

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 69

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BOSLEY.

0663H.011

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

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

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5 **WHEREAS**, police brutality and the use of excessive force by law enforcement
6 officers are among the most serious ongoing human rights and civil liberties violations in the
7 United States; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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