



SR0105

LRB102 12651 LAW 17990 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Environmental Protection
3 Agency (EPA), waste rotting in landfills can result in high
4 emissions of methane gas, a precursor gas of the harmful air
5 pollutant tropospheric ozone; additionally, methane is an
6 ignitable gas and a contributor to global warming; and

7 WHEREAS, The Illinois Environmental Council and the
8 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency report that there are
9 currently 42 landfills in Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, The alternative to collecting waste in a landfill
11 is often incinerating waste in a furnace; certain sites in
12 Illinois, such as the site in the city of Clinton, incinerate
13 potentially harmful medical waste only; other sites, such as
14 the site in Sauget, east of St. Louis, incinerate both
15 hazardous and nonhazardous waste; and

16 WHEREAS, Incinerating waste is often thought to be the
17 remedy to landfills and their harmful by-products; however,
18 burning waste has its own host of malefactors as burning
19 plastics produces toxic substances called dioxins; and

20 WHEREAS, The World Health Organization notes that dioxins
21 are highly toxic; they can cause reproductive and

1 developmental problems, damage the immune system, interfere
2 with hormones, and cause cancer; and

3 WHEREAS, RecyclingBins.Co.UK notes that gases from
4 incineration cause air pollution and contribute to a
5 phenomenon called acid rain, where the rain's pH balance is
6 askew, which can harm natural wildlife, forestry, aquaponics,
7 and agriculture; and

8 WHEREAS, The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency also
9 notes that ashes of incineration often carry heavy metals and
10 toxins that can make surrounding ground water carcinogenic;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Carcinogenic ground water often contains chemical
13 compounds known as nitrates which, when ingested by humans,
14 are converted naturally into nitrites, which can dramatically
15 reduce the blood's ability to carry oxygen; nitrates are
16 especially harmful to children and infants under 6 months; and

17 WHEREAS, According to the Illinois Environmental Council,
18 Illinois' current recycling programs divert over 7 million
19 tons of useful materials from landfills and save enough energy
20 to heat and light 578,000 homes; additionally, recycling in
21 Illinois reduces water pollution by 21,500 tons of various
22 contaminants and reduces air pollution by 131,000 tons of

1 various contaminants each year; and

2 WHEREAS, Recycling in our homes, our schools, and our
3 workplaces can help reduce the amount of waste that is
4 transferred to landfill sites; reducing the amount of waste we
5 produce can have positive effects on our communities and our
6 State; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare April 19 to
9 April 22, 2021 as Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Week.