

House Concurrent Resolution No. 14

92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1339L.011

1 **Whereas**, in 2003, Missouri is one of approximately a dozen states that have been
2 in recession, with approximately thirty states near recession since March 2001; and
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4 **Whereas**, in a recent report, the National Governors' Association declared that
5 states are facing "the most dire fiscal situation since World War II", and the Center on Budget
6 and Policy Priorities says that the state budget deficits "constitute the largest state budget gaps
7 in half a century"; and
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9 **Whereas**, at the federal level, a number of current proposals and legislative
10 measures could cut state revenues even further, such as President Bush's proposal to eliminate
11 the federal tax on stock dividends paid to individuals which the National Governors' Association
12 estimates will decrease Missouri's income tax revenues by \$95 million in fiscal year 2004 alone;
13 and
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15 **Whereas**, an additional strain on state budgets are unfunded federal mandates
16 which result when the United States Congress enacts federal laws that require states and local
17 governments to meet particular standards and goals or implement regulatory programs, then fails
18 to allocate the federal resources to assist in implementing such programs; and
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20 **Whereas**, unfunded federal mandates have backed many states and local
21 governments into a fiscal corner and forced them to sacrifice their own programs and priorities
22 to comply with standards set by the federal government; and
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24 **Whereas**, the federal Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995, which was
25 designed to make it more difficult for the federal government to make state and local
26 governments pay for programs and projects that it does not pay for itself, has had mixed results
27 in curbing the increasing number of regulations and programs mandated by the federal
28 government in areas such as education, environment, and transportation and which cost state and
29 local governments billions of dollars each year; and
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31 **Whereas**, currently, the federal government makes no provision for allowing states
32 to retain unspent federal moneys from various programs, such as the State Children's Health
33 Insurance Program (SCHIP), that are scheduled to be returned to the federal treasury at the end
34 of the fiscal year and allow states to reallocate such moneys to underfunded or unfunded federal
35 mandate programs; and
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37 **Whereas**, at a time when states are in a budgetary crisis and face unprecedented
38 shortfalls, the ability of states to reallocate existing resources and establish new funding sources
39 becomes increasingly vital in meeting the basic needs of their most vulnerable citizens and
40 implementing the mandates of the federal government:
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42 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
43 Representatives of the Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
44 concurring therein, hereby urge the United States Congress to recognize the significant impact
45 of unfunded or underfunded federal mandates on all States and to revise any federal laws,
46 policies, and appropriations as needed to provide states with sufficient flexibility in current
47 federal appropriations and additional funding for federal mandates so that all States may
48 adequately and efficiently provide the programs and services required by federal law without
49 sacrificing their own programs and priorities; and
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51 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
52 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for each
53 member of the Missouri Congressional Delegation.