



HR0030

LRB101 04028 ALS 49036 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, A proposed tax on sugar-sweetened beverages to generate revenue to balance the State's budget has been contemplated by some policymakers; and

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WHEREAS, Adding an additional tax on sugar-sweetened beverages will raise grocery costs for hardworking Illinois families and kill Illinois jobs; and

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WHEREAS, Studies have concluded that any obesity-related benefit of decreased sugar-sweetened beverage consumption that comes from a tax is negligible or offset by individual circumstances and environments; for instance, West Virginia has had a sugar-sweetened beverage tax since 1951 and has the second highest obesity rate in the United States at 35.6%; since 1990, the diabetes rate in West Virginia has more than doubled from 6.7% to 14.5%; Arkansas has had a sugar-sweetened beverage tax since 1992; during this time, obesity rates have doubled from 17% to 34.5%, ranking it the sixth-highest rate in the United States; additionally, the diabetes rate has doubled from 5.8% to 12.6%; and

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WHEREAS, If the sugar-sweetened beverage tax will reduce consumption as the advocates claim, then it will in turn negatively impact bottlers, manufacturers, agricultural

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1 suppliers, distributors, retailers, and labor; with more than  
2 100,000 Illinois residents directly and indirectly employed by  
3 the beverage industry, the vast beverage industry could face  
4 layoffs if the sugar-sweetened beverage tax is signed into law;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Beverage-related jobs create \$654 million in  
7 wages in Illinois, with an additional \$702 million in wages for  
8 occupations that rely on beverage sales; passing this soda  
9 beverage tax would decrease sales, resulting in a decrease in  
10 local and State revenue at a time when governments across  
11 Illinois are facing declining revenue; and

12 WHEREAS, A soda tax will provide additional incentive to  
13 the two-thirds of Illinois residents who live within a  
14 40-minute drive of a neighboring state to shop in that  
15 neighboring state and therefore further weaken tax receipts and  
16 cripple local businesses; specifically, Illinois retailers  
17 that border other states will be put at an even greater  
18 competitive disadvantage with out-of-state retailers; and

19 WHEREAS, A recent proposal would impose an unreasonable new  
20 State penny-per-ounce tax that would result in 68 cents in new  
21 taxes on a typical 99-cent, two-liter bottle of soda; and

22 WHEREAS, An additional tax on sugar-sweetened beverages

1 goes against the pro-business, pro-jobs, pro-growth policies  
2 that should be under careful consideration as Illinois seeks to  
3 regain sound financial footing; therefore, be it

4       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
5 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
6 we fully support our hardworking citizens and oppose all  
7 efforts, on the State or local level, to impose new taxes on  
8 beverages and food; and be it further

9       RESOLVED, That we state our firm opposition to any  
10 additional taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages.