

House Resolution 1240

By: Representatives Cantrell of the 22nd, Burns of the 159th, Trammell of the 132nd, Gravley of the 67th, Caldwell of the 20th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the federal government to allow states to switch to permanent Daylight Saving Time;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the United States has used some version of Daylight Saving Time since 1918
4 when it was rushed into place as a wartime measure after Germany and then England enacted
5 a similar idea; and

6 WHEREAS, after World War I, local jurisdictions had some control over how they set their
7 clocks until the passage of the Uniform Time Act of 1966, from which point the federal
8 Department of Transportation has had ultimate authority and has turned down any efforts by
9 state and local governments to release themselves from time zone uniformity; and

10 WHEREAS, Daylight Saving Time has proven highly beneficial in the early spring, late fall,
11 and summer months for health, commerce, recreation, and much more, making it highly
12 popular among businesses and the general population; and

13 WHEREAS, the overwhelming conclusion of researchers is that the act of changing the
14 clocks twice per year directly results in an increase of heart attacks, traffic accidents,
15 workplace injuries, pedestrian deaths, crime, and sleep disruption as well as a loss of
16 productivity; and

17 WHEREAS, researchers have determined that remaining in Daylight Saving Time year round
18 will save significant amounts of energy in November and February and furthermore will lead
19 to a decrease in childhood obesity by increasing the amount of sunlight after school hours;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, although the rationale for switching clocks twice per year to aid in the war
22 effort was laudable nearly 100 years ago, all scientific research and public sentiment now
23 clearly favor remaining in Daylight Saving Time year round.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
25 the members of this body urge the federal government to allow states to switch to permanent
26 Daylight Saving Time.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
28 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
29 president of the United States, the secretary of the federal Department of Transportation, and
30 the legislative leaders in each of the other 49 states.