



HR0402

LRB098 12252 GRL 46402 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Homeless youth have a higher crime rate than those
3 with stable housing; an estimated number of approximately
4 26,400 youth experience homelessness in Illinois over the
5 course of a year; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2005, a state-wide study of homeless youth
7 found that 22% had been kept in juvenile detention, at the
8 average cost of \$53,645 per student annually; and

9 WHEREAS, One method of mitigating this growing problem is
10 to get homeless youth active in pursuing post-secondary
11 education; homeless youth are severely underrepresented in the
12 university population and are often held back due to the lack
13 of funding for housing, leaving a cycle of inhibition; and

14 WHEREAS, In order to combat this trend, an initiative has
15 been proposed that would provide housing scholarships to
16 students in undergraduate colleges and universities who
17 self-report as homeless; the program would give these students
18 aid in paying for non-campus housing, which would allow for
19 these students to attend a university without the worry of
20 finding funding for housing; applicants would be required to
21 get a Homeless Status Certification from the Secretary of State
22 Driver Services department and be full-time students; and

1 WHEREAS, This program would allow some of our most
2 vulnerable citizens to receive a quality education and become
3 productive members of society; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we urge the boards of trustees of every public university in
7 the State of Illinois to adopt a program that provides housing
8 scholarships to college students that are registered as
9 homeless and to include funding for this program in their
10 appropriations requests to the General Assembly; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be sent
13 to the boards of trustees of the 9 public universities in the
14 State of Illinois.