

House Concurrent Resolution No. 40

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5097L.031

1 **Whereas**, current studies indicate that children left at home alone and unsupervised
2 have lower academic test scores, have higher absentee rates at school, exhibit higher levels of
3 fear, stress, nightmares, loneliness, and boredom, are 1.7 times more likely to use alcohol, and
4 are 1.6 times more likely to smoke cigarettes; and
5

6 **Whereas**, recent data shows that violent juvenile crime rates soar and children are
7 most likely to be victims of a violent crime committed by a nonfamily member between the
8 hours of 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., the hours immediately after school; and
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10 **Whereas**, according to the National Center for Juvenile Justice, children are at
11 greater risk of being involved in crime, substance abuse, and teenage pregnancy in the hours after
12 school, especially between the hours of 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.; and
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14 **Whereas**, the most common activity for children after school is watching
15 television, resulting in an average 23 hours of television watching per week; and
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17 **Whereas**, the parents of more than 800,000 Missouri school-age children work
18 outside the home; and
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20 **Whereas**, according to the estimates of the Urban Institute of the United States
21 Census Bureau, at least 7 million and as many as 15 million "latchkey children" return to an
22 empty house on any given afternoon; and
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24 **Whereas**, in the United States, families worry about their children being unsafe and
25 having too much idle, unsupervised time; and
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27 **Whereas**, the United States Departments of Education and Justice report that
28 children in quality after-school programs have better academic performance, school attendance,
29 behavior, and greater expectations for the future; and
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31 **Whereas**, children who attend high quality after-school programs have better peer
32 relations, emotional adjustment, conflict resolution skills, grades, and conduct in school
33 compared to their peers who are not in after-school programs; and
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35 **Whereas**, children who attend after-school programs spend more time in learning
36 opportunities, academic activities, and enrichment activities, and spend less time watching
37 television than their peers; and
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39 **Whereas**, children who attend after-school programs miss fewer days of school,
40 have better homework completion, better school behavior, and higher test scores; and
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42 **Whereas**, the United States Congress has recognized the beneficial impact of after-
43 school programs to our youth, and has increased the funding of after-school programs
44 administered by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; and
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46 **Whereas**, 92% of all Americans believe there should be organized activities for
47 all youth during after-school hours; and
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49 **Whereas**, it is estimated that less than 25% of all school-age children attend any
50 after-school program, leaving 75% of our youth without a safe, supportive, and enriching
51 environment during the unsupervised hours after the formal school day ends:

52 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** by the members of the House of
53 Representatives of the Ninety-first General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
54 concurring therein, that a Joint Interim Committee on After-school Programs be created, to be
55 comprised of three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the
56 House of Representatives and the House Minority Floor Leader, and three members of the
57 Senate, appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate and the Senate Minority Floor Leader,
58 and
59

60 **Be it further resolved** that the committee make a comprehensive analysis
61 of the quantity and quality of Missouri after-school programs, including the solicitation of
62 information from appropriate state agencies, public schools, youth development organizations,
63 law enforcement agencies and juvenile officers, youth development and education experts, and
64 the public (including youth) regarding the status of after-school programs; and
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66 **Be it further resolved** that the committee, in consultation with the
67 Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education and Social Services, make
68 recommendations for an efficient and effective development plan to provide the opportunity for
69 every Missouri school-age child to access quality after-school programs and design a system to
70 train, mentor, and support after-school programs, and thereby guarantee their sustainability; and
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72 **Be it further resolved** that the committee be authorized to hold hearings as
73 it deems advisable, and that the staffs of House Research, Senate Research, and the Committee
74 on Legislative Research provide such legal, research, clerical, technical, and bill drafting services
75 requested by the committee; and
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77 **Be it further resolved** that the General Assembly endorses all of state
78 government to enthusiastically encourage our citizens to engage in innovative after-school
79 programs and activities that ensure that all Missouri school-age children are not only safe, but
80 also productive when the school day ends; and
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82 **Be it further resolved** that the committee report its recommendations and
83 findings to the General Assembly by January 1, 2003, and the authority of such committee shall
84 terminate on December 31, 2002, unless reauthorized.