



HR0664

LRB104 20824 ECR 34379 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to recognize that July 4, 2026 marks the
4 250th anniversary, or Semiquincentennial, of the adoption of
5 the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental
6 Congress in Philadelphia in 1776, signifying the founding of
7 the United States of America; and

8 WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence proclaimed
9 timeless principles of profound significance to the national
10 heritage of the United States, including that all are created
11 equal and endowed with certain inalienable rights, including
12 life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and that
13 governments derive their just powers from the consent of the
14 governed; and

15 WHEREAS, The founding of the United States established the
16 principle of federalism, emphasizing a decentralized system of
17 government wherein powers are divided between national and
18 state governments, fostering liberty, accountability, and
19 responsiveness to local communities; and

20 WHEREAS, This decentralized governance model has allowed
21 for innovation, diverse policy approaches, and stronger
22 accountability to the citizens of each state, ensuring that

1 government remains close to and reflective of the people's
2 will; and

3 WHEREAS, The founding of the United States initiated a
4 journey toward forming a "more perfect Union," marked by
5 historic achievements, struggles, and progress in realizing
6 the nation's founding ideals for all its citizens; and

7 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois, having joined the Union in
8 1818, has played a significant role throughout the history of
9 the United States, contributing to the nation's development,
10 culture, economy, and defense through the efforts and
11 sacrifices of its citizens; and

12 WHEREAS, The semiquincentennial offers a unique
13 opportunity for the people of Illinois to reflect on our
14 shared history, honor the diverse contributions of all
15 Americans, celebrate our heritage of liberty, and look forward
16 to the future we strive to create for subsequent generations;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Commemorative activities across Illinois will
19 provide educational opportunities, foster civic engagement,
20 encourage community participation, and strengthen appreciation
21 for the history, federalist principles, and foundational
22 ideals upon which both the nation and our state were built;

1 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 recognize and commemorate the upcoming 250th anniversary of
5 the founding of the United States of America on July 4, 2026;
6 and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That we encourage all citizens, communities,
8 educational institutions, civic organizations, and businesses
9 within Illinois to participate in commemorative events and
10 activities that reflect on our history, celebrate our
11 achievements, and reaffirm our commitment to the ideals of
12 liberty, equality, self-government, and federalism; and be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That we strongly encourage educational
15 institutions across Illinois to enhance civics education,
16 ensuring that future generations understand the critical
17 importance of active civic participation, the principles of
18 federalism, and the decentralized governance that protects
19 liberty and promotes responsive government.