



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Social Security Trust Fund is expected to have
3 insufficient funds to meet its obligations by 2042; and

4 WHEREAS, The United States Congress, as part of its efforts
5 to address the financial crisis confronting the Social Security
6 system, is considering a proposal mandating Social Security
7 coverage for public employees, including public employees in
8 Illinois who presently do not participate in the Social
9 Security system; and

10 WHEREAS, Illinois' State and local government employee
11 pension plans cover over 375,000 different State and local
12 government employees, including employees of school districts,
13 police officers, firefighters, faculty at institutions of
14 higher education, and employees of municipalities, as well as
15 thousands of benefit recipients; and

16 WHEREAS, Illinois' State and local government employee
17 pension plans have been carefully developed with the
18 cooperation of the Illinois General Assembly, employers, and
19 employees to meet the unique needs of such public employees at
20 a reasonable cost; and

21 WHEREAS, Illinois' public pension plans offer benefits
22 that are designed to address the physical demands and high
23 risks inherent in public safety work and that are not available
24 through the federal Social Security system, including lower
25 retirement ages and comprehensive death and disability
26 benefits; and

27 WHEREAS, It is anticipated that federal legislation will be
28 introduced that would include a requirement that state and
29 local government employees hired after a certain date
30 participate in the federal Social Security system; and

1 WHEREAS, Preliminary estimates indicate a statewide cost
2 of over \$2 billion if participation in the federal Social
3 Security system is mandated for Illinois' State and local
4 government employees, which would result in a sharp decline of
5 benefits and a reduction in education programs and services;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, A federal mandate that Illinois' State and local
8 government employees participate in the federal Social
9 Security system may not only threaten the integrity of the
10 existing pension plans for the employees, but it may also
11 affect the safety and general welfare of the citizens of
12 Illinois; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
15 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the United States
16 Congress to preserve the right of state and local governments
17 to operate pension plans for their employees in place of the
18 federal Social Security system and develop legislation for
19 responsible reform of the federal Social Security system that
20 does not include mandatory participation by employees of state
21 and local governments; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
23 delivered to the President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, the
24 Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and each member
25 of the Illinois congressional delegation.