



HJ0024

LRB097 11374 RLJ 53642 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Public transit is essential for the overall
3 economic health and prosperity of the Chicagoland area; and

4 WHEREAS, Mass transit is an integral, essential part of the
5 strengths that make the Northeastern Illinois region
6 world-class; and

7 WHEREAS, Many people rely on the services provided by the
8 Regional Transportation Authority, Chicago Transit Authority,
9 Suburban Bus Division, and Commuter Rail Division (Authority
10 and Service Boards) to get them safely and efficiently to their
11 desired destinations; and

12 WHEREAS, Mass transit should continue to play a central
13 role in our communities by:

14 (1) strengthening neighborhoods, government and
15 community services, and business districts and supporting
16 civic events by making them more accessible;

17 (2) providing a viable alternative to the automobile
18 for residents who cannot or choose not to drive an
19 automobile;

20 (3) reducing traffic congestion, energy consumption,
21 and automobile emissions;

22 (4) reducing the need to create additional parking

1 facilities; and

2 (5) supporting the independence of the elderly and
3 people with disabilities; and

4 WHEREAS, Mass transit is essential to creating and
5 sustaining a strong job market; for every dollar invested in
6 public transit, local economies receive \$8 in economic
7 activity; and

8 WHEREAS, The Authority is the third largest public
9 transportation system in North America and provides more than 2
10 million rides a day; the services provided by the Authority
11 cover 7,200 route miles in a 6-county region with a population
12 of approximately 8,000,000 people; the combined assets of the
13 Authority are valued at more than \$36 billion and include 5,640
14 bus and rail cars and 650 vanpool vehicles; and

15 WHEREAS, The Authority and Service Boards must work
16 cohesively to modernize and maintain the transit system in
17 order to produce a more efficient, convenient, and
18 consumer-friendly transit system; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
20 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
21 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the House of Representatives'
22 Mass Transit Committee and the Senate's Transportation

1 Committee hold at least one joint hearing no earlier than July
2 1, 2011 and no later than December 1, 2011 to take testimony
3 from the Authority and the Service Boards concerning the
4 following goals:

5 (1) ensure that the Authority and the Service Boards
6 have a strategic capital plan that focuses on reducing
7 overall operating expenditures;

8 (2) harness the Authority's and Service Boards'
9 purchasing power to achieve cost savings and improved
10 efficiency wherever possible;

11 (3) create a plan to maximize the use of the transit
12 system;

13 (4) improve the experience of customers;

14 (5) increase the coordination among the Service
15 Boards; and

16 (6) create a unified marketing, outreach, and
17 government affairs approach for the Authority and the
18 Service Boards; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That prior to the first joint meeting of the
20 committees, the Authority, in conjunction with the Service
21 Boards, must submit a report to the committees setting forth
22 its goals and accomplishments concerning the creation of a more
23 modern and efficient mass transit system; the report must be
24 submitted by no later than July 1, 2011; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Authority provide administrative and
2 other support to the committees; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That on or before December 31, 2011, the
4 committees must jointly report to the General Assembly their
5 findings concerning the creation of a more modern and efficient
6 mass transit system; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the requirement for reporting to the General
8 Assembly shall be satisfied by filing copies of the report with
9 the Speaker, the Minority Leader, and the Clerk of the House of
10 Representatives, the President, the Minority Leader, and the
11 Secretary of the Senate, and the Legislative Research Unit, as
12 required by Section 3.1 of the General Assembly Organization
13 Act, and filing additional copies with the State Government
14 Report Distribution Center for the General Assembly as required
15 under paragraph (t) of Section 7 of the State Library Act.