

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 4

## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE FLANIGAN.

0054L.021

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### AN ACT

Relating to the creation of the Missouri state capitol building centennial commission.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

2       **WHEREAS**, the first Capitol Building in Jefferson City, constructed between 1823 and  
3 1826, was destroyed by fire in 1837; and

4       **WHEREAS**, the successor Capitol, completed in 1840, was in turn destroyed by a  
5 lightning-caused fire itself; and

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7       **WHEREAS**, the present Capitol was erected between 1913 and 1917 on the same  
8 location as its predecessor, high atop a bluff overlooking the mighty Missouri River; and

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10       **WHEREAS**, the structure covers nearly three acres and is of the Roman Renaissance  
11 style, surmounted by a dome of exceptional beauty. The exterior of the building, and the  
12 corridors, floors, stair treads, and rotundas are fabricated of native limestone quarried at  
13 Carthage, Missouri; and

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15       **WHEREAS**, the Grand Stairway extends its thirty-foot width from the mammoth bronze  
16 doors at the portico to the third floor; and

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18       **WHEREAS**, atop the Capitol dome stands a classic bronze figure of Ceres, Goddess of  
19 Grain, chosen to symbolize the state's great agricultural heritage; and

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21       **WHEREAS**, a huge bronze chandelier, weighing 9,000 pounds, hangs from the dome's  
22 eye; and

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24       **WHEREAS**, artwork throughout the building depicts scenes of Missouri's history,  
25 countryside, and people. Especially famous are the murals by artist Thomas Hart Benton in the  
26 House Lounge; and

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28           **WHEREAS**, 2011 will mark the centennial anniversary of the destructive fire of 1911;  
29 and

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31           **WHEREAS**, providing necessary funds for the preservation, improvement, expansion,  
32 renovation, restoration, and integrity of the building is of vital importance for the historic  
33 preservation of this magnificent building; and

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35           **WHEREAS**, current appropriations and funding sources are insufficient to meet  
36 structural maintenance and repair needs of the building; and

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38           **WHEREAS**, the Missouri General Assembly is dedicated to the improvement,  
39 expansion, renovation, maintenance, restoration, and historical preservation of the Missouri State  
40 Capitol Building; and

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42           **WHEREAS**, the current and former speakers of the house of representatives and  
43 presidents pro tem of the senate have a special interest in assuring adequate funding to preserve  
44 and maintain the State Capitol Building:

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46           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
47 Representatives of the Ninety-sixth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate  
48 concurring therein, hereby authorize the creation of the "Missouri State Capitol Building  
49 Centennial Commission"; and

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51           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission shall identify, seek, and utilize  
52 all available funding sources, including gifts, bequests, and donations from any source  
53 whatsoever, for the continual improvement, expansion, renovation, maintenance, restoration, and  
54 historical preservation of the Missouri State Capitol Building; and

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56           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission shall work in consultation and  
57 coordination with the Second State Capitol Commission established in Section 8.001, RSMo,  
58 or its successor commission, and the Board of Public Buildings; and

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60           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission shall be composed of the  
61 following twelve members:

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63           (1) The current speaker of the house of representatives and the current president pro tem  
64 of the senate, to act as co-chairs of the Commission;

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66           (2) All former speakers of the house of representatives and presidents pro tem of the  
67 senate; except that, any such former speaker or former president pro tem may decline to be a  
68 member of the Commission; and

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70 (3) If the total membership of current and former speakers and presidents pro tem is less  
71 than twelve, additional members may be appointed jointly by the current speaker of the house  
72 and current president pro tem so that the total membership of the Commission is twelve; and  
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74 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all members shall serve without compensation,  
75 but all necessary expenses incurred as a result of membership on the Commission may be  
76 reimbursed through the joint contingency fund of the general assembly; and  
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78 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission shall establish its own rules and  
79 meet at least quarterly as a full Commission; and  
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81 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission is authorized to cooperate or  
82 collaborate with other state agencies and other organizations in carrying out its duties; and  
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84 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Commission shall continue until the general  
85 assembly terminates the authority granted to the Commission under this resolution; and  
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87 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his  
88 approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.