



HR1088

LRB097 21522 GRL 69635 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has a strategic interest in
3 the operations of the Illinois International Port District and
4 its Board, whose function is to develop the District's port and
5 harbor facilities, issue construction permits, regulate the
6 District's facilities and waterways, establish and operate
7 foreign trade zones, and govern and administer all the District
8 area within Chicago's corporate limits; and

9 WHEREAS, The City of Chicago aims to revitalize the Port of
10 Chicago; in 2010, cargo shipments at the Port of Chicago
11 directly or indirectly supported 6,930 jobs and generated
12 \$425,000,000 in revenue for Illinois firms, according to the
13 Washington D.C.-based American Great Lakes Ports Association;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The Port of Chicago links rail and trucking lines
16 with barges and ships supplying the Great Lakes and nearby
17 rivers; the port handles an estimated 26,000,000 cargo tons
18 annually throughout its 1,500 acre complex on the far south
19 side, according to a recent estimate by a consortium of Great
20 Lakes shipping interests; and

21 WHEREAS, Chicago is the 7th largest U.S. Customs district
22 for imports and exports in the country; the U.S. Army Corps of

1 Engineers ranks Illinois as the 5th highest state for all
2 waterborne commerce in 2009 by tonnage; the Great Lakes is
3 considered "America's Fourth Coast"; and

4 WHEREAS, Although the Illinois International Port District
5 Board has operated the port since the 1950s, there have been no
6 major dockside improvements in 30 years; in 2011, half of the
7 District's revenue originated with the 2 golf courses on the
8 District's land, while the other half originated from fees paid
9 by freight companies, according to Crain's Chicago Business;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois, the City of Chicago, and
12 the entire Midwest economy need a major change in the
13 operations of the Illinois International Port District; and

14 WHEREAS, The Chairman of the Illinois International Port
15 District Board has requested that the Auditor General conduct
16 an audit as described below; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
18 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 the Auditor General is directed to conduct a management audit
20 of the Illinois International Port District to examine the
21 operations and management of the district and to report the
22 findings to the Illinois General Assembly; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Illinois International Port District
2 and the Illinois International Port District Board fully
3 cooperate with the audit and turn over any materials requested
4 by the Auditor General; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Auditor General is further directed to
6 commence this audit as soon as possible and, upon completion,
7 distribute a report in accordance with Section 3-14 of the
8 Illinois State Auditing Act; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
10 delivered to the Auditor General and to all 4 legislative
11 leaders of the Illinois General Assembly.