



SR0819

LRB103 39762 ECR 70273 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The School Construction Grant Program was established in 1997, when House Bill 452 of the 90th General Assembly of the State of Illinois was signed into law by then-Governor Jim Edgar; and

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WHEREAS, When the School Construction Grant Program was being considered, the 90th General Assembly recognized that many school buildings across Illinois needed repair and others needed to be replaced entirely; and

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WHEREAS, During that time, some areas in Illinois were experiencing rapid population growth, forcing school districts to build new school buildings to accommodate increased enrollment; and

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WHEREAS, The School Construction Grant Program was established to provide the capital funds needed for these school districts to construct and renovate new and existing buildings; and

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WHEREAS, The School Construction Grant Task Force was created in 2019 to review the program and make recommendations to modernize the process; and

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1           WHEREAS, The School Construction Grant Task Force's  
2 recommendations culminated in House Bill 3637 of the 102nd  
3 General Assembly, and this bill not only revised criteria for  
4 the program but also recognized that the 2004, 2005, and 2006  
5 School Construction Grant lists had reasonable expectations of  
6 funding; and

7           WHEREAS, There have been many instances where crumbling  
8 buildings are still being used by school districts, such as at  
9 Lockport Township High School, where a ceiling collapsed in on  
10 itself, or in the McHenry Elementary School District, where a  
11 large piece of cement crashed through the ceiling of a  
12 classroom; and

13           WHEREAS, While no one was hurt in either of these  
14 unfortunate incidents, Illinois cannot wait for such an event  
15 to become a reality; therefore, be it

16           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we acknowledge the  
18 need to fund the School Construction Grant Program to bolster  
19 the school infrastructure of Illinois while also providing for  
20 schools most in need and ensuring our State's students and  
21 school personnel are able to learn and work in safe, stable  
22 structures.