

House Concurrent Resolution No. 99

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HINSON.

6362H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

Relating to the replacement of a statue in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the United States Capitol.

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

2 **WHEREAS**, the creation of the National Statuary Hall Collection was authorized by the
3 United States Congress in 1864 to allow each state to provide two statues of notable citizens for
4 display in the United States Capitol; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress has oversight of the
6 collection and under the committee's direction, the Architect of the Capitol is responsible for the
7 reception, placement, and care of the statues; and

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9 **WHEREAS**, in accordance with legislation enacted in 2000, any state may request the
10 replacement of a statue the state has provided for display in Statuary Hall if the request is
11 approved by a resolution adopted by the legislature of the state, the request has been approved
12 by the governor of the state, and the statue to be replaced has been displayed in the Capitol for
13 at least ten years at the time of the request; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, Missouri's two statues are of Thomas Hart Benton and Francis Preston
16 Blair, Jr., and have been on display in Statuary Hall since 1899; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, Francis Blair was a notable Missouri citizen who participated in the
19 Mexican War, was appointed attorney general for the New Mexican Territory, and served as both
20 a member of the United States House of Representatives and Senate. He served as a major
21 general in the United States Army during the Civil War, and was instrumental in saving Missouri
22 for the Union in 1861; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, Francis Blair can best be memorialized by locating his statue in a place of
25 honor in the Capitol of Missouri where citizens and visitors can enjoy it and be reminded of his
26 significant historical impact upon our state; and

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28 **WHEREAS**, a fitting replacement to represent the state of Missouri is Harry S Truman.
29 Born in Lamar, Missouri on May 8, 1884, Truman was the first Missourian to be elected
30 President of the United States, and is exceptionally worthy of national commemoration; and

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32 **WHEREAS**, President Truman led the nation through the end of World War II and
33 guided our country through the Korean Conflict. He was also responsible for a major turning
34 point in American policy known as The Truman Doctrine which enunciated America's
35 willingness to provide military aid to countries resisting communist insurgencies; and

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37 **WHEREAS**, Truman's recognition of Israel in May 1948 demonstrated his support for
38 democracy and his commitment to a homeland for the Jewish people; and

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40 **WHEREAS**, Truman was instrumental in the civil rights movement, issuing executive
41 orders to desegregate the Armed Forces and forbidding racial discrimination in federal
42 employment; and

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44 **WHEREAS**, the people of Missouri wish to place a statue of Harry S Truman in Statuary
45 Hall in the United States Capitol, with the statue being provided by the citizens of Missouri
46 through the efforts of the Missouri State Capitol Commission, in conjunction with the Friends
47 of the Missouri State Capitol; and

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49 **WHEREAS**, the Missouri State Capitol Commission, in conjunction with the Friends
50 of the Missouri State Capitol, shall represent the state and obtain the necessary funds to carry out
51 this resolution; and

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53 **WHEREAS**, the Missouri State Capitol Commission, in conjunction with the Friends
54 of the Missouri State Capitol, shall be responsible for the following:

55 (1) Selecting and paying for a sculptor or sculptors to carve or cast the statue;

56 (2) Designing and fabricating the pedestal and inscription;

57 (3) Transporting the statue and pedestal to the United States Capitol;

58 (4) Removing and transporting the replaced statue of Francis Blair to the Missouri State
59 Capitol;

60 (5) Temporarily erecting the new statue of Harry S Truman on its pedestal in the location
61 approved for the unveiling ceremony;

62 (6) Paying the expenses related to the unveiling ceremony and any other expenses
63 necessary in implementing this resolution:

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65 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
66 Representatives of the Ninety-eighth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
67 concurring therein, hereby request the United States Congress to replace the statue of Francis
68 Blair with a statue of Harry S Truman in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the United
69 States Capitol; and

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71 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his
72 approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.

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