

House Concurrent Resolution No. 32

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE FRANCIS.

1551H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

Relating to the designation of Total Eclipse Day in Missouri.

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

1 **WHEREAS**, on August 21, 2017, the moon will orbit between the earth and the sun and
2 obstruct the light of the sun, thus creating a total solar eclipse; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the last total solar eclipse visible in the continental United States occurred
5 in 1979; and

6
7 **WHEREAS**, this total solar eclipse will travel across the continental United States from
8 Oregon to South Carolina; and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, the last total solar eclipse visible in Missouri occurred in 1869; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, the center of this solar eclipse will travel directly from St. Joseph, Missouri
13 to Perryville, Missouri, and the moon will cast a seventy-mile-wide shadow over the cities of
14 Rock Port, Savannah, Kansas City, Chillicothe, Marshall, Moberly, Sedalia, Columbia, Jefferson
15 City, Chesterfield, Farmington, and Cape Girardeau; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, the moment when the moon's leading edge first obstructs the sun's light
18 and the moon begins to cast a partial shadow is called first contact; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, the moment when the moon's leading edge obstructs the other edge of the
21 sun and the moon first fully obstructs the sun and casts a full shadow is called second contact;
22 and

23

24 **WHEREAS**, the moment when the trailing edge of the moon begins receding from the
25 sun's edge and the moon again casts a partial shadow is called third contact; and

26

27 **WHEREAS**, the time between second contact and third contact when the moon obstructs
28 all of the sun's direct light is called the totality; and

29

30 **WHEREAS**, during both the second contact and third contact when the sun is not quite
31 entirely obstructed by the moon, bits of sunlight will shine only through the valleys and craters
32 of the moon creating bright spots called Baily's Beads; and

33

34 **WHEREAS**, during the totality day turns to night, stars can be seen in the sky, insects
35 chirp, the temperature cools, the sun produces a halo effect around the black orb of the moon,
36 and the sky on the horizon in every direction is the color of a sunset; and

37

38 **WHEREAS**, the moment when the moon's trailing edge fully passes away from the sun
39 and no longer casts any shadow is called fourth contact; and

40

41 **WHEREAS**, first contact will occur at 11:40 A.M. on the western border of Missouri
42 and at 11:51 A.M. on the eastern border of Missouri; and

43

44 **WHEREAS**, the time between first contact and fourth contact will be approximately two
45 hours and fifty-five minutes; and

46

47 **WHEREAS**, the totality's Greatest Duration is located so that the length of the totality
48 throughout all of Missouri will be within two seconds of the Greatest Duration: two minutes and
49 forty seconds; and

50

51 **WHEREAS**, the rare event of a total solar eclipse will be an economic boon to the state;
52 and

53

54 **WHEREAS**, over an estimated half million people will travel to Missouri to experience
55 this total solar eclipse; and

56

57 **WHEREAS**, counties along the path of the eclipse expect to double and triple their
58 populations for the day; and

59

60 **WHEREAS**, hotel rooms are already fully booked, public viewing areas have been
61 designated, buses have been chartered, and small businesses are gearing up for large crowds; and
62

63 **WHEREAS**, Rosecrans Memorial Airport in St. Joseph was reserved as a viewing area
64 five years in advance of the eclipse; and

65
66 **WHEREAS**, Faurot Field at the University of Missouri - Columbia has sold out its
67 seventy-one thousand seats for viewing the eclipse; and

68
69 **WHEREAS**, over five hundred thousand special viewing glasses have been ordered for
70 the multiple eclipse-related events across Missouri; and

71
72 **WHEREAS**, hundreds of people across the state have worked for two years in
73 anticipation of the economic opportunity the total solar eclipse presents to the state by holding
74 meetings, providing educational packets to schools, and creating events to inform the public; and

75
76 **WHEREAS**, various communities throughout the state will host eclipse-related
77 celebrations, festivals, and activities; and

78
79 **WHEREAS**, schools and colleges are planning eclipse-related education lessons and
80 events; and

81
82 **WHEREAS**, no picture can do the experience of a total solar eclipse justice, and one
83 must be seen in person; and

84
85 **WHEREAS**, Missouri is an ideal location to view the 2017 total solar eclipse:

86
87 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
88 Representatives of the Ninety-ninth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
89 concurring therein, hereby designate August 21, 2017, as "Total Eclipse Day" in the State of
90 Missouri; and

91
92 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the citizens of and visitors to this state are
93 encouraged to observe the day with appropriate events and activities to witness the total solar
94 eclipse; and

95

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

✓