



HR0700

LRB101 17197 MST 66599 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Children are spending less time outdoors
3 exploring, discovering, and observing our natural world and
4 playing and creating in open spaces; and

5 WHEREAS, Not participating in these types of activities has
6 been shown to have adverse health, social, and emotional
7 consequences; and

8 WHEREAS, Spending time in the outdoors with frequent access
9 to nature experiences and lessons provides a foundation upon
10 which to build physical strength and environmental awareness;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Learning about the environment and other subjects
13 in an outdoor setting, an outdoor classroom or garden, and
14 through field studies and outdoor lab activities is known to
15 help increase student performance in class, increase student
16 interest in learning, reduce disciplinary problems, and
17 increase student ownership of work being done; and

18 WHEREAS, The future quality, quantity, and use of the
19 State's natural resources will lie in the hands of children;
20 and

1 WHEREAS, Children will need to understand natural systems
2 and the interrelationships between natural and human-built
3 systems in order to make decisions and take actions that will
4 maintain a high quality of life; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we believe that every child should have the right and
8 opportunity to explore the woods and climb a tree, run through
9 a field and build a fort, splash in the water and catch a fish,
10 explore a city park and turn over a log, sleep out in a tent and
11 gaze at the stars, follow a trail and listen to a bird song,
12 play in the mud and hold a frog, plant a garden and eat locally
13 grown food, play in the rain and follow animal tracks, and be
14 alone in nature or share it with a friend; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
16 delivered to the Director of the Illinois Department of Natural
17 Resources, the Director of the Illinois Environmental
18 Protection Agency, the Director of the Illinois Department of
19 Children and Family Services, and the Governor.