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LRB102 18989 LAW 27717 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, More than 40 professional sports franchises have
3 relocated since 1960; some moves of this sort are widely
4 anticipated and leave no major scars; other relocations,
5 however, are still bemoaned decades later as civic and
6 economic wounds of historic proportions; and

7 WHEREAS, While there are many financial reasons why the
8 Chicago Bears are unlikely to leave Soldier Field for
9 Arlington Heights any time soon, the fact that the team has
10 expressed exploring buying property in the suburbs is
11 disconcerting as many fans consider the Chicago Bears to be
12 part of Chicago's identity and a source of unity born of civic
13 pride; and

14 WHEREAS, Even as many of us make regular pilgrimages to
15 Soldier Field, fans also readily acknowledge that the stadium
16 isn't the most comfortable or modern of NFL venues; in fact, in
17 a recent informal survey held on patch.com, over 70 percent of
18 6,000 readers responded that they would like to see the team
19 move; despite the survey's informality, results like this
20 merit our attention; and

21 WHEREAS, The economics of major professional sports
22 leagues have been changing dramatically in recent years; from

1 television and streaming rights to team-sanctioned legalized
2 sports betting to worldwide merchandising deals and massive
3 media empires, teams have become huge corporate conglomerates
4 with wide-ranging interests far beyond the stadium; and

5 WHEREAS, The Chicago Bears are an important source of
6 economic activity and civic pride for the City of Chicago;
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
9 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we urge the city of Chicago and the State of Illinois to work
11 with the owners of the Chicago Bears in order to reach an
12 agreement that both parties see as equitable and beneficial to
13 keep the team in Chicago; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 delivered to Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot.