

SENATE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 36

1 WHEREAS, Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is a chronic, often
2 disabling disease that attacks the central nervous system, which
3 is comprised of the brain, spinal cord, and optic nerves. MS
4 damages the nerve-insulating myelin sheath that surrounds and
5 protects the brain. The damage to the myelin sheath slows down
6 or blocks messages between the brain and the body; and

7 WHEREAS, the cause of MS remains unknown; however, having a
8 first-degree relative, such as a parent or sibling, with MS
9 significantly increases a person's risk of developing the
10 disease. According to the National Institute of Neurological
11 Disorders and Stroke, it is estimated that there are
12 approximately 250,000 to 350,000 persons in the United States who
13 are diagnosed with MS. This estimate suggests that approximately
14 200 new cases are diagnosed each week; and

15 WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the state to
16 establish a Multiple Sclerosis Task Force in order to identify
17 and address the unmet needs of persons with MS, and develop ways
18 to enhance their quality of life:

19 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the
20 Missouri Senate, Ninety-seventh General Assembly, Second Regular
21 Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby
22 create the Missouri Multiple Sclerosis Task Force; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the mission of the Task Force
24 shall be to fully consider and make recommendations in a report

1 to the General Assembly on:

2 (1) Developing strategies to identify and address the unmet
3 needs of persons with MS in order to enhance the quality of life
4 of persons with MS by maximizing productivity and independence,
5 and addressing the emotional, social, and vocational challenges
6 of persons with MS; and

7 (2) Developing strategies to provide persons with MS greater
8 access to various treatments and other therapeutic options that
9 may be available; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall consist of
11 the following members:

12 (1) Two members of the Senate, one to be appointed by the
13 President Pro Tempore of the Senate and one to be appointed by
14 the Minority Leader of the Senate;

15 (2) Two members of the House of Representatives, one to be
16 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and one
17 to be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
18 Representatives;

19 (3) The Director of the Department of Health and Senior
20 Services, or his or her designee, to serve as a member and
21 provide technical assistance to the task force;

22 (4) Two neurologists licensed to practice in this state,
23 with one appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and
24 one appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
25 from a list of recommendations by the Department of Health and
26 Senior Services;

27 (5) Two Missouri regional members of a national organization
28 with experience in helping people affected by MS through funding

1 cutting-edge research, driving change through advocacy,
2 facilitating professional education and providing programs and
3 services that help people and the families living with MS, with
4 one appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and one
5 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, from a
6 list of recommendations by the Department of Health and Senior
7 Services;

8 (6) Two persons who represent agencies that provide services
9 or supports to individuals with MS in this state, with one
10 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and one
11 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, from a
12 list of recommendations by the Department of Health and Senior
13 Services;

14 (7) Two persons who have MS, with one appointed by the
15 President Pro Tempore of the Senate and one appointed by the
16 Speaker of the House of Representatives, from a list of
17 recommendations by the Department of Health and Senior Services;
18 and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the staffs of Senate Research,
20 House Research, and the Joint Committee on Legislative Research
21 shall provide such legal, research, clerical, technical, and bill
22 drafting services as the Task Force may require in the
23 performance of its duties; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force will report its
25 recommendations and findings to the Missouri General Assembly by
26 January 1, 2015; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall terminate
28 by either a majority of members voting for termination, or by

1 January 1, 2015, whichever occurs first; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Multiple Sclerosis Task
3 Force is authorized to function during the legislative interim
4 between the Second Regular Session of the Ninety-seventh General
5 Assembly and the First Regular Session of the Ninety-eighth
6 General Assembly through January 1, 2015, as authorized by State
7 v. Atterburry, 300 S.W.2d 806 (Mo. 1957); and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri
9 Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this
10 resolution for the Director of the Department of Health and
11 Senior Services.