

STATE FUNDING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

- WHEREAS, Public school buildings and ground across Missouri are in need of billions of dollars worth of repairs and renovations to provide 21st century environment; and
- WHEREAS, Nearly two-thirds of Missouri's 2,100 public school buildings are at least 30 years old, with 2.5 percent of the buildings being 50 years old or older and 12 percent being 70 years old or older; and
- WHEREAS, Most existing schools were not designed for learning in the computer and Internet age or for year-round or extended use; and
- WHEREAS, Over 1,129 portable classrooms are in use in 398 of Missouri's 534 school districts; and
- WHEREAS, The legislature has set standards for quality education; and
- WHEREAS, Crowded conditions in schools are often hazardous and clearly not conducive to quality education; and
- WHEREAS, In a survey of the 524 school districts in Missouri, superintendents from 398 or 76 percent of the districts in the state, with an enrollment equal to 77 percent of the state's public school students, estimated the five-year costs of new construction and renovations such as installing air conditioning, wiring classrooms for Internet access, adding classrooms to support all-day kindergarten, making facilities more accessible to persons with disabilities, and improving security, at \$3.4 billion, or a yearly average of \$660 million; and
- WHEREAS, The projected cost of meeting the needs in all 524 school districts is more than \$4.3 billion; and
- WHEREAS, Missouri has super-majority requirements to pass school bond issues causing school districts to face unfair and too often, insurmountable challenges and disadvantages in seeking their own funding via school bond issues to improve school facilities; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers actively and strongly encourage, support and promote legislation establishing state funding for school districts for the renovation and construction of essential school facilities.

Adopted 2000
Emergency Status