



HR0135

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Homeless youth have a higher crime rate than those with stable housing; an estimated number of approximately 26,400 youth experience homelessness in Illinois over the course of a year; and

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WHEREAS, In 2005, a state-wide study of homeless youth found that 22% had been kept in juvenile detention, at the average cost of \$53,645 per student annually; and

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WHEREAS, One method of mitigating this growing problem is to get homeless youth active in pursuing post-secondary education; homeless youth are severely underrepresented in the university population and are often held back due to the lack of funding for housing, leaving a cycle of inhibition; and

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WHEREAS, In order to combat this trend, an initiative has been proposed that would provide housing scholarships to students in undergraduate colleges and universities who self-report as homeless; the program would give these students aid in paying for non-campus housing, which would allow for these students to attend a university without the worry of finding funding for housing; applicants would be required to get a Homeless Status Certification from the Secretary of State Driver Services department and be full-time students; and

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1 WHEREAS, This program would allow some of our most
2 vulnerable citizens to receive a quality education and become
3 productive members of society; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
6 urge the boards of trustees of every public university in the
7 State of Illinois to adopt a program that provides housing
8 scholarships to college students that are registered as
9 homeless and to include funding for this program in their
10 appropriations requests to the General Assembly; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be sent
13 to the boards of trustees of the 9 public universities in the
14 State of Illinois.