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LRB096 12582 DRJ 26749 r

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, An estimated 210,000 Illinoisans have Alzheimer's or a related dementia disorder, with the likelihood of being afflicted rising with age; it is believed that almost 50% of individuals age 85 and older will have Alzheimer's; these estimates do not include individuals with other dementia disorders; and

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WHEREAS, Alzheimer's has no respect for bravery, courage, and service, affecting roughly 55,000 of the State's veterans 65 years of age and older, with 40% over the age of 85; those with other dementia disorders are not included in these numbers; and

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WHEREAS, While one in four Illinois families are caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's in their home, most families are forced to seek residential programs as the disease progresses; and

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WHEREAS, The State has few alternatives for families seeking residential care for a family member with dementia, although Illinois has repeatedly studied the issue with task force reports calling for services to be put in place issued as far back as 1986; and

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1 WHEREAS, For those who can afford private-pay market-rate
2 services, 80 of the licensed assisted living facilities in
3 Illinois have dedicated Alzheimer's units; and

4 WHEREAS, For most Illinois families, private-pay assisted
5 living facilities are financially outside their means; and

6 WHEREAS, These market-rate programs report countless calls
7 from families desperate to find a solution for their loved one,
8 but who clearly cannot afford market-rate care; they also
9 report that it is not uncommon for residents to have to leave
10 their programs for Medicaid-funded nursing home beds, because
11 they have spent down all their resources; and

12 WHEREAS, The State has 147 nursing homes with dedicated
13 Alzheimer's units, yet most individuals with Alzheimer's do not
14 have complex medical needs that require 24-hour skilled nursing
15 care; and

16 WHEREAS, For many moderate and low-income families, who can
17 no longer care for their loved ones at home, a Medicaid nursing
18 home bed is the only solution that they can afford; and

19 WHEREAS, Neither of Illinois' existing subsidized
20 affordable assisted living type programs include Alzheimer's
21 dedicated units, although the Supportive Living Facilities

1 have filed rules for a demonstration project, which would need
2 to be amended to permit existing Assisted Living dedicated
3 Alzheimer's units to participate; and

4 WHEREAS, A similar program at the Illinois Department on
5 Aging - Comprehensive Community Residential Settings - could
6 easily be expanded to permit dedicated dementia programs;
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
10 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the State of Illinois establish
11 an affordable Alzheimer's housing-with-services program that
12 builds off of both the Supportive Living Facilities and the
13 Comprehensive Community Residential Settings programs; and be
14 it further

15 RESOLVED, That existing assisted living dedicated
16 Alzheimer's programs be permitted to participate and that
17 nursing homes be encouraged to convert a distinct portion of
18 their facilities to Alzheimer's dedicated
19 housing-with-services units; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That appropriate Medicaid waivers be sought to
21 permit the State to access enhanced federal matching funds for
22 the support of the project; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Department of Healthcare and Family
2 Services, the Department of Public Health, and the Department
3 on Aging collaborate in the development, implementation,
4 oversight, and evaluation of the project.