

House Concurrent Resolution No. 41

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5253L.011

AN ACT

Relating to the designation of Missouri walk and bicycle to school month and day.

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

1 **Whereas**, the health and safety of our children is of highest concern to the citizens
2 of Missouri; and
3

4 **Whereas**, promoting safe and healthful walking and bicycling to school is of
5 importance to Missouri parents and teachers, and has been shown to improve student's health and
6 academic performance; and
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8 **Whereas**, a lack of physical activity plays a leading role in rising rates of obesity,
9 diabetes, and other health problems among children. Being able to walk or bicycle to school
10 offers an opportunity to build healthful physical activity into a child's daily routine; and
11

12 **Whereas**, an important role for parents and caregivers is to teach children about
13 pedestrian safety and become aware of the difficulties and dangers that children face on their trip
14 to school each day and the health and environmental risks related to physical inactivity and air
15 pollution; and
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17 **Whereas**, the number of children walking and bicycling to school has decreased
18 dramatically in recent years, with less than 10% walking of bicycling to school now compared
19 with 50% just 30 years ago; and
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21 **Whereas**, serious injury and death of hundreds of children nationwide could be
22 saved each year if communities take steps to make bicycle and pedestrian safety a priority; and
23

24 **Whereas**, the Safe Routes to Schools program is recognized nationally and
25 internationally as being effective in solving these problems and has been successfully piloted in
26 several Missouri communities; and
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28 **Whereas**, local Safe Routes to Schools efforts combining engineering,
29 enforcement, encouragement, and education have been shown to improve school children's
30 health, mobility, safety, and academic performance; and
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32 **Whereas**, "International Walk to School Month" in October and "International
33 Walk to School Day" the first Wednesday in October have proven to be helpful in creating and
34 promoting local Safe Route to Schools programs across the United States and throughout the
35 world:
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37 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
38 Representatives of the Ninety-third General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
39 concurring therein, hereby commends and encourages the Safe Routes to Schools program
40 overseen at the state level by the Missouri Department of Transportation and on the local level
41 by many individuals, agencies, and schools; and
42

43 **Be it further resolved** that the creation of and participation in the local Safe
44 Routes to Schools programs in communities throughout Missouri be encouraged; and
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46 **Be it further resolved** that the needed cooperation and partnership among
47 students, parents, teachers, parent-teacher groups, community leaders, community groups, public
48 works departments, law enforcement agencies, school districts, the Missouri Department of
49 Transportation, and other departments and agencies of state and local government to create
50 successful Safe Routes to Schools programs be commended and encouraged; and
51

52 **Be it further resolved** that October 2006 is hereby declared to be "Missouri
53 Walk and Bicycle to School Week" and October 4, 2006, is hereby declared to be "Missouri
54 Walk and Bicycle to School Day" in Missouri; and
55

56 **Be it further resolved** that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his
57 approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.