



HR0252

LRB103 31971 LAW 60754 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Passenger rail service is increasingly being  
3 recognized as a critical asset for small and medium-sized  
4 communities, providing reasonably priced, safe, and accessible  
5 transportation to complement the highway network; and

6           WHEREAS, Fast and frequent passenger trains will help our  
7 region to remain globally competitive by lowering travel  
8 costs, bypassing highway congestion, and improving access to  
9 jobs and education; and

10           WHEREAS, The State has an excellent mix of universities  
11 and colleges that have long been supported by trains to  
12 Chicago and will become more attractive with improved service;  
13 and

14           WHEREAS, Improved access to O'Hare International Airport  
15 will make the airport more attractive for airlines to offer  
16 international flights, which will give communities throughout  
17 Illinois better access to global markets; and

18           WHEREAS, Illinois has a long history of investing in  
19 passenger trains, including Amtrak, Metra, and the South Shore  
20 Line; and

1           WHEREAS, Amtrak and Metra are jointly developing a group  
2 of projects to improve rail infrastructure in Chicago,  
3 including a direct link between O'Hare International Airport,  
4 Chicago Union Station, and McCormick Place; and

5           WHEREAS, Metra has committed to converting to Regional  
6 Rail, where trains operate on "memory schedules", defined as  
7 arrivals and departures at the same time each hour they appear  
8 on the schedule, to provide quality service to people  
9 traveling for many purposes and between many destinations  
10 throughout the day; and

11           WHEREAS, Downstate communities will also benefit from  
12 Regional Rail, as use of frequent trains on memory schedules  
13 provides the opportunity to serve many types of passenger  
14 trips; and

15           WHEREAS, Regional Rail is the foundation for a future  
16 high-speed line operating at 220 mph; and

17           WHEREAS, The State Rail Plan, the Statewide Public  
18 Transportation Plan, and Metra's strategic plan call for a  
19 robust web of trains and buses that could create new  
20 connectivity throughout the entire State, but projects are  
21 currently considered in isolation, with a focus on trips to  
22 Chicago; many travel markets and constituencies that would use

1 a well-connected system are missing from the analysis; and

2 WHEREAS, A unified approach would expedite planning and  
3 construction, reduce capital expenses, and create statewide  
4 benefits more quickly; and

5 WHEREAS, Federal funds are now available to expand and  
6 upgrade the State's rail network; however, to make the most of  
7 these opportunities, the State must act; and

8 WHEREAS, The Illinois High Speed Rail Commission is  
9 developing a vision for an integrated rail plan that would  
10 combine high-speed rail and regional rail to link the entire  
11 State; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
13 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
14 we urge the Illinois Department of Transportation and the High  
15 Speed Railroad Commission to move expeditiously in preparing a  
16 Statewide Integrated Network Plan, including the  
17 identification of desired service points and key transfer  
18 stations, the construction of a theoretical rail and bus  
19 schedule with timed transfers, the creation of a ridership and  
20 revenue model for the desired network, the estimation of  
21 needed infrastructure investments, and the development of a  
22 phased implementation plan; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 delivered to the Secretary of the Illinois Department of  
3 Transportation.