



HR0561

LRB103 35629 ECR 65703 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Home fires are the leading cause of fires in the U.S., affecting civilians and first responders; and

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WHEREAS, According to data compiled by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), of all civilian structure fire deaths, 78% occur in one- and two-family homes, with home fires causing \$8.6 billion in direct property damage each year; and

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WHEREAS, According to the NFPA, residential structure fires account for 63.7% of firefighter injuries; and

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WHEREAS, According to the NFPA, regarding firefighter fatalities, 53% occur while fighting structure fires, and 82% occur while fighting fires at a residential dwelling; and

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WHEREAS, Home fires are deadlier today than in the past as a result of an increase in the use of unprotected lightweight construction material, open floor plans, and abundant synthetic furnishings, and these dangers are amplified when the properties contain lithium ion batteries and other emerging technologies, making homes burn faster and causing them to become deadly in two minutes or less; and

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1 WHEREAS, The U.S. Fire Administration estimates that home
2 fire sprinklers could save thousands of lives each year if
3 more were installed in homes; and

4 WHEREAS, Fire sprinklers are a proven and cost-effective
5 means of protecting lives and property from the threat of
6 fire; and

7 WHEREAS, Fire sprinklers offer the highest degree of fire
8 protection and are critical in saving lives and property; and

9 WHEREAS, A room can be engulfed in flames in less than
10 three minutes; however, fire sprinklers can control fire and
11 deadly smoke, saving the lives of occupants and first
12 responders; and

13 WHEREAS, Residential fires without a sprinkler system have
14 caused 3,667 injuries and 967 fatalities in Illinois since
15 2007; and

16 WHEREAS, There have been only seven injuries and zero
17 fatalities in residential fires with sprinkler systems in
18 Illinois since 2007; and

19 WHEREAS, The inclusion of fire sprinklers in local
20 building codes and in community risk reduction plans helps

1 support fire service resources, staffing, and budgets; when
2 new housing stock includes sprinklers, those homes become
3 safer, improving communities and allowing fire service
4 resources to be directed to those at highest risk; and

5 WHEREAS, Stronger state and federal support of home fire
6 sprinkler education will help address confusion and anti-code
7 negativity and will encourage fire service advocacy in support
8 of home fire sprinkler installation; and

9 WHEREAS, More installation of fire sprinklers in new homes
10 will directly and indefinitely protect and improve communities
11 of every size; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we declare the week of May 12 through May 18, 2024 as Home Fire
15 Sprinkler Week in the State of Illinois; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to State Coordinator James Brown of the Illinois
18 Chapter of the National Fire Sprinkler Association.