



HR0083

LRB094 04039 RAS 34056 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has shown that consumption of soft drinks has increased by 500% over the past 50 years, and Americans consume more than 53 gallons of carbonated soft drinks per person per year; and

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WHEREAS, Studies have consistently shown that frequent consumption of carbonated beverages with added sweeteners increases the risk of dental caries, enamel erosion, and obesity; and

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WHEREAS, An extra soft drink a day gives a child a 60% greater chance of becoming obese; and

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WHEREAS, Creating a captive audience among students for commercial marketing purposes and exclusive brand loyalty violates both the spirit of competition and public trust in schools; and

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WHEREAS, Low-income children receive most of their fruits and vegetables from school meal programs, but the great availability of soft drinks and junk foods undermines school meal programs and contributes to the diminished health of low-income children; and

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WHEREAS, The combined situation of increasing financial pressures on schools along with private contracts providing financial benefits and opportunities for schools has created an inviting atmosphere for exclusive vending contracts; and

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WHEREAS, Schools play a significant role in nutrition education, not only because children eat many of their meals at school, but also because schools educate students concerning appropriate nutritional decisions and are viewed by students as an authority, setting examples that will last a lifetime; and

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1 WHEREAS, Pursuant to House Resolution 147 of the 93rd
2 General Assembly, the Department of Public Health, in
3 conjunction with the State Board of Education, has conducted a
4 sugar consumption study to determine the effect of sugar
5 consumption on the overall health of school children; and

6 WHEREAS, Many studies exist that substantially document
7 that increases in sugar consumption in children's and
8 adolescents' diets have an adverse effect on overall health,
9 and given the multitude of clinical studies it would be
10 repetitive to conduct additional studies in Illinois on sugar's
11 impact on children's health; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
13 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we urge the State Board of Education, the soft drink industry,
15 and the Illinois Statewide School Management Alliance to
16 eliminate soft drink beverage sales and junk food products from
17 school settings; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That schools substitute these sugar-laden
19 products with healthy drinks and products, such as fruit juices
20 that are composed of no less than 50% fruit juice and that have
21 no added sweeteners, bottled water, milk, including without
22 limitation chocolate milk, soymilk, rice milk, and other
23 similar dairy or non-dairy milk, and electrolyte replacement
24 beverages that do not contain more than 42 grams of added
25 sweetener per 20-ounce serving; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
27 delivered to the soft drink industry, the State Board of
28 Education, and the Illinois Statewide School Management
29 Alliance.