

House Concurrent Resolution No. 58

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES SHUMAKE (Sponsor), DUGGER, DENISON, HOUGHTON,
KORMAN, ROWLAND, CAUTHORN, CRAWFORD, REDMON AND THOMSON (Co-sponsors).

5835L.011

1 **WHEREAS**, the Missouri General Assembly recognizes the valuable and important
2 responsibilities of local school boards in the State of Missouri; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, local school boards serve not only to maintain the physical equipment of
5 our schools, but the educational environment for their respective districts as well; and

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7 **WHEREAS**, being closest to the community and environment in which the local school
8 operates, local school boards work to ensure that all of Missouri's students receive a quality
9 education that will prepare them for a bright future in a challenging world and to be good citizens
10 of the state and nation; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, it is always the desire of the Missouri General Assembly to assist local
13 school districts in establishing and implementing policies and procedures for our schools.
14 However, it is also important to reiterate the rights that local school districts already possess in
15 making the day-to-day policy and procedure decisions currently available to them under state
16 statute; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, while some of the more difficult issues and decisions facing local school
19 districts are better handled at the state level to ensure uniformity of implementation of policies
20 and procedures across the state, state level decision-making is also important to establish policies
21 and procedures for these difficult decisions before local school districts attempt to develop and
22 implement policies and procedures; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, the Missouri General Assembly recognizes that any decisions made at the
25 state level will affect all school districts, for better or worse, and that many decisions should
26 remain at the local level so local school districts can make the best decision based on the
27 particular needs of their students, teachers, and school boards in the communities in which
28 schools operate; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, local school boards have the authority to implement innovative programs
31 that will fit the needs of the population they serve; and

32 **WHEREAS**, local school boards can create policies that benefit their operation,
33 including issues of teacher evaluation, enrollment, curriculum, transportation, discipline, dress
34 code, and personnel policies regarding employees; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, local school boards can work in cooperation with other school boards in
37 the sharing of ideas, resources, and personnel, and may utilize the services of parents, agencies,
38 faith-based groups, and volunteers to secure the well-being of their students; and

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40 **WHEREAS**, local school boards across Missouri are commended for their work and
41 dedication to quality education, and the health and well-being of their students, in cooperation
42 with their parents and guardians; and

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44 **WHEREAS**, local school boards are encouraged to use the authority they already have
45 under state law to make policy decisions and implement procedures which are best made at the
46 local level; and

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48 **WHEREAS**, each school district in this state has unique needs and attributes which
49 require local school boards to carefully tailor their policies and procedures for the specific needs
50 of students and teachers in their district; and

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52 **WHEREAS**, local school boards need to empower themselves by taking advantage of
53 all authority given to them under state law:

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55 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
56 Representatives of the Ninety-sixth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
57 concurring therein, hereby strongly encourage local school districts in Missouri to educate
58 themselves on the authority they have under state law to develop and implement policies and
59 procedures to address the issues in their school districts; and

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61 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Missouri General Assembly strongly urges the
62 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to make resources available to each school
63 district in this state to ensure that local school boards are fully aware of the entire scope of their
64 authority to make decisions for their respective schools; and

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66 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
67 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for Chris L.
68 Nacastro, the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and
69 each school district in this state.

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