



HJ0082

LRB101 13333 MST 62176 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Illinois law provides that members of the General
3 Assembly will receive automatic cost of living pay increases
4 every year unless the General Assembly votes to reject those
5 pay raises; and

6 WHEREAS, Pay for legislators was frozen from 2009 through
7 2016; and

8 WHEREAS, Two former lawmakers filed a lawsuit demanding
9 back pay for lost wages during the time legislative pay was
10 frozen; and

11 WHEREAS, Their lawsuit also demanded backpay for furlough
12 days the General Assembly voluntarily accepted during one of
13 the worst financial crises the State has experienced to date;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, A Cook County judge has ruled that the pay freeze
16 from 2009 through 2016 is unconstitutional; and

17 WHEREAS, We support the efforts of the Illinois Comptroller
18 and the Illinois Attorney General to appeal this court
19 decision; and

1 WHEREAS, Pending the outcome of further legal action
2 through the appeals process, lawmakers who were active members
3 of the Illinois General Assembly from 2009 through 2016 may be
4 in line to receive upwards of \$13 million in backpay from the
5 State of Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois may also be forced to pay
7 substantial interest penalties on the backpay depending on the
8 final outcome of the appeals process; and

9 WHEREAS, The backpay would substantially increase
10 retirement benefits for legislators as any legislator retiring
11 in 2020 at age 60 would receive more than \$375,000 in
12 additional pension benefits during the course of his or her
13 retirement if his or her base salary is increased to \$81,700;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Article II, Section 1 of the Illinois Constitution
16 states: "The legislative, executive and judicial branches are
17 separate. No branch shall exercise powers properly belonging to
18 another."; and

19 WHEREAS, The legislative branch of government is a separate
20 branch of government and can decide for itself whether to
21 accept or reject pay raises; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
3 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that as a separate and co-equal
4 branch of Illinois government along with the executive and
5 judicial branches, we, as members of the Illinois General
6 Assembly, have the authority to decide our own pay; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That we reject all backpay and all compensation
9 for furlough days taken from 2009 through 2016; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
12 delivered to all Illinois constitutional officers, the Speaker
13 and Minority Leader of the Illinois House of Representatives,
14 and the President and Minority Leader of the Illinois Senate.