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LRB098 21835 GRL 60692 r

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is an important piece of legislation that emerged from the Civil Rights Movement and was developed to ensure the fundamental right of all citizens to vote; and

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WHEREAS, The Voting Rights Act was reauthorized by Congress in 2006 by an overwhelmingly bipartisan effort; and

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WHEREAS, On June 25, 2013, in *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder*, the United States Supreme Court eliminated a key provision of the Voting Rights Act which provided a screening mechanism for changes in voting procedures in certain states and jurisdictions with a history of voter discrimination; and

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WHEREAS, The Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby County* has allowed states and jurisdictions to pursue and justify a range of changes to voting procedures which would infringe upon the right to vote and negatively and disproportionately impact minority voters; and

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WHEREAS, These voting changes include enhanced and aggressive voter identification laws, limitations on early voting, and statewide voter purges; and

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1 WHEREAS, On Januray 16, 2014, United States Senators
2 Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Richard Durbin (D-IL), and Chris Coons
3 (D-DE) introduced The Voting Rights Amendment Act, S. 1945,
4 that would strengthen the foundation of the original Voting
5 Rights Act and combat current and future discrimination; and

6 WHEREAS, The Voting Rights Amendment Act represents a
7 bipartisan response to the Supreme Court's invitation in *Shelby*
8 *County* to update the Voting Rights Act and address the
9 demonstrated need for protections to the right to vote;
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
12 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
13 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge Congress to pass S.
14 1945, the Voting Rights Amendment Act; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
16 delivered to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United
17 States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United
18 States House of Representatives, and the members of the
19 Illinois congressional delegation.