



HR0682

LRB101 19646 LAW 69132 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The right to vote is a fundamental right that
3 shall not be infringed; and

4 WHEREAS, This right has not always been freely and equally
5 applied to all persons, and the history of this nation is awash
6 in efforts to suppress voting rights on the basis of race,
7 ethnicity, age, and economic status; and

8 WHEREAS, These efforts were renewed with particular
9 virulence following the 2008 Presidential Election; and

10 WHEREAS, 25 states have implemented restrictions on free
11 and equal access to voting since 2010, including the five
12 states with the highest voter turnout rates in 2008; and

13 WHEREAS, 13 states have attempted to eliminate Election Day
14 Registration, limit voter registration drives, and reduce
15 opportunities for voters to register to vote; and

16 WHEREAS, Requiring voters to present a photo
17 identification to cast a ballot disproportionately
18 disenfranchises people who may not be able to afford time off
19 from work to obtain such an ID in time to vote, work jobs with
20 unconventional hours, are homeless, or are otherwise unable to

1 access such identification; and

2 WHEREAS, Laws that strike voters from the rolls solely on
3 the basis of non-participation disproportionately
4 disenfranchise elder and less mobile voters, servicepersons,
5 and others, essentially infringing voters' rights as
6 punishment for their choice not to vote; and

7 WHEREAS, Closing polling places on college campuses and
8 imposing restrictions on students seeking to exercise their
9 right goes against the public policy of Illinois to foster the
10 civic responsibility of each generation; and

11 WHEREAS, State and federal courts have routinely rejected
12 laws attempting to limit early voting, student voting, and
13 other suppressive tactics on the basis that they
14 unconstitutionally infringed the right to vote; and

15 WHEREAS, Some states hide behind bureaucratic measures to
16 limit voter registration; two examples are the Georgia
17 Secretary of State refusing to process 53,000 voter
18 registration applications, of which 70% were from African
19 American voters and 80% of all the refused applications were
20 from people of color, and North Dakota refusing to accept IDs
21 from Native American or Indigenous voters; and

1 WHEREAS, On the assumption that those voters moved,
2 Wisconsin is attempting to remove over 200,000 registered
3 voters on the basis that some had not responded to a recent
4 mailing from the Wisconsin Elections Commission, and the
5 December court order to remove roughly 234,000 voters is
6 currently on hold pending an appeal with the Wisconsin Court of
7 Appeals; and

8 WHEREAS, Florida directly rebuffed the will of their own
9 people by cutting back on the 2018 voter-approved restoration
10 of voting rights to ex-felons; and

11 WHEREAS, Our Midwestern neighbors, including Missouri,
12 Wisconsin, Indiana, Kansas, Iowa and Ohio, have limited the
13 early voting and voting by mail options, cut polling place
14 hours, and instituted photo ID requirements or requiring proof
15 of citizenship to cast a ballot; and

16 WHEREAS, Voter suppression silences communities, groups,
17 and persons and allows those in power to ignore their voices in
18 the public arena; and

19 WHEREAS, 2.3 million Illinois voters ratified an amendment
20 to the State Constitution in 2014 rejecting these
21 discriminatory voter suppression tactics; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we condemn voter suppression efforts and support all efforts to
4 protect the free exercise of the right to vote.