



HJ0061

LRB100 12946 MST 27004 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois owes a debt of gratitude to  
3 veterans who have protected our nation by serving in the  
4 military; and

5 WHEREAS, The high rate of veteran suicide is a tragedy that  
6 Illinois should be compelled to do everything within its power  
7 to prevent; the Veteran Suicide Prevention Task Force gathered  
8 information and testimony on ways to give support to veterans  
9 in need and to prevent veteran suicide; and

10 WHEREAS, The Veteran Suicide Prevention Task Force found  
11 one method of suicide prevention is encouraging veterans to own  
12 therapy dogs; therapy dogs provide many positives to veterans  
13 such as comfort in unfamiliar places; therapy dogs provide  
14 constant affectionate companionship and give a sense of duty to  
15 a veteran that bolsters his or her sense of self; and

16 WHEREAS, There is no current standard of identification or  
17 regulation of therapy dogs in Illinois; the Illinois Veteran  
18 Suicide Prevention Task Force recommended the State of Illinois  
19 develop a licensing program for therapy dogs; and

20 WHEREAS, Other states also have programs for therapy dogs;  
21 Tennessee has a program called "Patriot Paws"; Illinois is host

1 to a program in Chicago called "Valor", which provides an  
2 in-house eight-week program for veterans and dogs; therefore,  
3 be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
5 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE  
6 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the Department of Financial and  
7 Professional Regulation to research programs of identification  
8 and training for therapy dogs, especially therapy dogs  
9 designated for veterans, and provide a report to the General  
10 Assembly on possibilities for legislation to provide a  
11 certification program for therapy dogs in the State of  
12 Illinois; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14 delivered to the Department of Financial and Professional  
15 Regulation.