBBER (Co-sponsor).

3521L.011

2 **Whereas**, the work of law enforcement agencies is a social service of great
3 importance and there is, therefore, a need to maintain and, whenever necessary, to improve the
4 working conditions and status of these officials; and

5 **Whereas**, law enforcement agencies have a vital role in the protection of the right
6 to life, liberty, and security of the person; and

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8 **Whereas**, it is appropriate that, with due regard to their personal safety,
9 consideration be given to the role of law enforcement in relation to the administration of justice,
10 to the protection of the right to life, liberty, and security of the person, to their responsibility to
11 maintain public safety and social peace, and to the importance of their qualifications, training,
12 and conduct; and

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14 **Whereas**, law enforcement should develop a range of means as broad as possible
15 and equip law enforcement officers with various types of weapons and ammunition that allow
16 for a differentiated use of force and firearms, including the development of nonlethal and less-
17 lethal incapacitating weapons for use in appropriate situations; and

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19 **Whereas**, the use of nonlethal or less-lethal weapons has brought about a major
20 shift in tactics and alternatives to law enforcement agencies over the last twenty years; and

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22 **Whereas**, prior to the introduction of these types of weapons and products, law
23 enforcement agencies had limited options in dealing with situations, while very serious in nature,
24 may not have required the use of deadly force, such as a firearm; and

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26 **Whereas**, even in situations where deadly force is not applied, tactics and
27 techniques often place law enforcement officers and suspects at risk for serious injury and even
28 death; and

29 **Whereas**, law enforcement agencies have long recognized that a wide and
30 dangerous gap exists in the range of tools available to them. As a result, law enforcement
31 agencies have long operated with a "continuum of force" which provides guidance to law
32 enforcement officers in selecting the type of weaponry to use in a variety of situations; and
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34 **Whereas**, the use of force and weapons by law enforcement officers is one of the
35 most visible and controversial aspects of law enforcement; and
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37 **Whereas**, the use of force by law enforcement officers should be carefully
38 monitored and reviewed on a continuing basis, and based on such monitoring and review,
39 modified when necessary:
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41 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** by the members of the House of
42 Representatives of the Ninety-fifth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
43 concurring therein, that the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro
44 Tempore of the Senate appoint a Joint Interim Committee on Use of Less-Lethal Options by Law
45 Enforcement that is authorized to function during the legislative interim between the Second
46 Regular Session of the Ninety-fifth General Assembly and First Regular Session of the Ninety-
47 sixth General Assembly to comprehensively study and make recommendations regarding the use
48 and relative dangers of less than lethal options, including but not limited to tear gas, pepper
49 mace, ballistic bean bags, and tasers, by law enforcement agencies in Missouri; and
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51 **Be it further resolved** that the Joint Interim Committee shall prepare a final
52 report, together with its recommendations for any legislative action deemed necessary for
53 submission to the General Assembly prior to commencement of the First Regular Session of the
54 Ninety-sixth General Assembly; and
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56 **Be it further resolved** that the Joint Interim Committee may solicit input
57 and information necessary to fulfill its obligations, including but not limited to soliciting input
58 and information from any state department or agency the Joint Interim Committee deems
59 relevant, law enforcement agencies, and the general public; and
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61 **Be it further resolved** that the staffs of House Research, the Joint
62 Committee on Legislative Research, and Senate Research shall provide such legal, research,
63 clerical, technical, and bill drafting services as the Joint Interim Committee may require in the
64 performance of its duties; and
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66 **Be it further resolved** that the actual and necessary expenses of the Joint
67 Interim Committee, its members, and any staff assigned to the Joint Interim Committee incurred
68 by the Joint Interim Committee shall be paid by the Joint Contingent Fund.

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