

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution No. 126

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BOSLEY.

1197H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, people of color in the United States are disproportionately the victims of
2 shootings, chokeholds, and other uses of excessive force by law enforcement officers; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, police brutality and the use of excessive force are among the most serious
5 ongoing human rights and civil liberties violations in the United States; and

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7 **WHEREAS**, the use of excessive force during an arrest or investigatory stop constitutes
8 an unreasonable seizure under the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States,
9 which guarantees the right of every person in the United States to be free from unreasonable
10 searches and seizures at the hands of law enforcement officers; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, the use of excessive force during a period of pretrial detention constitutes
13 the deprivation of due process under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution
14 of the United States, which guarantee the right of every person in the United States to be free
15 from arbitrary interference with the liberty of that person at the hands of law enforcement
16 officers; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, the use of excessive force during a term of imprisonment constitutes the
19 use of cruel and unusual punishment under the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution of the
20 United States, which guarantees the right of every person in the United States to be free from
21 cruel and unusual punishment at the hands of law enforcement officers; and

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23 **WHEREAS**, the rule of law in the United States and in the state of Missouri is
24 undermined when law enforcement officers engage in conduct inconsistent with the Constitution
25 of the United States; and

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27 **WHEREAS**, it is a fundamental principle of a democratic society that law enforcement
28 officers should be held to account for their actions; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, it is necessary to focus attention upon legislation to address violence
31 committed by law enforcement and law enforcement officer accountability:

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33 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
34 Representatives of the One Hundred First General Assembly, First Regular Session, hereby urge
35 a commitment to addressing police violence, particularly against people of color, and ensuring
36 that law enforcement officers who engage in misconduct, discrimination, or inappropriate use of
37 force are held accountable for their actions; and

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39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
40 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
41 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and each
42 member of the General Assembly.

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