



HR0390

LRB102 18855 ECR 27574 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Since the State's beginning as a territory in 1809 and into statehood in 1818, the Illinois Secretary of State's office has served as the custodian of official state records; and

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WHEREAS, During the early years of State government, records were neither numerous nor extremely complex, and the records entrusted to the Secretary of State's office consisted mainly of correspondence from the governor's office and records of the General Assembly; and

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WHEREAS, As the functions of State government grew more complex and its records grew more numerous, Secretary of State Louis Emmerson advocated for and the Illinois General Assembly passed legislation in 1921 to create a division of State Archives to be housed in the State Library Department of the Secretary of State's office; and

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WHEREAS, Secretary of State Emmerson named Margaret Cross Norton as the first supervisor of the Illinois State Archives; she served 35 years as supervisor and became an internationally recognized leader and pioneer in the archival profession; and

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1 WHEREAS, The State Archives originally had offices in the
2 basement of the State Capitol building before moving to the
3 newly constructed Centennial (Howlett) Building in 1923; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1925, Margaret Norton successfully advocated
5 for legislation that gave the State Archives the authority to
6 accept records from all state officials and state agencies
7 instead of just the governor's office and the General
8 Assembly; and

9 WHEREAS, On February 8, 1934, the State Arsenal building
10 burned to the ground resulting in the loss of soldiers' bonus
11 and World War I records and demonstrating the need for a
12 state-of-the-art, fire-proof building to safely store state
13 records; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1935, the Illinois General Assembly approved
15 funding for the construction of a State Archives building; the
16 building was completed in 1938 and was named the Margaret
17 Cross Norton Building in 1995; and

18 WHEREAS, The 1957 State Records Act and the 1961 Local
19 Records Act placed the Archives in charge of records
20 management for state and local government records; this gave
21 the Archives an important role in deciding what government
22 records had permanent historic value; and

1 WHEREAS, Today, the Illinois State Archives is a separate
2 department under the Secretary of State's office and is in
3 charge of preserving and making accessible the permanent
4 records of the State, overseeing records management programs
5 of state agencies and units of local government, providing
6 microfilming, scanning and records storage services to state
7 government agencies, and operating a regional archives
8 depository system for local government records; therefore, be
9 it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the creation of the
13 Illinois State Archives on June 20, 1921, congratulate the
14 Illinois State Archives for its proud 100 year history, and
15 thank Secretary of State and State Archivist Jesse White and
16 all the employees of the State Archives past and present who
17 have contributed to the 100 year history of this department;
18 and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the Illinois State Archives as a symbol of our
21 esteem and respect.