



HR0869

LRB098 20395 GRL 56036 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, According to numerous scientific reports,  
3 including federal government reports by the United States  
4 Department of Agriculture and the United States Environmental  
5 Protection Agency, there has been a decline in honeybee  
6 colonies throughout the United States due to numerous factors,  
7 including lack of food sources; and

8           WHEREAS, Honeybees pollinate a long list of crops,  
9 including Illinois' number one crop in 2013, soybeans; and

10           WHEREAS, The effects of colony collapse disorder has been  
11 profound on the honeybee population in the United States;  
12 according to the United States Department of Agriculture's  
13 National Institute of Food and Agriculture, one-third of the  
14 nation's bees die each year; and

15           WHEREAS, Large geographic areas that specialize in one  
16 agricultural crop, like corn, can pose a risk to the insects by  
17 providing a limited food source; and

18           WHEREAS, It is estimated the Illinois Department of  
19 Transportation spent over \$14 million in Fiscal Year 2013 on  
20 the mowing of State highway medians in a time when our State's  
21 revenues have declined; and

1           WHEREAS, In 2003, the Illinois Department of  
2           Transportation piloted a beautification effort planting  
3           wildflowers along roadways in 23 Illinois locations for the  
4           beautification of our State's commerce and tourism gateways;  
5           and

6           WHEREAS, Low height wildflowers planted in median strips in  
7           Illinois would assist with water retention, minimize storm  
8           water runoff costs, and help beautify Illinois roadways;  
9           therefore, be it

10          RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
11          NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
12          we encourage the Illinois Department of Corrections and the  
13          Illinois Department of Transportation to work together to  
14          create a program where Illinois Correctional Facility inmates  
15          can raise wildflowers and plant them in designated roadway  
16          medians as determined by the Illinois Department of  
17          Transportation; and be it further

18          RESOLVED, That we encourage cooperation between the two  
19          agencies to work toward the goal of annual growth in the number  
20          of median strip low-height wildflower plantings in an effort  
21          that would save the State money in mowing costs, encourage  
22          better storm water management practices along interstates,

1 encourage natural growth in honeybee populations, provide  
2 agronomic job skills for Illinois inmate population, and  
3 beautify our State's interstate system; and be it further

4       RESOLVED, That we urge Illinois Department of Corrections  
5 and the Illinois Department of Transportation to work together  
6 toward furthering a new pilot program to accomplish these  
7 tasks; and be it further

8       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
9 delivered to the Director of the Illinois Department of  
10 Corrections and the Secretary of the Illinois Department of  
11 Transportation.