



HR0592

LRB100 10091 MST 20264 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois finds itself in the midst of
3 a heroin crisis; the epicenter of which is on the West Side of
4 the City of Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, According to a recent study, hospitalizations for
opioids on the West Side of Chicago account for nearly one in
7 four hospitalizations for the entire State; overdose mortality
8 rates disproportionately impact Chicago's African American
9 population with nine in 100,000 African Americans dying as a
10 result of heroin overdoses, as compared to 5.9 for whites; and

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WHEREAS, Most of the attention directed at the heroin
crisis is focused on policing rather than treatment, which is
an ineffective and expensive way to treat a health crisis such
as this; and

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WHEREAS, In September of 2015, Illinois adopted the Heroin
Crisis Act; this bipartisan and "groundbreaking" legislation
is being duplicated in states across the country; shortly
before the adoption of the Act, a report was published
indicating that Illinois has become the third-worst state in
providing treatment for heroin addicts; and

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WHEREAS, The Heroin Crisis Act provides for the following:

1 (1) Allows pharmacies to dispense heroin/opiate overdose
2 reversal drugs, such as naloxone, to individuals; (2) Requires
3 all police and fire agencies, and emergency medical
4 technicians, to carry the reversal drugs and be trained to
5 administer, store, and transport it; (3) Permits a school nurse
6 to administer naloxone and requires reporting on it; (4)
7 Upgrades the prescription monitoring program to prevent
8 overprescribing of painkillers, a frequent precursor to heroin
9 addiction; (5) Amends drug court programs to keep users in
10 treatment and out of jail; (6) Establishes drug education
11 programs in schools; (7) Provides insurance coverages for
12 opioid/heroin antidotes; (8) Requires Medicaid to pay for
13 medication-based treatments; (9) Requires coroners, medical
14 examiners, and health care professionals to report to the
15 Department of Public Health all cases of drug overdoses; (10)
16 Requires the Department of Human Services to establish a
17 medication take-back program to collect and dispose of unused
18 medications; (11) Requires State agencies to report to the
19 General Assembly on the impact of the comprehensive efforts
20 addressing opioid/heroin misuse and overdoses; and (12)
21 Mandates for public awareness campaigns on the dangers of
22 unused prescription medications; and

23 WHEREAS, The Heroin Crisis Act requires funding to be
24 effective and the ongoing budget fight in Illinois has
25 threatened that funding; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
3 urge Governor Bruce Rauner to declare a state of emergency in
4 Illinois due to the ongoing heroin crisis; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we urge the Director of the Department of
6 Public Health, Nirav Shah, to create a comprehensive plan to
7 combat the heroin crisis that now grips Illinois; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That we urge the State of Illinois to fully fund
10 the Heroin Crisis Act; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
12 delivered to Governor Bruce Rauner, Speaker of the House
13 Michael Madigan, House Republican Leader Jim Durkin, Senate
14 President John Cullerton, Senate Republican Leader Christine
15 Radogno, and the Director of the Department of Public Health
16 Nirav Shah.