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SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) causes deadly infections in patients receiving treatment in health care facilities and affects numerous individuals in the community; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has estimated that hospital-acquired MRSA infections kill more than 19,000 individuals in the United States every year; and

WHEREAS, More than 200 studies support the need for active detection (screening) of at-risk patients, upon admission to a healthcare facility, to identify MRSA carriers who are infected, reducing the chance of a patient acquiring a MRSA infection and reducing the reservoir of transmission in the facility; and

WHEREAS, Testing and decontaminating of frequently touched surfaces and other environments for MRSA and other pathogens can help reduce the reservoir of transmission to patients and community members; and

WHEREAS, Patient and consumer advocacy organizations are calling upon health care officials and government leaders to step up and take a more comprehensive approach to stopping MRSA

1 through implementation of active detection (screening) of
2 high-risk patients and decontaminating frequently touched
3 surfaces; and

4 WHEREAS, MRSA Survivors Network, the first consumer
5 organization in Illinois and the United States to raise
6 awareness concerning the MRSA epidemic and other such
7 multi-drug resistant health care-acquired infections, has
8 announced that April 1-7, 2012, has been designated as
9 International MRSA Testing Week in order to call attention to
10 this worldwide epidemic; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we proclaim April 1-7,
13 2012 as MRSA Testing Week in the State of Illinois to coincide
14 with International MRSA Testing Week.