



HR0360

LRB098 12132 GRL 46024 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Illinois' Medicaid program includes coverage for
3 durable medical equipment; and

4 WHEREAS, Durable medical equipment covered under Illinois'
5 Medicaid program includes augmentative and alternative
6 communication devices; and

7 WHEREAS, Augmentative and alternative communication
8 devices are used by children and adults with disabilities with
9 severely limited or no speech due to various disorders,
10 including cerebral palsy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis,
11 autism, aphasia, verbal apraxia, and stroke; and

12 WHEREAS, An evaluation, diagnosis, and recommendation by a
13 licensed speech and language pathologist, including use of a
14 device on a trial basis and documentation of the results, is
15 required before the acquisition of an augmentative and
16 alternative communication device may be authorized for an
17 individual under Medicaid; and

18 WHEREAS, A tablet device with appropriate applications is
19 the augmentative and alternative communication device
20 recommended by licensed speech and language pathologists for
21 some individuals with communication disabilities, based upon

1 their individual needs and circumstances following an
2 evaluation; and

3 WHEREAS, A tablet device and applications may be an
4 appropriate and less expensive augmentative and alternative
5 communication device for individuals with disabilities; and

6 WHEREAS, Several other states' Medicaid programs allow for
7 the acquisition of tablet devices and applications for
8 individuals in need of augmentative and alternative
9 communication; and

10 WHEREAS, Illinois' Medicaid program does not currently
11 approve the acquisition of tablet devices and applications as
12 augmentative and alternative communication devices; therefore,
13 be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 there is created the Augmentative and Alternative
17 Communications Task Force within the Department of Healthcare
18 and Family Services to study whether it would be in the best
19 interests of the State of Illinois and its residents with
20 communications disabilities to include tablet devices with
21 appropriate applications as durable medical equipment covered
22 under the Medicaid program; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the membership of the Task Force shall be
2 appointed by the Director of Healthcare and Family Services,
3 shall not receive compensation for serving on the Task Force,
4 and must include appropriate staff from the Department of
5 Healthcare and Family Services, including at least one licensed
6 speech and language pathologist, other experts in the field of
7 augmentative and alternative communication, and a
8 representative of Illinois' federally-funded assistive
9 technology program; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Department of Healthcare and Family
11 Services shall facilitate and convene the Task Force and
12 provide administrative support to the Task Force; the Task
13 Force shall meet at least three times, the first meeting to be
14 held no later than September 3, 2013, and fully review and
15 assess the potential benefits, including cost savings, of
16 covering tablet devices and applications as durable medical
17 equipment for individuals with communications disabilities,
18 and shall issue a report to the General Assembly and to the
19 Governor of its findings and recommendations not later than
20 March 1, 2014; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 delivered to the Director of Healthcare and Family Services.