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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
3 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
4 we declare January 16, 2024 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.