



HR0666

LRB101 16810 LAW 67039 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Approximately 32 million people in the United  
3 States have food allergies; Results from a 2015 to 2016 survey  
4 of more than 38,000 children indicated that 5.6 million  
5 children, or nearly 8%, have food allergies; that is one in 13  
6 children, or roughly two in every classroom; and

7           WHEREAS, Children with food allergies are two to four times  
8 more likely to have other related conditions such as asthma and  
9 other allergies, compared with children without food  
10 allergies; this is of great importance as children with a  
11 coexisting food allergy and asthma may be more likely to  
12 experience anaphylactic reactions to foods and be at high risk  
13 of death; and

14           WHEREAS, Food allergy is a potentially serious immune  
15 response to eating specific foods or food additives; eight  
16 types of food (milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish,  
17 soy, and wheat) account for over 90% of allergic reactions in  
18 affected individuals; and

19           WHEREAS, Reactions to these foods by an allergic person can  
20 range from a tingling sensation around the mouth and lips or  
21 hives to death, depending on the severity of the allergy; every  
22 three minutes a food allergy reaction sends someone to the

1 emergency room; each year in the U.S., 200,000 people require  
2 emergency medical care for allergic reactions to food; between  
3 2007 and 2016, medical procedures to treat anaphylaxis  
4 resulting from food increased by 377%; more than 40% of  
5 children with food allergies have experienced a severe allergic  
6 reaction such as anaphylaxis; and

7 WHEREAS, The mechanisms by which a person develops an  
8 allergy to specific foods are largely unknown; food allergies  
9 are more prevalent in children than adults, and a majority of  
10 affected children will outgrow food allergies with age;  
11 children under age 5 years had higher rates of reported food  
12 allergy compared with children at 5 to 17 years of age; boys  
13 and girls had similar rates of food allergy; and

14 WHEREAS, A food allergy can sometimes become a lifelong  
15 concern; food allergies can greatly affect children and their  
16 families' well-being; annually, caring for children with food  
17 allergies costs U.S. families nearly \$25 billion; there are  
18 some indications that the prevalence of food allergies may be  
19 increasing in the United States and in other countries; and

20 WHEREAS, A food allergy is an impairment that limits a  
21 major life activity and may qualify an individual for  
22 protection under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990  
23 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and

1           WHEREAS, Increased food allergy awareness will lead to  
2 greater public understanding of these health problems and will  
3 lead to more life-saving research on the subject; therefore, be  
4 it

5           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
6 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
7 we declare May Food Allergy Awareness Month.