



HR0773

LRB100 17393 ALS 33386 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to recognize Lithuania on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the reestablishment of independence as a democratic state; and

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WHEREAS, On February 16, 1918, the Act of Reinstating Independence of Lithuania or Act of February 16 was signed by 20 courageous, determined, and trusted representatives of the Lithuanian nation; this Council of Lithuania was chaired by Jonas Basanavicius; the Act re-established an independent state, based on democratic principles, with Vilnius as its capital city, and severed all previous links with other states; and

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WHEREAS, The Act of February 16 was the result of a series of resolutions; the path to the Act was long and complex because the German Empire exerted pressure on the Council to form an alliance; the Council had to carefully maneuver between the Germans, whose troops were present in Lithuania, and the demands of the Lithuanian people; and

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WHEREAS, The immediate effects of the announcement of Lithuania's re-establishment of independence were limited; publication of the Act was prohibited by German authorities,

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1 and the text was distributed and printed illegally; the work on  
2 the Council was hindered, and Germans remained in control over  
3 Lithuania, until Germany lost World War I in the fall of 1918;  
4 In November 1918, the first Cabinet of Lithuania was formed,  
5 and the Council of Lithuania gained control over the territory  
6 of Lithuania; and

7 WHEREAS, Having also withstood the fight for independence  
8 from foreign invaders, Lithuania sealed its parliamentary  
9 democracy in the Constituent Assembly in 1920; and

10 WHEREAS, The Act of February 16, 1918 is the legal basis  
11 for the existence of present day Lithuania; the Act became one  
12 of the key elements during the restoration of Lithuania's  
13 independence from the Soviet Union in 1990 and is one of the  
14 most important developments of Lithuanian society in the 20th  
15 century; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
17 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
18 recognize the 100th anniversary of Lithuania's reestablishment  
19 of its independence, and we honor those citizens who were  
20 determined to take responsibility for their country's future  
21 into their own hands; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont and the  
2 Lithuanian Consulate General in the City of Chicago.