



HR0008

LRB102 04112 LAW 14129 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Approximately 32 million people in the United
3 States have food allergies; results from a 2015 to 2016 survey
4 of more than 38,000 children indicated that 5.6 million
5 children, or nearly 8%, have food allergies; that is one in 13
6 children, or roughly two in every classroom; and

7 WHEREAS, Children with food allergies are two to four
8 times more likely to have other related conditions, such as
9 asthma and other allergies, compared with children without
10 food allergies; this is of great importance as children with a
11 coexisting food allergy and asthma may be more likely to
12 experience anaphylactic reactions to foods and be at high risk
13 of death; and

14 WHEREAS, Food allergy is a potentially serious immune
15 response to eating specific foods or food additives; eight
16 types of food (milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, fish,
17 shellfish, soy, and wheat) account for over 90% of allergic
18 reactions in affected individuals; and

19 WHEREAS, Reactions to these foods by an allergic person
20 can range from a tingling sensation around the mouth and lips
21 or hives to death, depending on the severity of the allergy;
22 every three minutes, a food allergy reaction sends someone to

1 the emergency room; each year in the U.S., 200,000 people
2 require emergency medical care for allergic reactions to food;
3 between 2007 and 2016, medical procedures to treat anaphylaxis
4 resulting from food increased by 377%; more than 40% of
5 children with food allergies have experienced a severe
6 allergic reaction such as anaphylaxis; and

7 WHEREAS, The mechanisms by which a person develops an
8 allergy to specific foods are largely unknown; food allergies
9 are more prevalent in children than adults, and a majority of
10 affected children will outgrow food allergies with age;
11 children under age 5 years had higher rates of reported food
12 allergy compared with children at 5 to 17 years of age; boys
13 and girls had similar rates of food allergy; and

14 WHEREAS, A food allergy can sometimes become a lifelong
15 concern; food allergies can greatly affect the well-being of
16 children and their families; annually, caring for children
17 with food allergies costs U.S. families nearly \$25 billion;
18 there are some indications that the prevalence of food
19 allergies may be increasing in the United States and in other
20 countries; and

21 WHEREAS, A food allergy is an impairment that limits a
22 major life activity and may qualify an individual for
23 protection under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

1 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and

2 WHEREAS, Increased food allergy awareness will lead to
3 greater public understanding of these health problems and will
4 lead to more life-saving research on the subject; therefore,
5 be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we declare May of 2021 as Food Allergy Awareness Month in the
9 State of Illinois.