

House Resolution No. 740

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1789L.02I

Whereas, the St. Louis Public School District has closed many school buildings
2 in recent years; and
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Whereas, these school buildings were constructed over the course of the past
4 century with the use of taxpayer money for the purpose of providing a free public education in
5 accordance with the principles of the Missouri Constitution; and
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Whereas, many of these school buildings remain suitable facilities for providing
8 an education for Missouri's children; and
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Whereas, the St. Louis Public School District is attempting to sell many of its now
11 closed school buildings; and
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Whereas, the St. Louis Public School District proposes a restriction in the deed of
14 every building for sale that would prohibit the use of the property for one hundred years for a
15 primary, elementary, or secondary school of any kind, including public charter schools which are
16 funded with public dollars and are free and open to all students in the district, providing
17 instruction for grades kindergarten through twelve; and
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Whereas, this deed restriction prevents these buildings from being used for the
20 purpose for which they were constructed; and
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23 **Whereas**, these buildings were architecturally designed to be used as school
24 facilities for educating children and, by such a design, cannot easily be used for other purposes;
25 and
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27 **Whereas**, this deed restriction constitutes an inefficient use and a waste of limited
28 resources that could be used in a productive and effective manner to educate children; and
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30 **Whereas**, this deed restriction constitutes a public discredit to institutions of state
31 and local government by needlessly preventing their use and represents a waste of state funds and
32 tax dollars, particularly given the difficult and challenging economic times; and
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34 **Whereas**, this deed restriction potentially exacerbates the socio-economic problems
35 endemic to these immediate urban communities where these schools serve as anchors:
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37 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the Missouri House
38 of Representatives, Ninety-Fifth General Assembly, First Regular Session, hereby urge the
39 members of the special administrative board of the transitional school district of the City of
40 St. Louis, the members of the St. Louis Public School District Board of Education, and the
41 superintendent and officers of the St. Louis Public School District to remove the one hundred
42 year restriction from the deeds on the use of these school buildings for a primary, elementary,
43 or secondary school of any kind providing instruction for grades kindergarten through twelve,
44 and to respond to the members of the Missouri Senate regarding their compliance at the next
45 public meeting of the special administrative board of the transitional school district of the City
46 of St. Louis; and
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48 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
49 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the
50 members of the special administrative board of the transitional school district of the City of
51 St. Louis, the members of the St. Louis Public School District Board of Education, and the
52 superintendent and officers of the St. Louis public school district, and send them via the United
53 States Postal Service, with return receipt service.

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