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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the State of Illinois is committed to seeing that every one of the citizens of the State of Illinois has decent, safe, and affordable housing; and

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WHEREAS, A growing number of citizens of the State of Illinois are currently homeless; shelter nights rose by 24% from 2000 to 2001 (before the current economic turndown), as shown by Illinois Department of Human Services data (25% in Chicago, 23% in the rest of the state-43% in the collar counties, 1% in the northern counties, 25% in the central counties, and 54% in the southern counties); and

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WHEREAS, In the last 10 years, the number of shelter nights for the whole State rose by 89%, with increases experienced every year since 1994; and

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WHEREAS, Homelessness is very expensive in terms of public dollars expended for emergency hospital visits, in-patient stays, emergency substance abuse treatment, and jail stays; it is very costly in terms of human suffering and generations of lives wasted; and it is very demoralizing to all citizens; and

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WHEREAS, Supportive housing has been shown, through extensive research, to be effective in enabling even the most vulnerable people and families to remain housed and to take appropriate steps to move toward employment and independence; it has been shown to be cost efficient, virtually expending the same amount in public dollars as the costs of homelessness, in a recent major study; and

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WHEREAS, The long term and repeatedly homeless individuals and families comprise only approximately 20% of the total homeless population, but use approximately 80% of

1 the total shelter days, effectively living in the shelter  
2 system; and

3 WHEREAS, This use of homeless services does not end the  
4 homelessness of these most vulnerable individuals and  
5 families using the services; at the same time, it prevents  
6 other more short-term or transitionally homeless families and  
7 individuals who could benefit from the services from  
8 accessing these services; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
10 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
11 the General Assembly commits itself, along with a growing  
12 number of states and cities across the nation, to end  
13 long-term or repeated homelessness in Illinois in 10 years  
14 by:

15 (1) creating and sustaining 8,000 units of permanent  
16 supportive housing in Illinois in the coming decade targeted  
17 for the most vulnerable homeless families and individuals;

18 (2) ending the practice of discharging large numbers of  
19 people into homelessness from hospitals, mental health and  
20 chemical dependency treatment facilities, jails, and prisons;

21 (3) securing investments in additional affordable and  
22 supportive housing alternatives, so that supportive housing  
23 can be made available to those who do become homeless and  
24 need support service to stay housed; and

25 (4) gradually shifting resources in a manner determined  
26 by each community so that those who become homeless can be  
27 expediently re-housed and connected to supportive services;  
28 and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly will consider the  
30 above goals and strategies in establishing its policies and  
31 budgets; and be it further

32 RESOLVED, That the members of the General Assembly will

1 take steps to encourage the municipalities, counties,  
2 townships, other governmental bodies and related agencies to  
3 adopt these goals and strategies for establishing their  
4 policies and budgets.