

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 552

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG.

3144H.01I

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, Missouri is currently experiencing a housing affordability and
2 availability crisis, with a significant portion of the population struggling to find affordable
3 housing options that meet their needs; and
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5 **WHEREAS**, according to the Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC),
6 Missouri's affordable housing gap has widened, with thousands of low-income families
7 unable to access safe, stable, and affordable housing; and
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9 **WHEREAS**, as of the most recent reports from the National Low Income Housing
10 Coalition (NLIHC), Missouri has a shortage of nearly 150,000 rental units that are affordable
11 and available to renters with extremely low incomes (30% or less of the area median income);
12 and
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14 **WHEREAS**, data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 American Community Survey
15 indicates that nearly 40% of renters in Missouri spend more than 30% of their income on
16 housing costs, making housing affordability a pressing issue for the state's working families
17 and individuals; and
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19 **WHEREAS**, rising construction costs, limited available land, and regulatory barriers
20 are contributing to a slow pace of new housing development in both urban and rural areas of
21 the state, leading to higher housing costs and fewer available units; and
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23 **WHEREAS**, the affordability crisis is compounded by an increasing number of
24 Missouri households being priced out of homeownership, particularly in urban centers like St.
25 Louis, Kansas City, Springfield, and Columbia where home prices have risen rapidly in recent
26 years; and
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28 **WHEREAS**, insufficient investment in affordable housing development, both in the
29 private and public sectors, is leaving Missouri's most vulnerable populations, including

30 seniors, disabled individuals, and families with children, without adequate housing options;
31 and

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33 **WHEREAS**, the shortage of affordable housing in Missouri has been shown to have
34 significant negative impacts on the economy, public health, and educational outcomes for
35 children and families, as those struggling with housing insecurity often face higher rates of
36 eviction, poor living conditions, and limited access to opportunities for economic mobility;
37 and

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39 **WHEREAS**, the Missouri General Assembly has a constitutional duty to protect the
40 welfare of its citizens, and it is imperative that lawmakers and local governments come
41 together to adopt policies that encourage the development of affordable housing, reduce
42 barriers to construction, and address the affordability crisis head-on; and

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44 **WHEREAS**, Missouri's residents and communities would benefit greatly from the
45 implementation of innovative housing solutions, including increased funding for the Low-
46 Income Housing Tax Credit, zoning reforms, expansion of rental assistance programs, and
47 strategic investments in affordable housing infrastructure; and

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49 **WHEREAS**, solving Missouri's housing affordability and availability crisis will
50 require a collaborative approach, including the active involvement of state and local
51 governments, businesses, nonprofits, and other community stakeholders:

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53 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Missouri House of
54 Representatives, One Hundred Third General Assembly, First Regular Session, hereby
55 recognizes the urgent housing affordability and availability crisis facing the state and calls for
56 immediate and comprehensive action to address the issue; and

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58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Missouri House of Representatives urges all
59 Missourians, including citizens, policymakers, and community leaders, to give thoughtful
60 consideration and work together to explore viable solutions to solve the housing crisis,
61 ensuring that every Missouri family has access to safe, stable, and affordable housing; and

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63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Missouri House of Representatives calls on
64 the Missouri General Assembly to prioritize the creation and implementation of policies that
65 promote affordable housing development, reduce housing costs, and support individuals and
66 families struggling to find adequate housing; and

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68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk be instructed to prepare a
69 properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the governor and the president pro tempore of
70 the Missouri senate.

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