



SR0482

LRB100 12563 MST 25678 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, According to the Center for Creative Leadership, young people who volunteer in their communities are more likely to vote, stay actively involved in service, and feel empowered as citizens; and

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WHEREAS, A study in promoting student engagement by the American Psychological Association found that volunteers become emotionally connected to the communities in which they serve and sustain community involvement after volunteering - a strong positive indicator for future economic growth; and

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WHEREAS, Participation in civic engagement activities can help youth become better informed about current events; and

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WHEREAS, Other than student government, there are limited opportunities for high school students between the ages of 14 and 18 to partake in civic engagement and receive governmental experience; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois currently has more units of local government than any other state in the country; these units may be suited to provide valuable civic learning experiences for the youth of the State; therefore, be it

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1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we encourage all units  
3 of local government with elected boards to allow one non-voting  
4 student member to serve on their governing boards; and be it  
5 further

6           RESOLVED, That notwithstanding current provisions of  
7 Illinois statutes, units of local government with elected  
8 members may decide the manner in which nonvoting student  
9 members may be selected to serve as a member of the unit's  
10 governing body, whether it be through application, selection by  
11 the board, or nomination through a local school district,  
12 educational program, club, or youth group; and be it further

13           RESOLVED, That the unit of local government may determine  
14 the length of terms for the nonvoting student member, whether  
15 it be for one meeting or an academic school year; and be it  
16 further

17           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution shall be  
18 presented to the Illinois State Board of Education as well as  
19 organizations representing municipalities, counties,  
20 townships.