



HR0790

LRB097 18891 AJ0 64129 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The role of the judiciary in Illinois is vitally important to individuals, businesses, units of local government, and other entities; and

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WHEREAS, The confidence of our residents in our judiciary is an important part of the fabric of State government; and

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WHEREAS, Any question about the ability, experience, or integrity of the associate judges who perform central functions of the judiciary detracts from the esteem in which the Illinois judiciary is held; and

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WHEREAS, A systematic program to improve the performance of associate judges would improve the quality of justice and boost the confidence of our citizens in State government; therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Illinois Supreme Court is urged to consider a system for the evaluation and removal of associate judges that could be administered by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts; and be it further

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1           RESOLVED, That an evaluation system could include  
2 assessment and ranking mechanisms for an appraisal of associate  
3 judges by the circuit judges of the judicial circuit within  
4 which the associate judges serve; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That an evaluation program with this purpose  
6 could include rankings on factors such as: (1) knowledge of the  
7 substantive law and the applicable rules and procedures; (2)  
8 ability to treat participants with fairness, dignity, and  
9 respect; (3) avoidance of conflicts and improprieties; (4)  
10 quality of written and oral communications; (5) participation  
11 in professional development activities; and (6) efficient  
12 management of the courtroom and calendar; and be it further

13           RESOLVED, That an evaluation system might also include the  
14 participation of bar associations active within the circuit to  
15 provide comments from lawyers who practice before associate  
16 judges; and be it further

17           RESOLVED, That the Illinois Supreme Court might consider an  
18 evaluation system that provides that any associate judge who is  
19 rated in the lowest 10% of associate judges in the circuit in  
20 which he or she serves for any 2 years within any 3-year period  
21 be removed from office; and be it further

22           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this Resolution be

1 delivered to the Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court.