

House Concurrent Resolution No. 106

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE POGUE.

5748H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

2 **WHEREAS**, serious mental illness costs the United States approximately \$193 billion
per year in lost earnings, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, being physically active can combat stress, decrease the likelihood of
5 depression, and help keep the brain healthy as one ages; and

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7 **WHEREAS**, the American Heart Association suggests attempting 30 minutes of exercise
8 per day for five days a week; and

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10 **WHEREAS**, according to the state department of health and senior services as of 2013,
11 Missouri's obesity rate was 30.2 percent and the depression rate was 20.6 percent, which is
12 higher than the national average of 17.5 percent; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, as of the 2010 Census, the population of Missouri was almost 6 million
15 people, with a 2020 estimate of 6.17 million people; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, most of the state's counties have an average population density of between
18 1 and 100 people per mile, but in the larger urban areas that density can reach 5,000 people per
19 square mile; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, it is estimated that two-thirds of Missourians live in urban or suburban
22 areas of the state; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, according to the Congressional Research Service as of 2012, the federal
25 government owns more than 1.6 million acres of land in Missouri, or 3.7 percent of the total state
26 acreage. In 1995, the state owned over 1 million acres and that number has continued to rise;
27 and

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29 **WHEREAS**, according to the state department of conservation in 2012, the department
30 held approximately 789,000 acres and managed approximately 197,000 acres owned by
31 conservation partners; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, the state department of natural resources has over 160,000 acres as part of
34 the state parks system; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, too much public land is in rural areas and is not accessible to the majority
37 of Missourians on a regular basis; and

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39 **WHEREAS**, close proximity to green space for daily use by the majority of Missourians
40 is a healthy and desirable goal:

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42 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
43 Representatives of the One Hundredth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
44 concurring therein, hereby urge all state departments to reduce concentrated land holdings in
45 rural Missouri and develop more green space in major suburban and urban population centers
46 for the purposes of improving individual health; reducing individual health care costs; reducing
47 state health care expenses; and creating a more healthy, happy, and productive Missouri
48 population; and

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50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
51 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the
52 commissioner of administration, the director of the state department of conservation, and the
53 director of the state department of natural resources.

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