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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

2 WHEREAS, The Great Migration, a long-term movement of
3 African Americans from the South to the urban North,
4 transformed Chicago and other northern cities between 1916 and
5 1970; and

6 WHEREAS, Chicago attracted slightly more than 500,000 of
7 the approximately 7 million African Americans who left the
8 South during these decades; and

9 WHEREAS, Before the Great Migration, African Americans
10 constituted just 2 percent of Chicago's population, but by 1970
11 African Americans constituted 33 percent of Chicago's
12 population; and

13 WHEREAS, What had been in the nineteenth century a largely
14 southern and rural African American culture became a culture
15 deeply infused with urban sensibility in the twentieth century;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, What had been a marginalized population in Chicago
18 emerged by the mid-twentieth century as a powerful force in the
19 city's political, economic, and cultural life; and

20 WHEREAS, The Black Metropolis National Heritage Area

1 Project Steering Committee has worked with Congressman Bobby
2 Rush on federal legislation for the Black Metropolis District
3 National Heritage Area (NHA) and the Great Migration Centennial
4 will serve as one of the benchmarks for the National Heritage
5 Area which focuses on preservation, tourism & economic
6 development, conservation, recreation, education &
7 interpretation; and

8 WHEREAS, The Black Metropolis National Heritage Area
9 Project Steering Committee has identified 10 Major Promise
10 Programs for the next century which include:

- 11 1. Great Migration Public Art;
- 12 2. In Motion: African American Migration Experience;
- 13 3. Great Migration Trail: Rails to Trails Conservancy
14 Project;
- 15 4. The Rosenwald Building;
- 16 5. The Chicago Blues Museum;
- 17 6. The Pullman Porter Great Migration Blues Trail;
- 18 7. Leadership Development Institute;
- 19 8. Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships;
- 20 9. Black Metropolis Social Innovation Fund; and
- 21 10. Bronzeville Postmark and Postal Sub-station; and

22 WHEREAS, The Great Migration Centennial celebrates the
23 promise that Chicago once offered a people in search of a
24 better life 100 years ago; and

1 WHEREAS, The theme adopted by the Black Metropolis National
2 Heritage Project Steering Committee, "Creating a New Promise",
3 acknowledges the hope that has been restored through the new
4 political administration and addresses the need for the greater
5 Chicagoland region to deliver on its promise and create a new
6 social compact for the future; and

7 WHEREAS, To succeed in the 21st century global competition
8 for jobs, prosperity, and quality of life for all, we must have
9 inspiring and well-accepted plans to produce action; and

10 WHEREAS, The Great Migration Centennial will challenge
11 children and adults throughout the region to make choices today
12 that will define the way we live for the next century;
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
16 CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Illinois Great Migration
17 Centennial Commission is created; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the members of the Commission shall include
19 the President of the Senate or his designee and the Speaker of
20 the House of Representatives or his designee, each serving as
21 one of the co-chairpersons, the Governor or his designee, one

1 vice-chairperson appointed by the co-chairpersons, all of whom
2 shall serve as the Executive Committee and 25 appointed
3 members, with the Governor, the President of the Senate, the
4 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of
5 the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the House of
6 Representatives appointing 5 members each; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the appointed members shall serve without
8 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable and
9 necessary expenses from non-public sources if funds allow; and
10 be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the appointed members shall be from diverse
12 backgrounds so as to reflect the diverse citizenry of Illinois
13 working together for a common democratic cause, and that their
14 individual qualifications shall include varying educational,
15 professional, and civic experiences that bring different
16 perspectives and cooperative outlooks to the Commission; and be
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That the purpose of the Commission is to plan for
19 the Great Migration Centennial to be commemorated and
20 celebrated from January to December 2016 and to:

21 1. Elevate the centennial of the Great Migration to a
22 high-profile bi-partisan event;

23 2. Recognize the Great Migration as the largest

1 migration to ever occur in North America;

2 3. Stimulate and encourage the creation and growth of
3 programs about the Great Migration;

4 4. Highlight and publicize the institutions in the
5 State that are connected to the Great Migration and their
6 impact;

7 5. Work with coordinated statewide groups
8 commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Great
9 Migration; and

10 6. Encourage communities and citizens to support and
11 get involved in the commemoration; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, The Great Migration Centennial Commission serves
13 to promote a deeper knowledge, understanding and engagement in
14 the life and times of the African American Migration
15 Experience, through conferences, publications, preservation of
16 historic sites, and local, statewide and national observances
17 as well as arts projects, forum, travel and tourism promotions
18 and year-long celebration activities; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Commission's preliminary goals are to
20 develop:

21 1. a national honorary committee of historians,
22 educators, authors, politicians, celebrities and other
23 notables;

24 2. educational curriculum, events, tours, exhibits and

1 programs at the elementary, high school, secondary,
2 graduate and post-graduate level;

3 3. a signature entertainment event for fundraising and
4 broadcast purposes;

5 4. an educational symposium with university partners,
6 the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment
7 for the Humanities, the Illinois Arts Council, as well as
8 private foundations and other philanthropic organizations;

9 5. a year-long cultural promotional event calendar
10 supported by travel packages and other travel or tourism
11 incentives; and

12 6. a logo and trademark design for official use on all
13 Centennial commissioned related merchandise, apparel and
14 products officially licensed; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Commission shall meet as frequently as
16 necessary, at the call of the co-chairpersons; and be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, The Commission shall have the option of creating
19 a Council of Advisors and any working groups or committees it
20 deems necessary; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, The Commission shall have the option to
22 collaborate with any federal or local commissions designated to
23 recognize the Great Migration Centennial commemoration via

1 internet links, shared exhibits, activities and programs; and
2 be it further

3 RESOLVED, The Commission shall work with and establish
4 opportunities with the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs
5 and the Mayor's Office of Special Events; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Commission shall, while working in
7 coordination with and with the assistance of the Black
8 Metropolis National Heritage Area Project Steering Committee,
9 broaden outreach by using established channels, including
10 publicly supported media and electronic, computer-assisted
11 communication systems, and elicit voluntary assistance from
12 educational, legal, civic, and professional organizations and
13 institutions, as well as notable individuals; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That no later than December 31, 2012, the
15 Commission shall report to the General Assembly and the
16 Governor on its planning progress to commemorate and celebrate
17 the Great Migration Centennial; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Historic Preservation Agency, subject
19 to appropriation, shall have responsibility for, and may
20 provide technical assistance and administrative support to,
21 the Commission in its efforts; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That any such appropriation may be refunded to
2 the Historic Preservation Agency, should the Commission choose
3 to do so; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 delivered to the Governor of the State of Illinois.