



HR1037

LRB102 30064 MST 42265 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Senator  
4 Scott Bennett, who passed away on December 9, 2022; and

5           WHEREAS, Sen. Bennett was born to Dr. Robert and Barbara  
6 Bennett in Fort Campbell, Kentucky on July 16, 1977; he moved  
7 with his family as an infant to Gibson City, where five  
8 generations of his family have worked on their family farm; he  
9 graduated from Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley High School in 1995;  
10 following, he studied history at Illinois State University and  
11 graduated in 1998; he then studied law at the University of  
12 Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where he graduated in 2002 with a  
13 Juris Doctor; and

14           WHEREAS, Sen. Bennett began his career in law and politics  
15 in 1999 when he earned an internship at the White House and  
16 served the Clinton Administration in the Office of  
17 Presidential Gifts; he served as a prosecutor with the City of  
18 Chicago and returned to central Illinois to work as an  
19 assistant state's attorney in Bloomington-Normal and later as  
20 an assistant state's attorney in Champaign-Urbana; some of his  
21 most important work was dedicated to seeking justice for child  
22 victims of crime; and

1           WHEREAS, Sen. Bennett was appointed to fill Michael  
2 Frerichs' vacant state senate seat in 2015; he was known to  
3 rise above partisanship to find common ground for the good of  
4 Illinois; he was a tireless advocate for measures to protect  
5 the environment, agriculture in Illinois, and the quality of  
6 life for the most vulnerable in the State of Illinois; and

7           WHEREAS, Sen. Bennett served as the chairman of the Higher  
8 Education Committee; he served as the vice chairman of the  
9 Judiciary Committee and State Government Committee; he served  
10 as the sub-chairman of the Judiciary, Appropriations for  
11 Higher Education, Redistricting for East Central and Southeast  
12 Illinois, Judiciary-Privacy, and Unemployment Insurance  
13 Committees; he served as the sub-vice-chairman for the  
14 Redistricting of West Central Illinois and Judiciary-Business  
15 Entities Committees; he served as a member of the Agriculture  
16 Committee, the Executive Appointments Committee, Redistricting  
17 Committee, and Redistricting Southern Illinois Committee; and

18           WHEREAS, Sen. Bennett instituted protections to keep  
19 drinking water in the Mahomet Aquifer safe; he promoted  
20 compassionate courtrooms, including authorizing the use of  
21 comfort dogs; he worked with Treasurer Michael Frerichs to  
22 create the ABLE Act, which helped cover expenses for persons  
23 with disabilities; he fought to increase college affordability  
24 and worked to support the University of Illinois, Parkland

1 College, and Danville Community College; and

2 WHEREAS, Sen. Bennett was dedicated to the people of his  
3 district; he would always make time to hear of their troubles  
4 and work towards solutions within and without the State  
5 legislature; he was known for checking on his constituents to  
6 ask how they were doing and if there was anything he could do  
7 to help; and

8 WHEREAS, Sen. Bennett was a beloved family man and was  
9 known for his humor and quick wit; he was a genuine and caring  
10 person with friends, family, constituents, and colleagues from  
11 his own party and across the aisle; he could bring a smile to  
12 anyone's face and create a space for connection with a laugh;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Sen. Bennett always found time to take care of  
15 his family and to work on his family's centennial farm; he was  
16 proud to obtain a commercial driver's license so he could haul  
17 grain in a semi-truck to the area grain elevator; he took time  
18 to call constituents while waiting for the truck to be loaded  
19 to ask about their day; he loved being a part of the farming  
20 community of Illinois; and

21 WHEREAS, Sen. Bennett final act of service was to his  
22 beloved family; he safely drove his family home from the

1 airport after a family trip, tucked his children into bed, and  
2 kissed his wife goodnight; he was found unresponsive in bed  
3 the next morning due to an undiagnosed brain tumor and was  
4 taken to the Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana; and

5 WHEREAS, Sen. Bennett was preceded in death by his  
6 grandmother, Charlene Bennett; his grandmother, Marge Barry;  
7 his grandfather, Lee Barry; his uncle, Dennis Barry; his  
8 cousin, Crystal Barry; and his mother-in-law, Mardelle  
9 Meredith; and

10 WHEREAS, Sen. Bennett is survived by his wife of 20 years,  
11 Stacy Bennett; his children, Sam and Emma; his parents, Dr.  
12 Robert and Barbara Bennett; his brother, Rob Bennett; his  
13 sister-in-law, Mabruka Yazidi; his niece, Naimi  
14 Yazidi-Bennett; his uncles, Rep. Tom Bennett and Doug Bennett;  
15 his aunt, Carol Bennett-Barker; his aunt, Wanda Driscoll; his  
16 aunt, Carol Sanecki; his father-in-law, Bill Meredith; many  
17 cousins and friends; and his dog, Betty White; therefore, be  
18 it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
20 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
21 we mourn the passing of Senator Scott Bennett and extend our  
22 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew  
23 and loved him; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to the family of Sen. Bennett as an expression of our  
3 deepest sympathy.