



HR1567

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Richard C. "Dick" Edwards has retired from the
3 Legislative Reference Bureau after 24 years of dedicated
4 service; and

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WHEREAS, The Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) was
6 created in 1913 to offer legal assistance and information to
7 the members of the General Assembly in the preparation of
8 bills, resolutions, and amendments; and

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WHEREAS, In 1941, the LRB was further tasked with
10 continually recodifying and resolving statutory discrepancies
11 in Illinois laws, such as those that inevitably occur when a
12 given Section of Illinois Statutes is amended 2 or more times
13 during the course of a single General Assembly; and

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WHEREAS, The LRB took its modern form in 1984 with the
15 passage of the Legislative Commission Reorganization Act,
16 which consolidated the legislative support boards and
17 commissions of the General Assembly; and

18

WHEREAS, Dick Edwards, after serving his country in the
19 United States Navy, including 2 tours of duty in the Vietnam
20 War theater, attended and graduated with honors from the
21 University of Illinois College of Law, where he earned his

1 Juris Doctor degree in 1974; and

2 WHEREAS, In 1991, for the 87th General Assembly, Dick
3 Edwards became Deputy Director of the Legislative Reference
4 Bureau; and

5 WHEREAS, 1991 and 1992 were extremely busy years for Dick
6 Edwards and the LRB, as he led the Bureau in one of the most
7 successful collective projects in its history, the
8 recodification of Illinois law; and

9 WHEREAS, This was the first recodification since 1874;
10 under this 1991-1992 recodification, the LRB was required to
11 create a new organizational scheme for all of Illinois'
12 statutory law, which at this time numbered 6 dual-column
13 volumes plus an index; and

14 WHEREAS, As a result of the project and Dick Edwards' able
15 leadership of the task, the recodification plan was approved by
16 the General Assembly in Public Act 87-1005 and enacted during
17 the 1992 spring session, thereby approving the transformation
18 of the Illinois Revised Statutes into the Illinois Compiled
19 Statutes; and

20 WHEREAS, The Illinois Compiled Statutes took effect on
21 January 1, 1993; and

1 WHEREAS, Starting with the 88th General Assembly in
2 1993-1994, Richard C. Edwards became the Executive Director of
3 the Legislative Reference Bureau; and

4 WHEREAS, During well more than one-half of the modern
5 history of the LRB as a legislative support services agency,
6 its executive director has been Dick Edwards; and

7 WHEREAS, Dick Edwards' monograph, "Organization of the
8 Illinois Compiled Statutes (ILCS)" (1993) is a definitive guide
9 to the process used to carry out the recodification of the
10 statutes, including the principles used in organizing statutes
11 into common chapters based on the concept of objectively
12 defined major statutory topic areas; and

13 WHEREAS, Dick Edwards' monograph, "Researching [Illinois]
14 Legislative History" (2008), available online at the LRB
15 website, is a definitive guide to the legal professional who is
16 searching for a chronological outline of the various possible
17 stages during the process of an Illinois statute from bill to
18 law, during which a paper trail may have been generated to
19 provide textual evidence of the legislative history of a
20 measure; and

21 WHEREAS, Dick Edwards has represented the State of Illinois

1 on the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State
2 Laws; and

3 WHEREAS, Dick Edwards' leadership of the LRB, spanning 18
4 years, has been marked by significant continuity in the staff
5 members who have worked with him and under his leadership; and

6 WHEREAS, The continuity of LRB's staff has been of
7 immeasurable benefit to Illinois House and Senate members, who
8 have been able to share their ideas for Illinois legislation
9 with experienced professionals who are aware of many of the
10 complex nuances of Illinois statutory lawmaking, and have used
11 this knowledge to transform inchoate ideas into draft statutory
12 language; and

13 WHEREAS, The patient, kind, continuity-minded guidance of
14 Dick Edwards to his own staff, to partisan staffs operating
15 under General Assembly leadership, to the 118 members of the
16 Illinois House, and to the 59 members of the Illinois Senate,
17 has been an inestimable resource of the Illinois General
18 Assembly exerted for the benefit of the people of Illinois;
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
21 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
22 thank Richard C. "Dick" Edwards, the retiring Executive

1 Director of the Illinois General Assembly's Legislative
2 Reference Bureau, for his service to the Illinois House and
3 Senate and to the people of Illinois; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to Dick Edwards as a token of our gratitude, esteem,
6 and respect.