



HR0961

LRB101 23454 MST 74771 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has
3 resulted in declarations by the World Health Organization, the
4 United States government, and the Governor of Illinois that
5 COVID-19 presents a severe public health emergency; and

6 WHEREAS, The severe public health emergency presented by
7 COVID-19 is ongoing and continues to threaten the health and
8 safety of Illinoisans; and

9 WHEREAS, The Illinois judicial branch was required to
10 reschedule, delay, and modify the manner in which the Illinois
11 bar examination was held in September 2020, which continues to
12 present challenges for the upcoming February 2021 bar
13 examination; and

14 WHEREAS, This delay has left many graduates of law schools
15 in Illinois at a disadvantage, because they cannot begin their
16 careers or practice law without passing the bar examination;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, This delay presents increasingly severe
19 disadvantages to law school graduates who do not have the same
20 financial advantages as their peers; and

1 WHEREAS, Law school students and graduates are currently
2 allowed to practice law in certain limited capacities under the
3 Illinois Supreme Court Rule 711; and

4 WHEREAS, The Illinois Supreme Court temporarily amended
5 Illinois Supreme Court Rule 711 to add paragraph (g) on July 2,
6 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

7 WHEREAS, Paragraph (g) of Rule 711 allows December 2019 and
8 all 2020 Juris Doctor graduates of law schools accredited by
9 the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to
10 the Bar of the American Bar Association (ABA accredited law
11 schools) and Juris Doctor graduates of ABA accredited law
12 schools from prior years who have been serving as judicial law
13 clerks since their graduation who have not yet taken a bar
14 examination but have completed all educational requirements to
15 be eligible to take the Illinois bar examination and submitted
16 an application to take the September 2020 or February 2021
17 Illinois bar examinations to work as licensed under Rule 711
18 without application to the Administrative Director; and

19 WHEREAS, Paragraph (g) allows law school graduates to
20 utilize Rule 711 in expanded contexts, like law firms or other
21 private legal departments or organizations to temporarily
22 practice law in light of the COVID-19 pandemic; therefore, be
23 it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we urge the Illinois Supreme Court to permanently amend
4 Illinois Supreme Court Rule 711 to include paragraph (g) to
5 expand the option for practicing law to other graduates of ABA
6 accredited law schools without taking the Illinois bar
7 examination and to provide for an automatic admission to the
8 Illinois bar for graduates who complete 360 hours of legal
9 services as allowed under paragraph (g) of Rule 711 and comply
10 with all registration and fee requirements of the Illinois
11 Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 delivered to the Illinois Supreme Court.