

House Concurrent Resolution No. 45

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2655L.021

1 **Whereas**, Missouri Sheriff's Departments throughout the State play a vital role in
2 the safety and security of the citizens of this State; and

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4 **Whereas**, it has been the Missouri sheriffs and their deputies who have pursued
5 criminals in this State from Jesse James to Michael Devlin; and

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7 **Whereas**, it is the Missouri sheriffs and their deputies who battle on the frontline
8 of the war on methamphetamine in this State on a daily basis; and

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10 **Whereas**, the office of sheriff, established in Chapter 57 of the Revised Statutes
11 of Missouri and Article V of the Missouri Constitution, has existed in English Common Law for
12 1,000 years dating back to the 11th Century when William the Conqueror defeated the Angle-
13 Saxons and instituted his own Norman government in England; and

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15 **Whereas**, both under the Anglo-Saxons and the Normans, the King of England
16 appointed a representative called a "reeve" to act on behalf of the King in each shire or county.
17 The "shire reeve" or King's representative in each county became the "sheriff" as the English
18 language evolved over the years; and

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20 **Whereas**, the shire reeve or sheriff was the chief law enforcement officer of each
21 county in the year 1000 A.D. and still has the same function in the State of Missouri in the 21st
22 Century:

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24 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
25 Representatives of the Ninety-fourth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate

26 concurring therein, hereby recognize the vital role that the Missouri Sheriff's Departments play
27 in the safety and security of this State today as well as the historical importance that they have
28 played in Missouri history; and

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30 **Be it further resolved** that the Office of Sheriff should exist in perpetuity
31 in every county in Missouri and the City of St. Louis, and no person should sully the long and
32 great contributions that sheriffs have delivered to this State, often at the peril of their own lives
33 or safety.