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LRB104 12231 MST 22337 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Each year the President of the United States declares January 16th as Religious Freedom Day and calls upon Americans to observe this day through appropriate events and activities in homes, schools, and places of worship; and

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WHEREAS, Our Founding Fathers knew the importance of freedom of religion, and the U.S. Constitution protects an individual's right to worship as they so choose with the First Amendment; and

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WHEREAS, Declaring such a day for religious freedom is part of our American foundation and heritage; and

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WHEREAS, January 16th was the chosen date for celebration as it is the anniversary of the exact date in 1786 when the Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom was passed; and

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WHEREAS, This statute restrained the practice of taxing people to pay for the support of the local clergy and protected the civil rights of people to express their religious beliefs without suffering discrimination; and

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WHEREAS, In Illinois, this date was observed by former Governor Rauner, and this important day of freedom should be

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1 brought into our chamber and State; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
3 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 we declare January 16, 2025 as "Religious Freedom Day" in the
5 State of Illinois and encourage our citizens to reflect on our
6 proud tradition of religious freedom so that it may be
7 preserved for future generations.