

STATE OF ILLINOIS



HOUSE JOURNAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

8TH LEGISLATIVE DAY

REGULAR & PERFUNCTORY SESSION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2007

12:00 O'CLOCK NOON

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Daily Journal Index
8th Legislative Day

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The House met pursuant to adjournment.
Speaker of the House Madigan in the chair.
Prayer by Doorkeeper of the House Lee A. Crawford, the Pastor of the Cathedral of Praise Christian Center in Springfield, IL.
Representative Washington led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.
By direction of the Speaker, a roll call was taken to ascertain the attendance of Members, as follows:
117 present. (ROLL CALL 1)

AGREED RESOLUTIONS

HOUSE RESOLUTION 4

Offered by Representative Watson:
Congratulates Linda J. Crotchett, Jersey County Clerk, on her retirement.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 5

Offered by Representative Hassert:
Mourns the death in Iraq of United States Army Captain Travis Patriquin of Lockport.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 6

Offered by Representative Black:
Congratulates Terry Hill of Danville, Illinois, on his retirement as Athletic Director of Danville High School.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 7

Offered by Representative Mautino:
Congratulates Brian Waitkus on receiving the Thomas Lay Burroughs Award from the Illinois State Board of Education.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 8

Offered by Representative Granberg:
Mourns the death of the Honorable Judge Terrence Hopkins of Mount Vernon, Illinois.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 9

Offered by Representative Munson:
Congratulates Special Agent Drew Pearson on his retirement from the Office of the Inspector General, Social Security Administration.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 10

Offered by Representative Dunkin:
Congratulates the Chicago Public Library on the 75th anniversary of the opening of the George Cleveland Hall Branch of the library.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 12

Offered by Representative Franks:
Congratulates the Marian Central Catholic High School football team on its second place finish in the IHSA Class 5A State Championship playoffs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 13

Offered by Representative Black:
Congratulates astronaut Joseph R. "Joe" Tanner, a Danville native, on a successful career.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 14

Offered by Representative Rose:
Congratulates the Tuscola High School Football team on winning the 2006 IHSA 1A championship.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 15

Offered by Representative Rose:
Congratulates the Wienke family for their sports achievements.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 16

Offered by Representative Rose:
Congratulates John Morrow on the occasion of his retirement from the Douglas County Board.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 17

Offered by Representative Mathias:
Mourns the death in Iraq of Army Private First Class William Newgard of Arlington Heights.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 18

Offered by Representative Howard:
Congratulates Chandra Walls on her retirement as Deputy Chief Probation Officer with the Circuit Court of Cook County.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 19

Offered by Representative Watson:
Congratulates the Jersey County Business Association on the occasion of the association's 50th anniversary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 20

Offered by Representative Lang:
Mourns the death of Phyllis Sutker of Skokie.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 21

Offered by Representative Poe:
Congratulates the Sacred Heart-Griffin Cyclones football team on winning the 2006 IHSA Class 5A State Championship.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 23

Offered by Representative Black:
Congratulates Eli Williams of Westville high school for being named 2006 Commercial-News Football Player of the Year.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 24

Offered by Representative Reis:

Congratulates the Newton High School track and field team on their impressive 2006 season.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 26

Offered by Representative McGuire:

Congratulates the ExxonMobil Joliet Refinery on being named the recipient of the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry's annual "Salute to Accomplishment" award.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 27

Offered by Representative Granberg:

Congratulates Judge James M. Wexstten on being named to fill the vacant position on the Fifth District Appellate Court.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 29

Offered by Representative Kosel.

Congratulates Lori Lindberg on being named Citizen of the Year for 2006 by the New Lenox Chamber of Commerce.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 30

Offered by Representative Colvin:

Congratulates Father Darryl James on his move from Messiah-St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church in Chicago to Grace Episcopal Church in Jamaica, New York and thanks him for his years of ministry and service to the citizens of the State of Illinois.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 31

Offered by Representative Colvin:

Mourns the death of Leo Garrett, Jr., of Chicago.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 32

Offered by Representative Tracy:

Congratulates Thomas A. Oakley on being named to the Quincy Chamber of Commerce "Business Hall of Fame".

HOUSE RESOLUTION 33

Offered by Representative Tracy:

Congratulates Richard H. Niemann Sr. of Quincy on being named to the Quincy Chamber of Commerce "Business Hall of Fame".

HOUSE RESOLUTION 34

Offered by Representative Ryg:

Congratulates Alex Marx on his retirement from the Mundelein Parks and Recreation District.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 35

Offered by Representative Reis:

Congratulates the Sons of the American Legion on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the organization.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 36

Offered by Representative Howard:
Congratulates Sam Balark, Director of External Affairs for AT&T, as he assumes the duties as Chairman of the Board of the Southland Chamber of Commerce.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 37

Offered by Representative Rose:
Mourns the death of Keith Page of Mahomet.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 38

Offered by Representative Rose:
Congratulates Coles County Sheriff Ronald Dean Scott on his retirement.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 39

Offered by Representative Rose:
Congratulates Judith Maggio on her retirement as a member of the Douglas County Board.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 40

Offered by Representative Rose:
Congratulates Kenneth Kesler on his retirement from the Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District Board after forty-plus years of service.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 41

Offered by Representative McGuire:
Congratulates the Knights of Columbus Holy Trinity Council #4400 of Joliet on their 50th anniversary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 42

Offered by Representative McGuire:
Congratulates John Mezera for completing 20 years as city manager of Joliet.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 44

Offered by Representative Chapa LaVia:
Mourns the death of Thomas Alfred Hurrell of Sugar Grove.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 48

Offered by Representative Howard:
Congratulates Mather LifeWays-More Than A Cafe on receiving the 2007 NuStep Pinnacle Award.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 49

Offered by Representative Wait:
Congratulates the residents of Cherry Valley on the community's sesquicentennial anniversary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 52

Offered by Representative Ramey:
Congratulates John Lotus Novak on his 29 years of service as the DuPage County Treasurer.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 53

Offered by Representative Rose:
Thanks Robert Crowder for his years of service to the Coles County Board.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 57

Offered by Representative Flowers:
Mourns the death of John M. Hyland.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 58

Offered by Representative Pritchard:
Congratulates the Pegasus Special Riders Inc. of Oregon, Illinois, on its 10th anniversary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 59

Offered by Representative Pritchard:
Congratulates the men and women of Indian Valley Theatre on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Theatre.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 61

Offered by Representative Cross:
Congratulates Coach Steve Riederer on being named to the Plainfield High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 62

Offered by Representative Brady:
Celebrates the 150th anniversary of Illinois State University.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 63

Offered by Representative Madigan:

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to express their sincere condolences to the family and friends of Thomas G. Lyons of Chicago, who passed away on January 12, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Lyons was born May 24, 1931 in Chicago; he was raised on Chicago's Northwest Side in our Lady of Victory Parish; he was the son of Marian (Daniels) and Thomas V. Lyons, the former Chicago Chief of Uniformed Police; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lyons was a graduate of Campion Jesuit High School, Xavier University, Loyola University Chicago, and the Loyola University Chicago School of Law; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lyons followed in his father's footsteps as a Chicago Police officer; he became an attorney in 1957 and served as the chief attorney for the Cook County Assessor's Office from 1958 to 1960 before joining the office of the Illinois Attorney General; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lyons was elected State Senator in 1964; the next year he was elected to serve in a leadership role for the State commission studying the need for a new State constitution; he was later elected a delegate to the 1970 Constitutional Convention, serving as vice president during the drafting of the 1970 Illinois Constitution; and

WHEREAS, While a member of the Illinois Senate Mr. Lyons served as chairman of the Appropriations and the Constitutional Implementation committees; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lyons, the 45th Ward Democratic Committeeman since 1968, was first elected chairman of the Cook County Democratic Party in 1990, a position he held for nearly seventeen years; he also served as a delegate to every Democratic National Convention from 1968 to 2000; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lyons was named a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre by the late Joseph Cardinal Bernardin and was awarded a Medal of Excellence by his alma mater, the Loyola University Chicago School of Law; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lyons was named by former President Bill Clinton to the American Battle Monuments Commission as a reflection of his dedication to military service and to the men and women who have worn our country's uniform; Mr. Lyons served in the United States Army achieving the rank of Captain in the Army Rangers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lyons was a practicing attorney as a named partner in the firm of O'Keefe, Ashenden, Lyons & Ward, later O'Keefe, Lyons and Hynes; a man of many diverse interests, Mr. Lyons was an avid scholar of American history, as well as a devout fan of Notre Dame, the Chicago White Sox and the Chicago Bears (and in that order!); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lyons is survived by his loving wife, Ruth (Tobin); his children, Alexandra (Thomas) Cooney, Thomas V. (Margo), Francis X. (Mary Pat), and Rachel (James) Cooper; his grandchildren Anne Marie, Thomas and Sheila Lyons, Caroline, Elizabeth and Frances Lyons, and Alexandra and William Cooper; his sister, Patricia Breen; his cousin and dear friend, State Representative Joseph Lyons; and his many good friends and admirers; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of Thomas G. Lyons; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Thomas G. Lyons as an expression of our deepest sympathy for their loss.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 65

Offered by Representative Madigan:

Congratulates those involved in the House chamber renovation.

AGREED RESOLUTIONS

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 48, 49, 52, 53, 57, 58, 59, 61, 62 and 63 were taken up for consideration.

Representative Currie moved the adoption of the agreed resolutions.

The motion prevailed and the agreed resolutions were adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 43 was taken up for consideration.

Representative Currie moved the adoption of the agreed resolution.

The motion prevailed and the agreed resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 51 was taken up for consideration.

Representative Currie moved the adoption of the agreed resolution.

The motion prevailed and the agreed resolution was adopted.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 65 was taken up for consideration.

Representative Currie moved the adoption of the agreed resolution.

The motion prevailed and the agreed resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION

Having been reported out of the Committee on Rules on February 5, 2007, HOUSE RESOLUTION 60 was taken up for consideration.

Representative Madigan moved the adoption of the resolution.

And on that motion, a vote was taken resulting as follows:

65, Yeas; 52, Nays; 0, Answering Present.

(ROLL CALL 2)

The motion prevailed and the Resolution was adopted.

At the hour of 1:55 o'clock p.m., Representative Currie moved that the House do now adjourn until Wednesday, February 7, 2007, at 12:00 o'clock noon, allowing perfunctory time for the Clerk.

The motion prevailed.

And the House stood adjourned.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
NINETY-FIFTH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE ROLL CALL
QUORUM ROLL CALL FOR ATTENDANCE

February 06, 2007

0 YEAS

0 NAYS

117 PRESENT

P Acevedo	P Dugan	P Krause	P Reboletti
P Arroyo	P Dunkin	P Lang	P Reis
P Bassi	P Dunn	P Leitch	P Reitz
P Beaubien	P Durkin	P Lindner	P Riley
P Beiser	P Eddy	P Lyons	P Rita
P Bellock	P Feigenholtz	P Mathias	P Rose
P Berrios	P Flider	P Mautino	P Ryg
P Biggins	P Flowers	P May	P Sacia
P Black	P Ford	P McAuliffe	P Saviano
P Boland	P Fortner	P McCarthy	P Schmitz
P Bost	P Franks	P McGuire	P Schock
P Bradley, John	P Fritchey	P Mendoza	P Scully
P Bradley, Richard	P Froehlich	P Meyer	P Smith
P Brady	P Golar	P Miller	P Sommer
P Brauer	P Gordon	P Mitchell, Bill	P Soto
P Brosnahan	P Graham	P Mitchell, Jerry	P Stephens
P Burke	P Granberg	P Moffitt	P Sullivan
P Chapa LaVia	P Hamos	P Molaro	P Tracy
P Coladipietro	P Hannig	P Mulligan	P Tryon
P Cole	P Harris	P Munson	P Turner
P Collins	P Hassert	P Myers	P Verschoore
P Colvin	P Hernandez	P Nekritz	P Wait
P Coulson	P Hoffman	P Osmond	P Washington
P Crespo	P Holbrook	P Osterman	P Watson
P Cross	P Howard	A Patterson	P Winters
P Cultra	P Jakobsson	P Phelps	P Yarbrough
P Currie	P Jefferies	P Pihos	P Younge
P D'Amico	P Jefferson	P Poe	P Mr. Speaker
P Davis, Monique	P Joyce	P Pritchard	
P Davis, William	P Kosel	P Ramey	

E - Denotes Excused Absence

STATE OF ILLINOIS
 NINETY-FIFTH
 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 HOUSE ROLL CALL
 HOUSE RESOLUTION 60
 HOUSE RULES-95TH G.A.
 ADOPTED

February 06, 2007

65 YEAS

52 NAYS

0 PRESENT

Y Acevedo	Y Dugan	N Krause	N Reboletti
Y Arroyo	Y Dunkin	Y Lang	N Reis
N Bassi	N Dunn	N Leitch	Y Reitz
N Beaubien	N Durkin	N Lindner	Y Riley
Y Beiser	N Eddy	Y Lyons	Y Rita
N Bellock	Y Feigenholtz	N Mathias	N Rose
Y Berrios	Y Flider	Y Mautino	Y Ryg
N Biggins	Y Flowers	Y May	N Sacia
N Black	Y Ford	N McAuliffe	N Saviano
Y Boland	N Fortner	Y McCarthy	N Schmitz
N Bost	Y Franks	Y McGuire	N Schock
Y Bradley, John	Y Fritchey	Y Mendoza	Y Scully
Y Bradley, Richard	N Froehlich	N Meyer	Y Smith
N Brady	Y Golar	Y Miller	N Sommer
N Brauer	Y Gordon	N Mitchell, Bill	Y Soto
Y Brosnahan	Y Graham	N Mitchell, Jerry	N Stephens
Y Burke	Y Granberg	N Moffitt	N Sullivan
Y Chapa LaVia	Y Hamos	Y Molaro	N Tracy
N Coladipietro	Y Hannig	N Mulligan	N Tryon
N Cole	Y Harris	N Munson	Y Turner
Y Collins	N Hassert	N Myers	Y Verschoore
Y Colvin	Y Hernandez	Y Nekritz	N Wait
N Coulson	Y Hoffman	N Osmond	Y Washington
Y Crespo	Y Holbrook	Y Osterman	N Watson
N Cross	Y Howard	A Patterson	N Winters
N Cultra	Y Jakobsson	Y Phelps	Y Yarbrough
Y Currie	Y Jefferies	N Pihos	Y Younge
Y D'Amico	Y Jefferson	N Poe	Y Mr. Speaker
Y Davis, Monique	Y Joyce	N Pritchard	
Y Davis, William	N Kosel	N Ramey	

E - Denotes Excused Absence

8TH LEGISLATIVE DAY

Perfunctory Session

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2007

At the hour of 5:08 o'clock p.m., the House convened perfunctory session.

TEMPORARY COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative Eddy replaced Representative Brady in the Committee on Consumer Protection on February 6, 2007.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

Representative Reitz, Chairperson, from the Committee on Agriculture & Conservation to which the following were referred, action taken on February 6, 2007, and reported the same back with the following recommendations:

That the bill be reported "do pass" and be placed on the order of Second Reading-- Short Debate: HOUSE BILLS 201 and 228.

The committee roll call vote on House Bill 201 is as follows:

10, Yeas; 0, Nays; 0, Answering Present.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Y Reitz (D), Chairperson | Y Phelps (D), Vice-Chairperson |
| Y Sacia (R), Republican Spokesperson | Y Cultra (R) |
| Y Dugan (D) | Y Flider (D) |
| Y Moffitt (R) | Y Myers (R) |
| Y Reis (R) | Y Verschoore (D) |

The committee roll call vote on House Bill 228 is as follows:

8, Yeas; 0, Nays; 0, Answering Present.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Y Reitz (D), Chairperson | Y Phelps (D), Vice-Chairperson |
| Y Sacia (R), Republican Spokesperson | A Cultra (R) |
| Y Dugan (D) | Y Flider (D) |
| Y Moffitt (R) | Y Myers (R) |
| Y Reis (R) | A Verschoore (D) |

Representative Boland, Chairperson, from the Committee on Financial Institutions to which the following were referred, action taken on February 6, 2007, and reported the same back with the following recommendations:

That the bill be reported "do pass" and be placed on the order of Second Reading-- Short Debate: HOUSE BILL 352.

The committee roll call vote on House Bill 352 is as follows:

18, Yeas; 0, Nays; 0, Answering Present.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Y Boland (D), Chairperson | Y Burke (D), Vice-Chairperson |
| A Mitchell,B.(R), Republican Spokesperson | Y Acevedo (D) |
| Y Bellock (R) | Y Bradley,R.(D) |
| Y Brauer (R) | Y Coulson (R) |
| A Davis,M.(D) | Y Dunkin (D) |
| Y Durkin (R) | Y Dunn (R) |
| A Fritchey (D) | Y Holbrook (D) |

Y Lyons (D)
Y McAuliffe (R)
Y Rose (R)
Y Watson (R)

Y Smith (D)
Y Osterman (D)
Y Schock (R)
A Yarbrough (D)

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF BILLS

The following bills were introduced, read by title a first time, ordered reproduced and placed in the Committee on Rules:

- HOUSE BILL 0625. Introduced by Representative Lang, AN ACT concerning State government.
- HOUSE BILL 0626. Introduced by Representative Harris, AN ACT concerning criminal law.
- HOUSE BILL 0627. Introduced by Representative Black, AN ACT concerning appropriations.
- HOUSE BILL 0628. Introduced by Representative Black, AN ACT concerning appropriations.
- HOUSE BILL 0629. Introduced by Representative Black, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 0630. Introduced by Representative Black, AN ACT concerning vehicles.
- HOUSE BILL 0631. Introduced by Representative Beiser, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 0632. Introduced by Representative Black, AN ACT concerning elections.
- HOUSE BILL 0633. Introduced by Representative Holbrook, AN ACT concerning criminal law.
- HOUSE BILL 0634. Introduced by Representative Winters, AN ACT concerning procurement.
- HOUSE BILL 0635. Introduced by Representative Brauer, AN ACT concerning State government.
- HOUSE BILL 0636. Introduced by Representative Brauer, AN ACT concerning State historic sites.
- HOUSE BILL 0637. Introduced by Representative Brauer, AN ACT concerning taxes.
- HOUSE BILL 0638. Introduced by Representative Brauer, AN ACT concerning appropriations.
- HOUSE BILL 0639. Introduced by Representative Brauer, AN ACT concerning State government.
- HOUSE BILL 0640. Introduced by Representative Brauer, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 0641. Introduced by Representative Brauer, AN ACT concerning State government.
- HOUSE BILL 0642. Introduced by Representative Brauer, AN ACT concerning State government.
- HOUSE BILL 0643. Introduced by Representative Brauer, AN ACT concerning revenue.
- HOUSE BILL 0644. Introduced by Representative Brauer, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 0645. Introduced by Representative Brauer, AN ACT concerning agriculture.
- HOUSE BILL 0646. Introduced by Representative Brauer, AN ACT concerning transportation.
- HOUSE BILL 0647. Introduced by Representative Brauer, AN ACT concerning regulation.

HOUSE BILL 0648. Introduced by Representative Brauer, AN ACT concerning revenue.

HOUSE BILL 0649. Introduced by Representative Brauer, AN ACT concerning State government.

HOUSE BILL 0650. Introduced by Representative Brauer, AN ACT concerning wildlife.

HOUSE BILL 0651. Introduced by Representative Brauer, AN ACT concerning agriculture.

HOUSE BILL 0652. Introduced by Representatives Feigenholtz - Osterman - Hamos, AN ACT concerning State government.

HOUSE BILL 0653. Introduced by Representative Feigenholtz, AN ACT concerning children.

HOUSE BILL 0654. Introduced by Representatives Rose - Washington, AN ACT concerning transportation.

HOUSE BILL 0655. Introduced by Representatives Washington - Rose, AN ACT concerning criminal law.

HOUSE BILL 0656. Introduced by , Representative Washington – Rose ,AN ACT concerning transportation.

HOUSE BILL 0657. Introduced by Representatives Washington - Rose, AN ACT concerning transportation.

HOUSE BILL 0658. Introduced by Representative Brady, AN ACT concerning education.

HOUSE BILL 0659. Introduced by Representative Brady, AN ACT concerning State government.

HOUSE BILL 0660. Introduced by Representative Crespo, AN ACT concerning education.

HOUSE BILL 0661. Introduced by Representative Verschoore, AN ACT concerning gaming.

HOUSE BILL 0662. Introduced by Representative Verschoore, AN ACT concerning gaming.

HOUSE BILL 0663. Introduced by Representative Black, AN ACT concerning transportation.

HOUSE BILL 0664. Introduced by Representative Holbrook, AN ACT concerning revenue.

HOUSE BILL 0665. Introduced by Representative Holbrook, AN ACT concerning revenue.

HOUSE BILL 0666. Introduced by Representative Chapa LaVia, AN ACT concerning education.

HOUSE BILL 0667. Introduced by Representative Chapa LaVia, AN ACT concerning education.

HOUSE BILL 0668. Introduced by Representative Chapa LaVia, AN ACT concerning veterans.

HOUSE BILL 0669. Introduced by Representative Chapa LaVia, AN ACT concerning law enforcement.

HOUSE BILL 0670. Introduced by Representative Chapa LaVia, AN ACT concerning State government.

HOUSE BILL 0671. Introduced by Representative Chapa LaVia, AN ACT concerning education.

HOUSE BILL 0672. Introduced by Representative Mautino, AN ACT concerning revenue.

HOUSE BILL 0673. Introduced by Representative Mautino, AN ACT concerning regulation.

- HOUSE BILL 0674. Introduced by Representative Mautino, AN ACT concerning liquor.
- HOUSE BILL 0675. Introduced by Representative Mautino, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 0676. Introduced by Representative Mautino, AN ACT concerning insurance.
- HOUSE BILL 0677. Introduced by Representative Mautino, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 0678. Introduced by Representative Mautino, AN ACT concerning local government.
- HOUSE BILL 0679. Introduced by Representative McCarthy, AN ACT concerning local government.
- HOUSE BILL 0680. Introduced by Representative Nekritz, AN ACT concerning public health.
- HOUSE BILL 0681. Introduced by Representative Nekritz, AN ACT concerning elections.
- HOUSE BILL 0682. Introduced by Representative Jakobsson, AN ACT concerning finance.
- HOUSE BILL 0683. Introduced by Representative Sullivan, AN ACT concerning finance.
- HOUSE BILL 0684. Introduced by Representative May, AN ACT concerning pricing.
- HOUSE BILL 0685. Introduced by Representative Davis, Monique, AN ACT concerning criminal law.
- HOUSE BILL 0686. Introduced by Representative Davis, Monique, AN ACT concerning criminal law.
- HOUSE BILL 0687. Introduced by Representative Durkin, AN ACT concerning elections.
- HOUSE BILL 0688. Introduced by Representative Davis, William, AN ACT concerning revenue.
- HOUSE BILL 0689. Introduced by Representative Bassi, AN ACT concerning education.
- HOUSE BILL 0690. Introduced by Representative Black, AN ACT concerning vehicles.
- HOUSE BILL 0691. Introduced by Representative May, AN ACT concerning public health.
- HOUSE BILL 0692. Introduced by Representatives McAuliffe - Saviano - D'Amico - Lyons, AN ACT concerning public employee benefits.
- HOUSE BILL 0693. Introduced by Representative Sacia , AN ACT concerning education.
- HOUSE BILL 0694. Introduced by Representative Sacia, AN ACT concerning transportation.
- HOUSE BILL 0695. Introduced by Representative Hamos, AN ACT concerning healthcare.
- HOUSE BILL 0696. Introduced by Representative Hamos, AN ACT concerning revenue.
- HOUSE BILL 0697. Introduced by Representative Hamos, AN ACT concerning revenue.
- HOUSE BILL 0698. Introduced by Representative Hassert, AN ACT concerning revenue.
- HOUSE BILL 0699. Introduced by Representative Schock, AN ACT concerning local government.
- HOUSE BILL 0700. Introduced by Representative Bradley, John, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 0701. Introduced by Representative Froehlich, AN ACT concerning liquor.

- HOUSE BILL 0702. Introduced by Representative Franks, AN ACT concerning public health.
- HOUSE BILL 0703. Introduced by Representative Miller, AN ACT concerning education.
- HOUSE BILL 0704. Introduced by Representative Phelps, AN ACT concerning criminal law.
- HOUSE BILL 0705. Introduced by Representative Phelps, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 0706. Introduced by Representative Phelps, AN ACT concerning employment.
- HOUSE BILL 0707. Introduced by Representative Phelps, AN ACT concerning employment.
- HOUSE BILL 0708. Introduced by Representative Phelps, AN ACT concerning employment.
- HOUSE BILL 0709. Introduced by Representative Reis, AN ACT concerning hunting.
- HOUSE BILL 0710. Introduced by Representative Reis, AN ACT concerning criminal law.
- HOUSE BILL 0711. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 0712. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 0713. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 0714. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 0715. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning health facilities.
- HOUSE BILL 0716. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 0717. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 0718. Introduced by Representative Tryon, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 0719. Introduced by Representative Smith, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 0720. Introduced by Representative Black, AN ACT concerning education.
- HOUSE BILL 0721. Introduced by Representative Black, AN ACT concerning education.
- HOUSE BILL 0722. Introduced by Representative Dunn, AN ACT concerning transportation.
- HOUSE BILL 0723. Introduced by Representative Verschoore, AN ACT concerning State government.

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
FIRST READING**

Representative Black introduced the following:

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 10**

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the State for adoption or rejection at the general election next occurring at

least 6 months after the adoption of this resolution a proposition to amend Section 1 of Article X of the Illinois Constitution as follows:

ARTICLE X
EDUCATION

SECTION 1. FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT GOAL - FREE SCHOOLS

A fundamental right goal of the People of the State is the educational development of all persons to the limits of their capacities.

It is the paramount duty of the State to shall provide for a an thorough and efficient system of high quality public educational institutions and services and to guarantee equality of educational opportunity as a fundamental right of each citizen. Education in public schools through the secondary level shall be free. The State has the preponderant financial responsibility for financing the system of public education. There may be such other free education as the General Assembly provides by law.

~~The State has the primary responsibility for financing the system of public education.~~
(Source: Illinois Constitution.)

SCHEDULE

This Constitutional Amendment takes effect upon being declared adopted in accordance with Section 7 of the Illinois Constitutional Amendment Act.

The foregoing HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 10 was taken up, read in full a first time, ordered reproduced and placed in the Committee on Rules.

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were offered and placed in the Committee on Rules.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 11

Offered by Representative Monique Davis:

WHEREAS, We, as a people, must not feed our children fatty and sugary foods on a daily basis because it leads to obesity and diabetes; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that State Representative Monique D. Davis and the rest of the House of Representatives urge the Congress of the United States of America to require the United States Department of Agriculture to conduct a study and report on the nutritional value of the country's school lunches; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and each member of the Illinois congressional delegation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 22

Offered by Representative Black:

WHEREAS, February is AMBUCS National Visibility Month; AMBUCS is a national service organization composed of a diverse group of men and women dedicated to creating mobility and independence for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The AMBUCS Chapter in Danville has an active membership of over 100 people, working together to sponsor the Summer Sounds Concerts along with Downtown Danville, Inc., the AMBUCS Home and Business Expo, the First Citizen's Award, a two week summer camp for children with disabilities, and dances for adults with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, In addition, AMBUCS in Danville sponsors the Challenger Baseball League and the Lose the Training Wheels Program; AMBUCS in Danville provides scholarships for students going into a therapy related field; and they sponsor The Danville Advocates, a Danville High School program where students provide assistance and activities for their fellow students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The Danville Chapter has partnered with the City of Danville to build Playground for Everyone at Winter Park and the Boundless Playground at Lincoln Park, accessible parks for those with disabilities; and they are currently raising funds to make a spray park next to the Garfield Pool; and

WHEREAS, Other chapters across the State of Illinois focus on building ramps for those with disabilities and providing AmTrykes, therapeutic tricycles for children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, There are approximately 6,000 AMBUCS members in 121 chapters in 18 states, with Illinois having 15 chapters; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize the month of February as AMBUCS National Visibility Month and thank the men and women of AMBUCS for their hard work and devotion to making life better for those with disabilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Janet Myers, President of the Danville AMBUCS Chapter.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 25

Offered by Representative Fritchey:

WHEREAS, For reasons known and unknown, the General Assembly has been unwilling or unable to tackle some of the most significant problems facing the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Illinois has an unacceptably large and increasing funding disparity between school districts, and the State's minimum per student foundation level of support is inadequate to such an extent that Illinois ranks 49th among the states in the portion of school funding provided by the State; and

WHEREAS, The people of Illinois deserve and demand good and honest government, and controlling any improper influence of campaign contributions on public policy is integral to rebuilding the public's trust in their elected officials and the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, Our present method of assessing property in Illinois is antiquated and inequitable, resulting in unnecessary and significant hardship to homeowners; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the people of Illinois to have the aforementioned issues substantively addressed; and

WHEREAS, Given the inability of the legislature to achieve results on these and other worthwhile issues, an alternative and practical avenue for addressing these matters and providing for overdue reforms to our laws would be through the convening of a Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, A Constitutional Convention allows for elected delegates from each legislative district to assemble for the purpose of proposing amendments to the current State Constitution, which regulates the actions of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 1 of Article XIV of the Illinois Constitution, there is one opportunity every twenty years to convene a Constitutional Convention by way of ballot referenda; and

WHEREAS, This referendum will appear on the November 2008 general election ballot; and

WHEREAS, Should these issues not be sufficiently addressed prior to such time; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that in order to address the key issues that impact the daily lives of all Illinoisans, we urge the support of the electorate on the question of whether a Constitutional Convention should be called and encourage the electorate's attention to this initiative.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 28

Offered by Representative McGuire:

WHEREAS, Throughout our history, America has welcomed millions of Irish immigrants to its shores, and those proud people arrived seeking a better life for themselves, their families, and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Many courageous individuals came during the terrible years of Ireland's Great Famine in the middle of the nineteenth century, and their road to prosperity was not easy; many faced significant obstacles, including discrimination and poverty; despite these challenges, Irish Americans have risen to

success in every sector of our society; and

WHEREAS, Many of the Irish immigrants migrated to Illinois and have played major roles in our State's commerce, industry, arts and sciences, and all levels of public and governmental service; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that March of 2007 is designated as Irish-American Heritage Month, and all Illinoisans are urged to observe this month by learning about and commemorating the contributions of Irish Americans to our nation, our State, and our local communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the Governor of Illinois to issue a suitable proclamation recognizing the contributions of Irish Americans to Illinois and to proclaim March of 2007 as Irish-American Heritage Month.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 45

Offered by Representative Chapa LaVia:

WHEREAS, Education is the key to a child's future; and

WHEREAS, Those children with greater opportunities are able to lead brighter and more successful futures; and

WHEREAS, Due to education funding inadequacies across the state of Illinois and due to the wide range of opinions and issues surrounding education funding, a special session of the General Assembly concentrating only on education should be held; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Governor to call a special session of the General Assembly concentrating only on education; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be delivered to the Governor.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 46

Offered by Representative Chapa LaVia:

WHEREAS, On July 26, 1775, members of the Second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, agreed: "That a postmaster general be appointed for the United Colonies, who shall hold his office at Philada, and shall be allowed a salary of 1000 dollars per an: for himself, and 340 dollars per an: for a secretary and Comptroller, with power to appoint such, and so many deputies as to him may seem proper and necessary. That a line of posts be appointed under the direction of the Postmaster general, from Falmouth in New England to Savannah in Georgia, with as many cross posts as he shall think fit."; and

WHEREAS, This simple statement signaled the birth of the Post Office Department, the predecessor of the U.S. Postal Service and the second oldest federal department or agency of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin Franklin was the first Postmaster General; under him and his immediate successors, the postal system mainly carried communications between Congress and the armies; and

WHEREAS, America's present Postal Service descends in an unbroken line from the system Franklin planned and placed in operation; history rightfully accords him major credit for establishing the basis of the system that has well served the growing and changing needs of the American people; and

WHEREAS, Today, the United States Postal Service is the third largest employer in the nation, employing about 619,000 individuals; the workers include clerks, mail carriers, mail sorters, processors, and processing machine operators; and

WHEREAS, The Postal Service operates the largest civilian vehicle fleet in the world, with an estimated 260,000 vehicles, most recognized and identified as the Grumman LLV, or "mail truck"; and

WHEREAS, The motto of the Post Office "neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds" still tells us today how hard the men and women of the United States Postal Service work to ensure the smooth delivery of the mail to over 141 million addresses; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare July 26 of each year to be Postal Workers Day in the State of Illinois as a way to recognize the hard work and dedication of the men and women of

the United States Postal Service.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 47

Offered by Representative Coulson:

WHEREAS, As our State's seniors live longer lives, Illinois faces a major challenge in addressing long-term healthcare needs; and

WHEREAS, Eighty-six percent of people age 85 and older have at least one chronic condition which can cause pain, disability, and loss of functioning; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 48 million Americans over the age of 50 suffer from chronic pain; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 18 million children in the United States have developmental, physical, and/or behavioral disabilities that require significant home care; and

WHEREAS, Family caregivers provide 80 percent of long-term care in the United States, a level of care valued at \$306 billion a year, more than what is spent on nursing home and paid home care combined; and

WHEREAS, 29 million Americans provide home respite care to family members of all ages; and

WHEREAS, The Comprehensive Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006 was passed by both chambers of the United States Congress and subsequently signed into law by President George W. Bush on December 21, 2006; and

WHEREAS, The Comprehensive Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006 authorizes \$289 million to be provided to the states for the purpose of developing lifespan respite care at the state and local level, providing respite care services for family caregivers caring for children and adults, recruiting and training respite care volunteers and workers, providing information to respite caregivers about available respite or support services, and assisting caregivers in gaining access to such services; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the appropriate State agencies should take the necessary steps to secure federal funds available under the Comprehensive Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006 for respite care development and implementation as soon as such funds are appropriated by the Congress and made available; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be delivered to the Governor.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 50

Offered by Representative Chapa LaVia:

WHEREAS, Citizen participation in the electoral process is the cornerstone of our American democracy; and

WHEREAS, Unfortunately, the rate of voter turnout for elections in this country has declined over the years and is lower than the rate enjoyed by some other democracies around the world; and

WHEREAS, Germany and Italy, for instance, have experienced a growth in their percentages of voter participation since making their election days national holidays; and

WHEREAS, Making each federal election day a national holiday in the United States would make it easier for Americans to get to the polls, and election authorities would find a greater number of election workers and accessible buildings available; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the United States Congress to enact, and the President to approve, legislation making each federal election day a national holiday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be presented to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, and each member of the Illinois congressional delegation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 54

Offered by Representative Franks:

WHEREAS, The Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem officially opened January 27, 1902 and began its long-standing tradition of foresight and excellence; and

WHEREAS, The Shaare Zedek Medical Center derives much of its support from the generosity of hundreds of Illinois citizens and thousands of other Americans and people from around the world; and

WHEREAS, Shaare Zedek is known as "the Hospital with a Heart" for its century-long reputation for treating patients rather than just their illnesses; for an extra dimension of caring, particularly with regard to its nurses; and for its adherence to traditional Jewish precepts and values; and

WHEREAS, This endearing term has been adopted by many of the thousands of patients who enter through the "Gates of Righteousness" (the English translation of the biblical phrase Shaare Zedek); Shaare Zedek and its affiliation with Ben-Gurion University of the Negev's Faculty of Health Sciences provides patients with the highest level of medical expertise; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Posner of Chicago has been indefatigable in her efforts on behalf of the Midwest Region of the American Committee of Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem, giving of her time, of her talent, and of her treasure; and

WHEREAS, The Midwest Region of the American Committee of Shaare Zedek Medical Center has chosen to call these great efforts to the attention of her fellow citizens, her family, and her friends at a civic luncheon, fittingly on Valentine's Day at the Hilton Chicago; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we wish to congratulate Kathy R. Posner on her many accomplishments and for her current recognition as a recipient of the Shaare Zedek "Heart of Gold" Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Wednesday, February 14th, 2007 be designated as a day of tribute to Kathy Posner, not only for her efforts on behalf of this great humanitarian institution, but also in recognition of her labors and activities on behalf of a score of other institutions, agencies and civic committees; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Kathy Posner as a symbol of our respect.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 55

Offered by Representative Franks:

WHEREAS, President Ronald Wilson Reagan, a man of humble background, worked throughout his life serving freedom and advancing the public good, having been employed as an entertainer, union leader, corporate spokesman, Governor of California, and President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan was a native son of Illinois; he was born on February 6, 1911, in the village of Tampico in Whiteside County and at the age of nine moved with his family to the city of Dixon in Lee County, later furthering his education at Eureka College in Eureka; and

WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan served with honor and distinction for two terms as the 40th President of the United States of America, the second of which he earned the confidence of three-fifths of the electorate and was victorious in 49 of the 50 states in the general election, a record unsurpassed in the history of American presidential elections; and

WHEREAS, During Mr. Reagan's presidency he worked in a bipartisan manner to enact his bold agenda of restoring accountability and common sense to government which led to an unprecedented economic expansion and opportunity for millions of Americans; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan's commitment to our armed forces contributed to the restoration of pride in America, her values and those cherished by the free world, and prepared America's Armed Forces to meet 21st century challenges; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan's vision of "peace through strength" helped lead to the end of the Cold War and the ultimate demise of the Soviet Union, guaranteeing basic human rights for millions of people; and

WHEREAS, February 6, 2007 will be the 96th anniversary of Ronald Reagan's birth and the third since his passing; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we proclaim and recognize February 6, 2007 as "Ronald Reagan Day" and urge all the citizens of Illinois to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 56

Offered by Representative Coulson:

WHEREAS, Diseases of the heart are the nation's leading cause of death, and strokes are the third leading cause of death; and

WHEREAS, Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) claim the lives of over 460,000 American females (about one death per minute) each year; and

WHEREAS, Each year, 53% of all cardiovascular disease deaths occur in females, as compared to 47% in men, and about 32,800 more females than males die from a stroke; and

WHEREAS, In 2007 the estimated direct and indirect cost of cardiovascular diseases and strokes in the US is estimated at \$431.8 billion; and

WHEREAS, More women die of cardiovascular disease than the next five leading causes of death combined, including all cancers; and

WHEREAS, Only 13% of women consider cardiovascular disease their greatest health risk; and

WHEREAS, February is designated as American Heart Month; and

WHEREAS, Go Red For Women is the American Heart Association's national call to increase awareness about heart disease, the leading cause of death for women, and to inspire women to take charge of their heart health; and

WHEREAS, All women should learn their own personal risk for heart disease, using tools such as the American Heart Association's Go Red For Women Heart Checkup and by talking to their healthcare providers; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that in recognition of the importance of the ongoing fight against heart disease and stroke we proclaim February 2007 and each February hereafter to be "Go Red for Women Month" in the State of Illinois; and be it further

RESOLVED, We urge all citizens to show their support for women and the fight against heart disease and stroke and to increase their awareness and empower women to reduce their risk for cardiovascular disease and stroke so that thousands of lives can be saved each year.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

Offered by Representative Meyer:

WHEREAS, The provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) for a student with hearing loss can only occur with full communication access to education; and

WHEREAS, Full communication access depends upon a language-rich environment that fosters age-appropriate communication and language development, utilizes language-proficient educational staff, and provides for direct communication with staff and peers; and

WHEREAS, Children and youth who are deaf or hard of hearing face unique and significant barriers related to language and communication that profoundly affect most aspects of the educational process; and

WHEREAS, Attending to a student's communication needs and language development is a vital prerequisite for access to educational opportunities that lead to literacy and academic achievement; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Joint Task Force on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education Options, consisting of fifteen members appointed as follows: the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, President of the Senate, and Minority Leader of the Senate shall each appoint one member; the following entities shall each appoint one member: the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Commission, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Supervisors of Programs for Individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, the Helen Keller National Center, the Early Intervention System, the Hearing and Vision Connections, the Illinois School for the Deaf, the Illinois Hands and Voices parent organization, and the Newborn Hearing Screening Program; the Deaf Education Program in Illinois at MacMurray College and the Illinois State University shall each appoint one member; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all members of the Communication Options Committee established by the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission with the collaboration of the State Board of Education shall continue in their representation on the Joint Task Force on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education Options; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force can appoint members as it sees fit to serve as representatives of the deaf and hard of hearing population of Illinois or parents of children with hearing loss representing each of the following communication options: Oral/aural, Cued Speech, Total Communication, and American Sign Language; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the duty of the Task Force is to undertake a comprehensive and thorough review of education and services available to the deaf or hard of hearing children in Illinois with the intent of making recommendations that would recognize communication as fundamental to a deaf or hard of hearing child's most basic of needs; ensure communication-driven service delivery of the early intervention system and the public education system with programs and services addressing the unique communication needs of each child through communication assessment, development, and access; establish uniform methods and procedures within the early intervention system and the public education system that shall be non-biased and well-informed when sharing information with children and their families on the available communication options and community resource awareness; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force, working with the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Early Intervention System, the Illinois School for the Deaf, and the Newborn Hearing Screening Program, shall assist those entities in developing interagency agreements and programs and procedures regarding universal, early identification of hearing loss and effective interface between medical and educational services; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force may request assistance from any entity necessary or useful for the performance of its duties; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall issue a report with its recommendations to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2007.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2

Offered by Representative Granberg:

WHEREAS, During the 94th General Assembly, the Wooded Land Assessment Task Force was established, pursuant to House Joint Resolution 95, to gather information and make recommendations regarding procedures and policies for the assessment of wooded land and of property under a certified forestry management program; and

WHEREAS, The Task Force requires further time to complete its work; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Wooded Land Assessment Task Force is extended; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force must submit a report, as established in its authorizing resolution, on or before March 31, 2007; and be it further

RESOLVED, That, with this reporting extension, the Task Force shall continue to operate pursuant to its enabling resolution.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

Offered by Representative Krause:

WHEREAS, Recent ethics scandals have uncovered the flow of special interest money into the hands of elected officials and have included the arrest of current and former lawmakers on charges of racketeering

and mail fraud; and

WHEREAS, American voters think our political system is broken due to excessive influence of campaign contributors; 70% of Americans believe that the political system cannot respond to the country's real needs because of the influence of special interests over our lawmakers; and

WHEREAS, Americans are increasingly unwilling to participate in the political process because they believe large campaign contributions are the only way to influence our political leaders; and

WHEREAS, Candidates for elective office in Illinois are forced to raise large sums of money in order to run effective campaigns; time spent raising contributions could more effectively be spent on serving constituents; and

WHEREAS, Improving the restructuring of Illinois campaign finance laws will open opportunities for more citizen involvement and foster more dialogue among elected officials and their challengers on various political issues; it will enable voters to have more trust in the process and their representatives; and

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois must take action to restore public confidence by adopting stricter ethics rules; Illinois must eliminate campaign finance excesses by enacting comprehensive campaign finance laws that establish public financing of State campaigns and establish campaign contribution limits; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created a Campaign Finance Reform Task Force consisting of 4 Representatives, appointed 2 each by the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and 4 Senators, appointed 2 each by the President and Minority Leader of the Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Campaign Finance Reform Task Force also may include 2 members of the general public appointed by the Governor who represent campaign finance reform organizations, and the chairperson of the Task Force may be designated by the Governor from among its members; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall study the newly enacted campaign reform laws in other states, as well as the issues and problems associated with excessive moneys that are being raised and spent by candidates for elective office in the State of Illinois, and shall report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2007.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

Offered by Representative Reis:

WHEREAS, Robert Ridgway was an internationally known scientist, explorer, ornithologist, naturalist, inventor, author, and artist; and

WHEREAS, Robert Ridgway served with the Smithsonian Institution for 62 years and was Zoologist for the USGS 40th Parallel Expedition and the Harriman Expedition in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Robert Ridgway ranks with John James Audubon, Daniel Boone, Thomas Edison, the Wright Brothers, and John C. Fremont for his accomplishments and explorations for America and the world; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois State Historical Society and the Illinois Department of Transportation in 1967 erected a historical sign 1.5 miles east of the Fox River Bridge, along U.S. Route 50, to honor Robert Ridgway; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the U.S. Route 50 Fox River Bridge, west of the City of Olney in Richland County, be designated the Robert Ridgway Bridge; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs giving notice of the name; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be delivered to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation; the Secretary of the Illinois Department of transportation; the mayor of the City of Olney; and the Richland County Board.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 5

Offered by Representative Flowers:

WHEREAS, Hospital infections, which account for an estimated 100,000 deaths every year, kill more than five times as many Americans as AIDS; and

WHEREAS, The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (C.D.C.), which are calling for voluntary blood testing of all patients to stem the spread of AIDS, have chosen not to recommend a test that is essential to stop the spread of another killer sweeping through our nation's hospitals: M.R.S.A., or methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus; the C.D.C. guidelines to prevent hospital infections, released in October 2006, conspicuously omit universal testing of patients for M.R.S.A.; and

WHEREAS, The C.D.C.'s omission is unfortunate; research shows that the only way to prevent M.R.S.A. infections is to identify which patients bring the bacteria into the hospital; the M.R.S.A. test costs no more than the H.I.V. test and is less invasive, a simple nasal or skin swab; and

WHEREAS, Staph bacteria are the most prevalent infection-causing germs in most hospitals, and increasingly these infections cannot be cured with ordinary antibiotics; sixty percent of staph infections are now drug resistant (that is, M.R.S.A.), up from 2 percent in 1974; and

WHEREAS, Some people carry M.R.S.A. germs in their noses or on their skin without realizing it; the bacteria do not cause infection unless they get inside the body -- usually via a catheter, a ventilator, or an incision or other open wound; once admitted to a hospital, these patients shed the germs on bedrails, wheelchairs, stethoscopes, and other surfaces, where M.R.S.A. can live for many hours; and

WHEREAS, Doctors and other caregivers who lean over an M.R.S.A.-positive patient often pick up the germ on their hands, gloves, or lab coats and carry it along to their next patient; and

WHEREAS, The blood-pressure cuffs that nurses wrap around patients' bare arms frequently carry live bacteria, including M.R.S.A.; in a recent study at a French teaching hospital, 77 percent of blood-pressure cuffs wheeled from room to room were contaminated; another study linked contaminated blood-pressure cuffs to several infected infants in the nursery at the University of Iowa hospital; and

WHEREAS, Among developed nations, the United States has one of the worst records of curbing drug-resistant infections, according to the Sentry Antimicrobial Surveillance Program, an international effort to monitor drug-resistant germs; in this country, M.R.S.A. hospital infections increased 32-fold from 1976 to 2003, according to the C.D.C.; and

WHEREAS, In the 1980s, Denmark, Finland, and the Netherlands faced similarly soaring rates of M.R.S.A., but nearly eradicated it by screening patients and requiring health care workers treating patients with M.R.S.A. to wear gowns and gloves and use dedicated equipment to prevent the spread; the Dutch called their strategy "search and destroy"; and

WHEREAS, A growing number of hospitals in the United States have proved that such precautions work here, too; recently, a pilot program using screening at Presbyterian University Hospital, in Pittsburgh, reduced M.R.S.A. infections by 90 percent; at a Yale-affiliated hospital in New Haven, screening reduced M.R.S.A. infections in intensive care by two-thirds; and

WHEREAS, A recently completed nine-year study at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, in Boston, found that screening led to a 75 percent drop in M.R.S.A. bloodstream infections among intensive-care patients and a 67 percent decline throughout the hospital; earlier efforts to stop these infections by installing many more dispensers of hand cleanser and conducting a yearlong educational campaign on hand hygiene had no effect; and

WHEREAS, Some public health advocates recommend screening only "high-risk" patients -- those who recently have been hospitalized, live in nursing homes, or have kidney disease; partial screening is somewhat effective, but universal screening prevents the most infections; and

WHEREAS, Hospitals cannot afford not to screen for M.R.S.A.; infections wipe out hospital profits; when a patient develops an infection and has to spend many additional weeks hospitalized, Medicare does not pay for most of that additional care; and

WHEREAS, Treating hospital infections costs an estimated \$30.5 billion a year in the United States; prevention, on the other hand, is inexpensive and requires no capital outlays; a pilot program at the University of Pittsburgh found that screening tests, gowns, and other precautions cost only \$35,000 a year, and saved more than \$800,000 a year in infection costs; a review of similar cost analyses, published in The Lancet in September, concluded that M.R.S.A. screening increases hospital profits -- as it saves lives; and

WHEREAS, For a decade, in spite of this evidence, the C.D.C. has rebuffed calls for screening, most recently from a committee of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiologists of America; C.D.C. officials

claim that more research is needed to prove the benefits of screening; more research cannot hurt, but we know enough already to move ahead; and

WHEREAS, Some hospitals are leading the way, including Evanston Northwestern, in Illinois; the Veterans Affairs medical centers; New England Baptist Hospital, in Boston; and Johns Hopkins Hospital, in Baltimore; and

WHEREAS, The C.D.C.'s lax guidelines give many other hospitals an excuse to do too little; every year of delay costs thousands of lives and billions of dollars; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to adopt guidelines for universal testing of hospital patients for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (M.R.S.A.) without further delay; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be delivered to the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7

Offered by Representative Washington:

WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly wishes to present this resolution as a tribute to and acknowledgment of Oprah Winfrey's contributions to the State of Illinois, the nation, and the world; we benefit immensely from her presence in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Oprah Gail Winfrey was born on January 29, 1954 in Kosciusko, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, She began her broadcasting career at WVOL radio in Nashville while still in high school; at the age of 19, she became the youngest person and the first African-American woman to anchor the news at Nashville's WTVF-TV; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, she moved to Baltimore, Maryland to join WJZ-TV news as a co-anchor of the Six O'Clock News, and in 1978, discovered her talent for hosting talk shows when she became co-host of WJZ-TV's talk show "People Are Talking", while continuing to serve as anchor and news reporter; in January 1984, she moved to Chicago to host WLS-TV's morning talk show "AM Chicago", which became the number one local talk show just one month after she began; in less than a year, the show expanded to one hour and, in September 1985, was renamed "The Oprah Winfrey Show"; in 1986, "The Oprah Winfrey Show" was syndicated and aired in 107 countries with 23 million viewers; and

WHEREAS, She has impacted the media of television, publishing, film, philanthropy, education, and health and fitness; and

WHEREAS, In the television medium, the film medium, and the print medium, she serves as chairperson of HARPO, Inc., HARPO Productions, Inc.; HARPO Studios Inc., HARPO Films, Inc., HARPO Print, LLC, and HARPO Video, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, She has received numerous awards, including the George Foster Peabody Individual Achievement Award (1996); the International Radio and Television Society's "Broadcaster of the Year" Award (1996); Newsweek's "Most Important Person" in books and media, TV Guide's "Television Performer of the Year" (1997); Time magazine's "100 Most Influential People of the 20th Century", the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences' Lifetime Achievement Award (1998); the National Book Foundation's 50th Anniversary Gold Medal (1999); the Bob Hope Humanitarian Award, Broadcasting & Cable's Hall of Fame (2002); Association of American Publishers AAP Honors award (2003); National Association of Broadcasters Distinguished Service Award; and Time Magazine's "100 Most Influential People in the World" (2004); and

WHEREAS, After receiving 39 Daytime Emmy Awards, seven for Outstanding Host, nine for Outstanding Talk Show, 21 in the Creative Arts categories, and one for Oprah's work as supervising producer of the ABC After School Special "Shades of Single Protein", Oprah removed herself from future Emmy consideration in 1999, and the show followed suit in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Her never-ending philanthropy has been exemplified by such activities as ChristmasKindness South Africa 2002; Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls-South Africa; and the Oprah Winfrey Scholars Program; among her many ventures that have improved the lives of countless individuals are Oprah's Angel Network; Oprah's Book Club; the Live Your Best Life Tour; her service as national spokesperson for "A Better Chance"; and her service as an advocate for the National Child Protection Act, which was signed on December 20, 1993 by President Clinton and declared the "Oprah

Bill"; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the first week of September in 2007 and each subsequent year shall be known as Oprah Winfrey Week to recognize the innumerable achievements of Ms. Winfrey, as well as her mark on the world as an African-American woman; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Oprah Winfrey as an expression of our utmost respect and esteem.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 8

Offered by Representative Howard:

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution 107 which established a Legislative Task Force on Employment of Persons with Past Criminal Convictions was adopted unanimously by both houses of the Ninety-Fourth General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, The Legislative Task Force on Employment of Persons with Past Criminal Convictions was directed to: examine the barriers faced by persons with past criminal convictions with respect to obtaining employment; conduct public hearings; evaluate those recommendations made by the Governor's Statewide Community Safety and Reentry Working Group; and report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly in a final report which was to be filed on or before January 1, 2007; and

WHEREAS, The Legislative Task Force on Employment of Persons with Past Criminal Convictions did not have sufficient time to carry out its duties before the January 1, 2007 date set for its Report and Recommendations and before the final adjournment of the Ninety-Fourth General Assembly on January 9, 2007; and

WHEREAS, The Ninety-Fifth General Assembly needs to reauthorize the Legislative Task Force on Employment of Persons with Past Criminal Convictions with the same membership and charge as the Task Force authorized by HJR 107 of the Ninety-Fourth General Assembly and set the date for the Report and Recommendations as on or before October 31, 2007; and

WHEREAS, As stated in HJR 107, the barriers to employment and job promotion for persons with criminal convictions remain extremely complex issues, involving, among others, public employers at all levels of government, private employers, labor organizations, education and training institutions, public safety officials, public and private licensing and certification bodies, insurers, employment placement agencies, custodians of and users of arrest and conviction records, drug treatment agencies, and persons with criminal records; and

WHEREAS, As stated in HJR 107, a thorough examination of the barriers to employment for people with criminal conviction records and a thorough study of ways in which such barriers could be lowered or eliminated without exposing employers, individuals, the general public, or property to unreasonable risk is warranted; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is hereby established a Legislative Task Force on Employment of Persons with Past Criminal Convictions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall have the following members: 12 voting members, as follows: 3 members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, 3 members of the Senate appointed by the Senate Minority Leader, 3 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and 3 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the House Minority Leader; and be it further

RESOLVED, That any member of the Ninety-Fifth General Assembly who was previously appointed to the Legislative Task Force established by HJR 107 of the Ninety-Fourth General Assembly shall remain as member of the Task Force, unless the individual who holds the position responsible for making the appointment determines otherwise; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all actions of the Task Force require the affirmative vote of at least 7 voting members; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the following persons shall serve without compensation as ex-officio, non-voting

members of the Task Force:

- (A) The Director of the Illinois Department of Corrections, or his or her designee;
- (B) The Director of the Illinois Department of Employment Security, or his or her designee;
- (C) The Secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services, or his or her designee;
- (D) The Director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, or his or her designee;
- (E) The Secretary of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, or his or her designee;
- (F) The Director of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, or his or her designee; and
- (G) The Chairman of the Illinois Human Rights Commission, or his or her designee; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the departments of State government and the Illinois Human Rights Commission represented on the Task Force shall work cooperatively to provide administrative support for the Task Force, and the Department of Employment Security shall be the primary agency in providing that support; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the voting members of the Task Force shall select a chairperson; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall conduct public hearings and examine the barriers faced by persons with past criminal convictions with respect to obtaining employment; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall evaluate those recommendations made by the Governor's Statewide Community Safety and Reentry Working Group; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly in a final report which shall be filed on or before October 31, 2007; the requirement for reporting to the General Assembly shall be satisfied by filing copies of the report with the Speaker, the Minority Leader and the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the President, the Minority Leader and the Secretary of the Senate and the Legislative Research Unit, as required by Section 3.1 of the General Assembly Organization Act, and filing additional copies with the State Government Report Distribution Center for the General Assembly as required under paragraph (t) of Section 7 of the State Library Act; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the report shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- (1) An assessment of those collateral consequences of a criminal conviction which impede employment of persons with past criminal convictions, and the experiences of other states in addressing this issue;
- (2) An assessment of the preparation for gainful employment provided to those incarcerated in Illinois correctional facilities, and the experiences of other states in addressing this issue;
- (3) An identification of the barriers which impede those with criminal records from obtaining stable employment; and
- (4) Recommendations for legislative changes necessary to facilitate the employment of persons with past criminal convictions which, if implemented, would not expose the employer, an individual, the general public, or property to unreasonable risks; and be it further

RESOLVED, That within 60 days after the filing of the report, the appropriate standing committees of both the House and the Senate shall hold hearings to consider the recommendations made by the Task Force; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the ex-officio members of the Task Force.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 9

Offered by Representative Krause:

WHEREAS, Recent ethics scandals have uncovered the flow of special interest money into the hands of elected officials and have included the arrest of current and former lawmakers on charges of racketeering and mail fraud; and

WHEREAS, American voters think our political system is broken due to excessive influence of campaign contributors; 70% of Americans believe that the political system cannot respond to the country's

real needs because of the influence of special interests over our lawmakers; and

WHEREAS, Americans are increasingly unwilling to participate in the political process because they believe large campaign contributions are the only way to influence our political leaders; and

WHEREAS, Candidates for elective office in Illinois are forced to raise large sums of money in order to run effective campaigns; time spent raising contributions could more effectively be spent on serving constituents; and

WHEREAS, Improving the restructuring of Illinois campaign finance laws will open opportunities for more citizen involvement and foster more dialogue among elected officials and their challengers on various political issues; it will enable voters to have more trust in the process and their representatives; and

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois must take action to restore public confidence by adopting stricter ethics rules; Illinois must eliminate campaign finance excesses by enacting comprehensive campaign finance laws that establish public financing of State campaigns and establish campaign contribution limits; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created a Campaign Finance Reform Task Force consisting of 4 Representatives, appointed 2 each by the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and 4 Senators, appointed 2 each by the President and Minority Leader of the Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Campaign Finance Reform Task Force also may include 2 members of the general public appointed by the Governor who represent campaign finance reform organizations, and the chairperson of the Task Force may be designated by the Governor from among its members; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall study the newly enacted campaign reform laws in other states, as well as the issues and problems associated with excessive moneys that are being raised and spent by candidates for elective office in the State of Illinois, and shall report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2007.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 10

Offered by Representative John Bradley:

WHEREAS, The reaction time of motorists using cellular phones slows dramatically, increasing the risk of automobile accidents and tying up traffic generally; and

WHEREAS, Cell phone distraction causes 2,600 deaths and 330,000 injuries in the United States every year; and

WHEREAS, The numbers of fatalities and injuries may be higher because data on cell phone use by motorists is limited; and

WHEREAS, Increasing cell phone use can be expected to cause the annual death estimate to rise; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that State, county, and municipal law enforcement personnel are requested to include in their police reports of automobile accidents information pertaining to if an accident involved the use of a cellular phone; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department of Transportation shall request from State, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies statistics on the use of cellular phones leading to automobile accidents over a one-year period beginning July 1, 2006, and report the findings to the General Assembly no later than December 1, 2007; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Department of Transportation and appropriate county and municipal law enforcement agencies.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 11

Offered by Representative Howard:

WHEREAS, The series of debates between Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln in their 1858 bid for a United States Senate seat from Illinois is a significant example of the role of public discussion and debate of issues by candidates before the electorate; and

WHEREAS, 2008 will mark the 150th anniversary of what are now seen as the greatest political debates in the United States in the nineteenth century, leading as they did to the eventual election of Abraham Lincoln to the office of President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The 7 Illinois communities that hosted the original debates, Ottawa, Freeport, Jonesboro, Charleston, Galesburg, Quincy, and Alton, meeting together as the Lincoln-Douglas Debates Sesquicentennial Collation and with the assistance of the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition, have and are making coordinated and comprehensive plans for fitting commemorative activities during the Sesquicentennial year, including: (i) traveling museum exhibits, (ii) a program of Lincoln and Douglas portrayers to present background on the debates with a modern political context as a means of explication for today's citizens that is to be presented in the 7 debates cities, plus Springfield, Chicago, and Bement, (iii) a coordinated calendar of activities to be promulgated to the general public through a single brochure and a single website, (iv) the issuance of commemorative collector coins, and (v) the hosting of a commemorative national high school debate tournament; and

WHEREAS, Several State agencies, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, the Governor's Rural Affairs Council, the Illinois Bureau of Tourism, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, as well as several non-governmental organizations, both national and State, the Lincoln-Douglas Society, the Stephen A. Douglas Association, the Abraham Lincoln Association, the National Forensic League, the Illinois High School Association, and the Illinois Speech and Theater Association, have already engaged in assisting the Lincoln-Douglas Debates Sesquicentennial Collation in planning activities for the Sesquicentennial year; and

WHEREAS, A well-coordinated series of activities and programs during 2008 will serve as preliminary attractions for tourism in and to Illinois in anticipation of the 2009 programming being planned for the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall be designated as the agency within the State's executive branch to work with the Lincoln-Douglas Debates Sesquicentennial Collation for the purposes of:

1. Further planning and implementation of Sesquicentennial activities, and
2. Recommending to the Illinois General Assembly such budget and funding requests as shall be deemed appropriate to ensure the smooth implementation of the previously developed, as well as any future, plans for commemorating the Sesquicentennial of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates in Illinois; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to all of the communities, agencies, and non-governmental organizations identified within it, as well as to all of the constitutional officers of the State of Illinois, and the Governor's Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

At the hour of 5:19 o'clock p.m., the House Perfunctory Session adjourned.