

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION 122

2 WHEREAS, The alarming rate of homelessness among mentally
3 ill persons in the State of Illinois is a great cause for
4 concern and requires action; and

5 WHEREAS, It has been estimated that 20% to 25% of
6 homeless people in the United States suffer from some form of
7 serious mental illness, and, in the Chicago area, certain
8 areas report that as much as 65% of their homeless population
9 suffers from mental illness; the Chicago Department of Human
10 Services determined that from October 1998 through November
11 1999 there were 15,774 homeless persons in the City of
12 Chicago alone, or at least 3,155 mentally ill homeless
13 persons using the national average rate; for fiscal year
14 2000, the Illinois Department of Human Services reported at
15 least 2,993 homeless mentally ill persons in Chicago and at
16 least 5,960 in Illinois; and

17 WHEREAS, The hardship to mentally ill persons and the
18 likelihood of imminent harm and death to mentally ill persons
19 is greatly exacerbated by the combination of their mental
20 illness and homelessness; and

21 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
22 Representatives are concerned that measures to alleviate the
23 suffering of these citizens of the State of Illinois be
24 undertaken; and

25 WHEREAS, New information derived from the 2000 United
26 States Census would aid members of the Illinois House of
27 Representatives in formulating legislative measures aimed at
28 alleviating the suffering of the homeless mentally ill;
29 therefore, be it

30 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
31 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we request the Illinois Housing Development Authority to
2 develop a plan for housing for the homeless mentally ill; and
3 be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the plan for housing for the homeless
5 mentally ill should include, but not necessarily be limited
6 to, the following:

7 (1) an estimate of the total number of housing
8 units needed, with information on the specific geographic
9 areas where these housing units are needed;

10 (2) information on what geographic areas are in
11 need of treatment facilities and supportive services for
12 the homeless mentally ill;

13 (3) a need assessment that determines the number of
14 homeless mentally ill and the number of housing units
15 needed to provide housing for these persons;

16 (4) statistics and other information from the 2000
17 census data, incorporated into the need assessment and
18 other aspects of the plan as appropriate; and

19 (5) such other information and suggestions as the
20 Illinois Housing Development Authority deems appropriate;
21 and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That in developing the plan for housing for the
23 homeless mentally ill, we urge the Illinois Housing
24 Development Authority to enlist the cooperation of the
25 Department of Human Services and the other State agencies
26 that administer and use the State Consolidated Housing Plan
27 and to obtain input and direction from community-based
28 treatment facilities that have been designated by the
29 Department of Human Services to serve the homeless mentally
30 ill; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
32 delivered to the Executive Director of the Illinois Housing
33 Development Authority.