

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 4042

## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CHRIST.

6947H.011

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

1           **WHEREAS**, Saint Louis University (SLU) is one of Missouri's leading private  
2 research universities and a nationally respected institution that serves as a major  
3 representative of the St. Louis region and the state of Missouri; and  
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5           **WHEREAS**, the Big East Conference is one of the most prominent basketball-  
6 focused conferences in the United States, known for competitive excellence, national  
7 visibility, and institutions with strong academic and mission-driven traditions; and  
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9           **WHEREAS**, SLU represents a perfect fit for the Big East Conference as a basketball-  
10 first institution in a major metropolitan market, aligned with the conference's culture and  
11 institutional profile, including private, urban, and mission-centered universities; and  
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13           **WHEREAS**, SLU also fits naturally within the Big East Conference's existing  
14 geographic footprint, strengthening the conference's Midwest presence while maintaining  
15 practical travel alignment for member institutions; and  
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17           **WHEREAS**, Missouri has a proven record of benefiting from strategic conference  
18 affiliation, including the University of Missouri's move to the Southeastern Conference  
19 (SEC), which has delivered substantial and growing conference distributions — most recently  
20 totaling \$808.4 million distributed across SEC universities for the 2023-24 fiscal year —  
21 reflecting the expanding value of premier conference membership; and  
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23           **WHEREAS**, Missouri State University's move to Conference USA reflects continued  
24 momentum for Missouri institutions pursuing increased national opportunities and long-term  
25 sustainability, and Missouri State has demonstrated early success in that transition by earning  
26 the opportunity to participate and compete in a bowl game in its first season in Conference  
27 USA; and  
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29           **WHEREAS**, acceptance of SLU into the Big East Conference would create  
30 significant economic opportunity for Missouri and the St. Louis region through increased  
31 visitor spending, higher-demand home sporting events, expanded sponsorship opportunities,  
32 and additional national broadcast exposure supporting tourism, talent recruitment, and  
33 economic competitiveness; and

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35           **WHEREAS**, the Big East Conference's recent long-term national media agreement  
36 further increases the value of membership for participating universities and the communities  
37 they represent; and

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39           **WHEREAS**, national basketball leaders have publicly recognized the value of  
40 expanding the Big East Conference, including Rick Pitino, a Big East member and nationally  
41 recognized coach, who has supported conference expansion and has specifically cited Saint  
42 Louis University as a strong potential addition; and

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44           **WHEREAS**, United States Senator Eric Schmitt has recently advocated for Saint  
45 Louis University's admission into the Big East Conference, reflecting the importance of this  
46 opportunity to Missouri's national profile and economic competitiveness:

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48           **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the members of the Missouri  
49 House of Representatives, One Hundred Third General Assembly, Second Regular Session,  
50 hereby express support for the Big East Conference's acceptance of Saint Louis University as  
51 a member institution, recognizing the civic, educational, and economic value this opportunity  
52 would provide to the St. Louis region and the state of Missouri.

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