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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, In an effort to crack down on fraud, the General Assembly passed into law regulations restricting which citizens with disabilities may park at meters for free; and

WHEREAS, Some citizens with disabilities that no longer qualify for free parking are having difficulty physically using the meters; many with disabilities do not move very quickly and have a harder time making it back to their vehicles in time to move their car or feed the meter; and

WHEREAS, There are very few spots reserved specifically for disabled drivers in many areas of the State, especially in downtown Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Many citizens with disabilities are on fixed incomes and have difficulties being able to pay for parking, especially with the expensive parking rates in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of State's office currently has a program for reduced license plate fees for citizens with disabilities and the Regional Transit Authority currently has a program that allows passengers with disabilities to ride for free; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2           NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
3           we urge the Secretary of State's office to review the current  
4           policies regarding meter parking for those with disabilities,  
5           and we encourage them to work with qualified medical  
6           professionals, advocates, and citizens with disabilities to  
7           consider various options to make meter parking more affordable  
8           and accessible for a greater number of citizens with  
9           disabilities, including possibly re-instating free parking or  
10          reduced parking for the disabled; and be it further

11          RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
12          presented to Secretary of State Jesse White.