



HR0136

LRB100 11272 MST 21611 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, On August 21, 2017, a total solar eclipse will be
3 visible from the west coast to the east coast of the
4 continental United States; and

5 WHEREAS, This will be the first total solar eclipse visible
6 in the continental U.S. since February 26, 1979, over 37 years
7 ago; and

8 WHEREAS, The extent of the eclipse across the U.S. will
9 provide a new generation with the opportunity to view this
10 amazing and exciting celestial event, when the sky grows dark
11 and the Sun's corona (the usually unseen "crown" around the
12 Sun) shines as bright as the full Moon; Mercury, Venus, Mars,
13 Jupiter, and several bright stars become visible, the
14 temperature drops, and animals become eerily quiet; and

15 WHEREAS, The entire great State of Illinois will experience
16 at least a partial eclipse, with at least 85% of the Sun's disk
17 blocked by the Moon, so that Illinoisans unable to experience
18 totality can still observe evidence of this event; and

19 WHEREAS, The 2017 solar eclipse will likely be seen by more
20 people than any other eclipse in history; and

1 WHEREAS, The University of Illinois Department of
2 Astronomy, the only public astronomy department in the State,
3 is a leading institution in the study of gravitational lensing,
4 predicted by Albert Einstein and first observed during a total
5 solar eclipse in 1919, thereby confirming Einstein's Theory of
6 General Relativity; and

7 WHEREAS, The year 2017 will mark the sesquicentennial
8 anniversary of the founding of the University of Illinois in
9 1867; and

10 WHEREAS, The University of Illinois Department of
11 Astronomy is hosting an eclipse viewing event in partnership
12 with the Village of Goreville, one of the closest towns to the
13 greatest duration; and

14 WHEREAS, The Southern Illinois University Department of
15 Physics is hosting an eclipse viewing event in Carbondale; and

16 WHEREAS, Many other communities along the path of the total
17 solar eclipse will be hosting events for Illinoisans, and
18 out-of-state visitors, both domestic and international; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2024, another total solar eclipse will be
20 visible from Southern Illinois; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
3 recognize Southern Illinois as the best place on Earth to view
4 the total solar eclipse on August 21, 2017, and prepare for the
5 2024 eclipse, and we commend the University of Illinois
6 Department of Astronomy for their research and for preparing
7 the people of Illinois for this historic event; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
10 presented to the University of Illinois Department of
11 Astronomy, the Southern Illinois University Department of
12 Physics, and the Astronomical Association of Southern
13 Illinois.