



HR0090

LRB102 13032 LAW 18375 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives would like to declare African Methodist
4 Episcopal (AME) Church Day on March 27, 2021 and celebrate the
5 AME Church's 205th anniversary of their founding in 1816; and

6 WHEREAS, The African Methodist Episcopal Church was born
7 through adversity and grew out of the Free African Society
8 (FAS), which was established in Philadelphia by Richard Allen,
9 Absalom Jones, and others in 1787; due to racial
10 discrimination at St. George's MEC, members made plans to
11 transform their mutual aid society into an African
12 congregation; Bethel AME was dedicated in 1974 with Richard
13 Allen as its pastor; and

14 WHEREAS, The geographical spread of the AMEC prior to the
15 Civil War was mainly restricted to the Northeast and Midwest;
16 the denomination reached the Pacific Coast in the early 1850s;
17 the most significant era of denominational development
18 occurred during the Civil War and Reconstruction; because of
19 its rapid spread below the Mason-Dixon line, AME membership
20 reached 400,000; and

21 WHEREAS, Today, the African American Methodist Episcopal
22 Church has membership in 20 Episcopal Districts in 44

1 countries on five continents; the work of the Church is
2 administered by 21 active bishops and nine general officers,
3 who manage the departments of the Church; Reverend John
4 Franklin White is the 130th Elected and Consecrated Bishop and
5 is the Presiding Bishop of the Fourth Episcopal District of
6 the AME Church (AMEC); he supervises AME Churches and pastors
7 in Canada, Michigan, Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and
8 Illinois; his wife, Mrs. Penny Hartsfield White, is the
9 Episcopal Supervisor of the Fourth District; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we declare African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church Day on
13 March 27, 2021 and congratulate the AME Church on their 205th
14 anniversary; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, that we recognize the Fourth District Council
16 for its leadership and service, and we wish the AME continued
17 success in its mission to minister to the social, spiritual,
18 and physical development of all people.