

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

Whereas, many of Missouri's levee and drainage district laws were first written more than a century ago and have not been revised in decades; and

Whereas, the current system in place for reassessment of levee and drainage districts has produced numerous complaints about the lack of actual notice as well as a lack of sufficient, meaningful notice in Southeast Missouri and other jurisdictions throughout the state; and

Whereas, many business owners as well as local governing bodies owning roadways and land inside levee districts, as well as railroads and other owners of rights-of-way inside levee districts feel aggrieved by the arbitrary and capricious manner by which some levee districts have conducted reassessments in recent years that produced shocking increases in some assessments that are unreasonable and unacceptable to those being assessed; and

Whereas, there is strong interest from business owners, government entities, railroads, and other right-of-way owners inside levee and drainage districts, as well as interest by many levee and drainage districts themselves, in having a more transparent reassessment process that includes the following:

(1) Meaningful notice designed to apprise any landowner of how much their individual assessment might increase;

(2) A reassessment formula based on actual property valuations that does not require engineering studies or action by a circuit court; and

(3) A simple appeals process whereby anyone can appeal a levee or drainage district reassessment without an

attorney, similar to the process for property tax assessment appeals; and

Whereas, the issues surrounding levee and drainage districts are complex and require a great deal of study:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, One Hundred Third General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby create the Joint Interim Committee on Drainage and Levee Districts; and

Be it further resolved that the Committee shall evaluate the current law on the creation, maintenance, and methods of assessment for levee and drainage districts and shall make recommendations to the General Assembly on changes that can be made to improve the transparency and operation of levee and drainage districts, along with any other issues relating to levee and drainage districts deemed important by the Committee; and

Be it further resolved that the Committee is authorized to request information from departments, offices, divisions, and agencies of the state to assist in gathering information relevant to its objective; and

Be it further resolved that the Committee shall consist of members of the General Assembly as follows, all of whom shall have at least one levee or drainage district located in the member's district:

(1) Three members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(2) Two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

(3) Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

(4) Two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; and

Be it further resolved that the staffs of House Research, Senate Research, and the Committee of Legislative Research shall provide such legal, research, clerical, and technical services as the committee may require in the performance of its duties; and

Be it further resolved that the Committee, its members, and any staff assigned to the Committee shall receive reimbursement for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in attending meetings of the committee or any subcommittee thereof; and

Be it further resolved that the Committee shall expire on December 31, 2026, and shall by such date deliver a report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly;