



HR1256

LRB098 22493 GRL 61414 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, On July 16, 2014, Jesse Vega, also known as Jesse
3 Ortiz, escaped from Elgin Mental Health Center custody while
4 being transported to a court hearing concerning criminal
5 charges pending against him; and

6 WHEREAS, Vega was charged with aggravated domestic
7 battery, aggravated battery causing great bodily harm,
8 aggravated battery in a public place, obstructing justice, and
9 aggravated driving under the influence with a suspended or
10 revoked license; and

11 WHEREAS, Vega remained at large for 8 hours, placing the
12 community in harm's way for an extended period of time; and

13 WHEREAS, At the time of the escape, Vega was accompanied by
14 3 security officers; he fled from the vehicle as it was stopped
15 at a gas station in a residential neighborhood; and

16 WHEREAS, The safety of individuals residing, working, or
17 traveling in our neighborhoods is of paramount concern; the
18 public requires a full understanding of how this escape
19 occurred so officials may take the necessary steps to help
20 prevent any future escape; and

1 WHEREAS, This escape constitutes a breakdown in either the
2 design or execution of the procedures governing the
3 transportation of prisoners at the Elgin Mental Health Center;
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
6 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we direct the Office of the Auditor General to conduct an
8 investigation to examine the circumstances surrounding Vega's
9 escape and evaluate whether prisoner transport procedures need
10 to be improved at Elgin Mental Health Center and/or all State
11 facilities; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we urge the administration of the Elgin
13 Mental Health Center and all other institutions involved with
14 this inquiry to make available all information to the Office of
15 the Auditor General that may be necessary to their
16 investigation; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Office of the Auditor General shall
18 present a report to the Illinois House of Representatives
19 detailing the findings of its investigation and any
20 recommendations for procedural reform, should they result from
21 the investigation, not more than one year after the passage of
22 this resolution; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 delivered to the Governor, the Director of the Department of
3 Human Services, the Director of the Department of Corrections,
4 and the members of the Illinois congressional delegation.