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LRB099 07257 GRL 27360 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, On June 12, 2010, Governor Pat Quinn signed the  
3 Veterans and Servicemembers Court Treatment Act into law; the  
4 Act allows counties in Illinois to create a Veterans and  
5 Servicemembers Court Program or Veterans' Treatment Courts for  
6 military veterans charged with non-violent crimes; and

7 WHEREAS, Currently, Cook, DuPage, Lake, Madison, Peoria,  
8 Will, Winnebago, and several other counties have Veterans'  
9 Treatment Courts to assist veterans with substance abuse and  
10 other related problems; and

11 WHEREAS, Many returning veterans suffer from  
12 Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, traumatic brain injuries,  
13 substance abuse, and other service-related disabilities; and

14 WHEREAS, Veterans' Treatment Courts are used as an  
15 alternative venue to the regular criminal justice system for  
16 non-violent criminal offenses; the courts connect veterans  
17 with specialized treatment and counseling programs to assist  
18 them with transitioning to life after their military service;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Veterans' Treatment Courts require regular court  
21 appearances in addition to mandatory attendance at treatment

1 sessions for substance abuse as well as random testing for  
2 substance use; and

3 WHEREAS, Upon successful completion of the program, the  
4 charges against the veteran may be dismissed; and

5 WHEREAS, Veterans' Treatment Courts are in a unique  
6 position to link veterans with additional services and  
7 resources available to them; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
9 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
10 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we encourage the creation of  
11 Veterans and Servicemembers Treatment Courts in all counties in  
12 the State of Illinois; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we urge counties that currently have  
14 successful programs to work with other counties to help create  
15 successful programs and provide assistance in implementation  
16 to better serve our veterans in every county; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
18 presented to the County Board Chair or President of all 102  
19 Illinois counties.