



HR0358

LRB100 12564 MST 25699 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Department of Innovation and Technology is a State agency that was created under an executive order by Governor Bruce Rauner; and

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WHEREAS, The Department is extremely opaque and lacks significant transparency requirements to which other State agencies are subject; for example, \$71 million was transferred by then Comptroller Leslie Munger out of the General Revenue Fund and deposited into various other funds used by the Department and the Department of Central Management Services; those funds already had healthy balances; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois is engaged in a historic budget impasse that has caused serious damage to the State and its citizens including: an increase in the State's backlog of bills to over \$12.7 billion; cuts to vital services for our most vulnerable residents including domestic violence victims, the developmentally disabled, and senior citizens; cuts to childcare that eliminated affordable daycare for 47,000 children; a substantial reduction in funding for MAP grants for low income students; State university credit rating downgrades to junk status; and drastic cuts to life-saving breast and cervical cancer screenings; and

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1 WHEREAS, Recent reports in the news media have brought to
2 light the fact that the Secretary of the Department of
3 Innovation and Technology, Hardik Bhatt, who is paid \$145,000 a
4 year, spent \$208,000 on annual membership costs for
5 professional subscriptions; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 Governor Rauner is urged to end the frivolous spending that is
9 currently taking place at the Department of Innovation and
10 Technology while the people of Illinois suffer; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That we admonish Secretary Bhatt, and urge him to
13 immediately cancel the subscriptions and seek to create a
14 department that is more open and transparent going forward; and
15 be it further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
17 delivered to Governor Rauner and Secretary Bhatt.