

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 25

## 97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ALLEN.

1785H.011

2           **WHEREAS**, the Interim Committee on Local Governance of the Missouri House of  
3 Representatives (the Committee) submitted a report to the Speaker of the House dated  
4 December 31, 2012; and

5           **WHEREAS**, this report contained a synopsis of the issues presented to the Committee,  
6 as well as its recommendations; and

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8           **WHEREAS**, the Committee reported on the governance and taxation issues in the  
9 St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA); and

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11           **WHEREAS**, the report details the changes in the laws that make the St. Louis area  
12 unique; and

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14           **WHEREAS**, no other municipality or county in Missouri is governed by the sales tax  
15 and governance provisions unique to St. Louis County and its municipalities, so that the other  
16 counties in Missouri focus on county responsibilities, while the municipalities focus on  
17 municipal duties; and

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19           **WHEREAS**, the Committee recognized that any type of change to the St. Louis MSA's  
20 sales tax and governance system is part of a larger overall discussion of issues which should be  
21 undertaken, such as merging or consolidating political subdivisions which offer duplicative or  
22 inefficient services, and the use of tax increment financing by municipalities to attract retail  
23 establishments from neighboring municipalities, as well as the issues surrounding the sales tax  
24 distribution system and the financial ramifications to local government of any changes; and

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26           **WHEREAS**, the Committee stated its belief that these issues are best resolved by local  
27 stakeholders, but that where the local stakeholders fail to resolve these issues, the state would  
28 be forced to offer solutions through statute or referendum during the 2014 legislative session;  
29 and

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31           **WHEREAS**, the Committee recommends that an independent study be commissioned  
32 to research the larger overall discussion of issues which should be undertaken in the St. Louis  
33 MSA, such as merging or consolidating political subdivisions which offer duplicative or  
34 inefficient services, and the use of tax increment financing by municipalities to attract retail

35 establishments from neighboring municipalities, as well as the issues surrounding the sales tax  
36 distribution system and the financial ramifications to local government of any changes.

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38 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the Missouri House  
39 Ninety-Seventh General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein, hereby  
40 establish the Joint Interim Committee on St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area Governance and  
41 Taxation (Joint Committee); and

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43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Joint Committee shall be composed of four  
44 majority party members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, two  
45 minority party members to be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives,  
46 four majority party members to be appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate, and two  
47 minority party members to be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and

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49 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Joint Committee shall interview and select an  
50 appropriate entity to conduct the independent study called for in the report and make  
51 recommendations to secure the appropriate commitments to fund the independent study at no  
52 direct cost to the state; and

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54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Joint Committee shall receive the independent  
55 study and, upon receipt, review the study as well as conduct a comprehensive analysis of the  
56 taxation and governance issues facing the St. Louis MSA, and make recommendations on  
57 proposed legislation for the 2014 legislative session; and

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59 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that if this Joint Committee is not in receipt of an  
60 independent study by September 1, 2013, it shall proceed on its own and perform its own  
61 investigation and analysis of the circumstances so that this Joint Committee shall be able to make  
62 its recommendation for proposed legislative changes no later than December 31, 2013; and

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64 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Joint Committee is authorized to hold hearing  
65 as it deems advisable and may solicit any input or information necessary to fulfill its obligations,  
66 including but not limited to any agency of the state or any political subdivision of the state which  
67 the committee may find helpful; and

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69 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the staffs of House Research, Senate Research,  
70 and the Joint Committee on Legislative Research shall provide such legal, research, clerical,  
71 technical, and bill drafting services as the Joint Committee may require in the performance of  
72 its duties; and

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74 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Joint Committee, its members, and any staff  
75 assigned to the Joint Committee shall receive reimbursement for their actual and necessary  
76 expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Joint Committee or any subcommittee thereof;  
77 and

78           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Joint Committee will report its  
79 recommendations and findings to the Missouri General Assembly by December 21, 2013; and  
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81           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Joint Committee is authorized to function  
82 during the interim between the First Regular Session of the 97<sup>th</sup> General Assembly through the  
83 end of the Second Regular Session of the 97<sup>th</sup> General Assembly; and  
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85           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk of the Missouri House of  
86 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the  
87 Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem of the Senate.

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