

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 262

Reps. Manoogian, Anthony, Brixie, Tyrone Carter and Greig offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the Michigan State Capitol Commission to
2 prohibit firearms in public areas of the state Capitol building and
3 within the immediate vicinity of the building, with exemptions for
4 legislative sergeants at arms and law enforcement officers, and to
5 install security screening checkpoints at entrances of the state
6 Capitol building.

7 Whereas, The Michigan State Capitol Commission, pursuant to
8 the Michigan State Capitol Historic Site Act, 2013 PA 240,
9 exercises control over the public areas of the state Capitol
10 building and its grounds, including the rotunda and its galleries,
11 the main corridors, the grand staircases, the ground floor
12 entrances, and outdoor staircases; and



1 Whereas, The state Capitol building is a working government
2 building. It houses the Senate and House chambers, Appropriations
3 Committee rooms, and several legislative offices. Michigan
4 legislators and staff regularly undertake the business of the state
5 in the state Capitol building; and

6 Whereas, The state Capitol building is also the people's
7 building. The state Capitol is open to school groups and
8 individuals who explore the history of Michigan and its government
9 and appreciate the structure itself. Hundreds of individuals may
10 access the state Capitol building on any given day. Open access to
11 the state Capitol allows Michigan citizens to learn our history,
12 observe the legislative process, voice their opinions, and directly
13 meet government representatives to address personal and
14 professional needs; and

15 Whereas, It is important that legislators, staff, and the
16 public are safe in the state Capitol building. Allowing individuals
17 to carry firearms in the state Capitol building exposes state
18 employees and citizens to unnecessary risk. The presence of
19 firearms is meant to intimidate legislators, interrupt the
20 democratic process, and block the ability of legislators to
21 properly represent their constituents; and

22 Whereas, The Michigan State Capitol Commission does have
23 authority to restrict firearms possession in the state Capitol
24 building. The Supreme Court of the United States has affirmed,
25 "Like most rights, the right secured by the Second Amendment is not
26 unlimited." In the Court's opinion in *District of Columbia v.*
27 *Heller*, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote that "nothing in our opinion
28 should be taken to cast doubt on...laws forbidding the carrying of
29 firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government



1 buildings." Allowing citizens to bring firearms into the Michigan
2 state Capitol building is not, therefore, a constitutional right;
3 and

4 Whereas, Prohibiting firearms possession in the state Capitol
5 building and in its immediate vicinity and installing security
6 screening checkpoints for individuals and their personal property
7 to enforce the prohibition will ensure legislators, staff, and
8 Michigan residents remain safe while using the state Capitol
9 building; now, therefore, be it

10 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the
11 Michigan State Capitol Commission to prohibit firearms in public
12 areas of the state Capitol building and within the immediate
13 vicinity of the building, as the Commission may determine, while
14 exempting legislative sergeants at arms and law enforcement
15 officers so that they may properly protect legislators and the
16 public; and be it further

17 Resolved, That we urge the Michigan State Capitol Commission
18 to install security screening checkpoints for individuals and their
19 personal property at entrances of the state Capitol building; and
20 be it further

21 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
22 members of the Michigan State Capitol Commission.

23

