

House Concurrent Resolution No. 29

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1450L.011

2 **Whereas**, Missouri's career and technical education delivery system consists of 536
3 local education agencies, including 451 comprehensive high schools (53 with area career
4 centers), one technical college (also a career center), 12 community college districts (4 with area
5 career centers), 8 four-year institutions, and two state agencies; and

6 **Whereas**, over 56% of Missouri high school students, grades 9 to 12, participated
7 in career and technical education programs, services, and activities in fiscal year 2005; and

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9 **Whereas**, more than 33,375 high school students from 428 school districts received
10 occupational skill training in area career centers or districts offering approved career and
11 technical education programs in fiscal year 2005; and

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13 **Whereas**, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education reported that
14 female high school students comprise over 80% of students in courses that are traditional for
15 their gender, such as cosmetology, childcare and development, and the health professions,
16 whereas they make up less than 10% of enrolled students in high school courses that are
17 nontraditional for their gender, such as automotive, construction and repair, and precision
18 production classes; and

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20 **Whereas**, the percentage of female students enrolled in historically male career and
21 technical education fields has not changed dramatically in almost 35 years, despite the fact that
22 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Missouri Human Rights Act prohibit sex
23 discrimination in education; and

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25 **Whereas**, although traditionally female career and technical education courses
26 provide important educational paths for many students and prepare those students to provide
27 necessary and valuable services to the citizens of Missouri, the enrollment disparities outlined

28 above have significant economic consequences both for students and for the State of Missouri;
29 and

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31 **Whereas**, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, male-
32 dominated fields in Missouri pay a median hourly wage of \$18.95, while traditionally female
33 fields pay a median hourly wage of just \$12.65, and some traditionally female occupations, such
34 as childcare, pay a median hourly wage of less than \$8 per hour; and

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36 **Whereas**, career and technical education courses and programs that are
37 nontraditional for males or females provide important career pathways for advancement in math,
38 engineering, science, and technology fields; and

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40 **Whereas**, high technology jobs, as well as many jobs that are nontraditional for
41 either females or males, are in high demand and thus promise stable employment; and

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43 **Whereas**, as a result of these workplace realities, artificial or discriminatory limits
44 on access to training for traditionally male or traditionally female fields can compromise
45 students' future earning potential, economic self-sufficiency, and ability to provide for
46 themselves and their families; and

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48 **Whereas**, for these and other reasons, Missouri has an interest in developing the
49 potential of all of its citizens and ensuring that all students have equal opportunities to excel in
50 training for high-way, high-skill, high-demand fields, regardless of their gender; and

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52 **Whereas**, reaching these goals will benefit Missouri as well as individual students
53 by enabling the State of Missouri to compete in the knowledge-based economy, by preparing its
54 workforce with world-class skills, and by fully utilizing the talents of all of its citizens; and

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56 **Whereas**, effective policies that open opportunities for all students to pursue
57 nontraditional career and technical education courses comports with the Missouri Math,

58 Engineering, Technology and Science (METS) Alliance goal to expand the pool of students
59 motivated to pursue METS careers; and

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61 **Whereas**, effective policies that provide opportunities in Missouri for training in
62 nontraditional careers support Missouri's compliance with the Carl D. Perkins Career and
63 Technical Education Act of 2006, which requires states to meet accountability measures of
64 student participation in and completion of career and technical education programs:

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66 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
67 Representatives of the Ninety-fourth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
68 concurring therein, hereby establish a Joint Interim Committee on Access to Nontraditional
69 Career and Technical Education; and

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71 **Be it further resolved** that the committee be comprised of the following ten
72 members to be appointed prior to the end of the First Regular Session of the Ninety-fourth
73 General Assembly:

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75 (1) Six members, three members from the House of Representatives with two members
76 appointed by the Speaker of the House and one member appointed by the Minority Floor Leader
77 of the House, and three members from the Senate, with two members appointed by the President
78 Pro Tem of the Senate and one member appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the Senate;

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80 (2) The following members to be appointed by the Department of Elementary and
81 Secondary Education:

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83 (a) One career and technical education administrator;

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85 (b) One career and technical education teacher;

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87 (c) One career and technical education counselor; and

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89 (d) One career and technical education student enrolled in a course that is nontraditional
90 for his or her gender; and

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92 **Be it further resolved** that the committee shall conduct a comprehensive
93 investigation of the recruitment, enrollment, educational, and retention practices of the career and
94 technical education programs in 20 school districts. Such school districts shall be selected by
95 the committee in consultation with the Department. The investigation shall include a majority
96 representation of school districts that house career centers and shall examine the barriers,
97 policies, and practices that limit students' access and completion of career and technical
98 education programs that are nontraditional for their gender and the practices that can effectively
99 reduce those barriers and promote equal access to and completion of such career and technical
100 education programs; and

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102 **Be it further resolved** that the committee's investigation shall include,
103 among other issues:

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105 (1) Patterns revealed by enrollment and graduation data, disaggregated by gender and
106 by race, ethnicity, disability, and socio-economic status within gender;

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108 (2) The reasons students enroll in career and technical education programs generally and
109 in specific fields in particular;

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111 (3) The level of student awareness of career and technical education programs that are
112 nontraditional for their gender;

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114 (4) The affirmative steps taken by each district to recruit and retain students in career and
115 technical education programs that are nontraditional for their gender and the efficiency of those
116 steps;

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118 (5) The existence of any artificial barriers in guidance counselor practices, classroom
119 environment, internship and career placement services, or the like, that discourage students from
120 pursuing or persisting in career and technical education programs that are nontraditional for their
121 gender; and

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123 (6) The number of complaints of inequities or discrimination filed, if any, involving
124 students enrolled in career and technical education classes; and
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126 **Be it further resolved** that the committee may create subcommittees, hold
127 hearings as it deems advisable, and obtain any input or information necessary to fulfill its
128 obligations from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Missouri Center
129 for Career Education, and any school district; and
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131 **Be it further resolved** that the staffs of House Research, Senate Research,
132 and the Joint Committee on Legislative Research shall provide such legal, research, clerical,
133 technical, and bill drafting services as the committee may require in the performance of its
134 duties; and
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136 **Be it further resolved** that the committee will prepare a report to be
137 submitted to the General assembly prior to the conclusion of the Ninety-fourth General Assembly
138 that contains factual finding on each of the topics investigated by the committee and any
139 recommendations for improving the recruitment and retention of students in career and technical
140 education programs that are nontraditional for their gender; and
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142 **Be it further resolved** that the committee will prepare a statewide
143 comprehensive plan for implementation and public promotion of the report, including facilitating
144 the coordination among state and local agencies and organizations regarding achieving the
145 recommendations outlined in the report; and
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147 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
148 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the
149 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Division of Career Education, the Missouri
150 Center for Career Education, the Missouri Women's Council, the eight MCCE Career Education
151 Centers, and the Math, Engineering and Science Alliance.

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