



SR1472

LRB100 21071 MST 36869 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The United States of America was founded on the principles of an open and participatory government; and

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WHEREAS, The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the rights of freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly, and petition; and

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WHEREAS, Every citizen in our participatory democracy has an inherent right to access to government meetings and public records; and

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WHEREAS, An open and accessible government is vital to establishing and maintaining the people's trust and confidence in their government and in the government's ability to effectively serve its citizens; and

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WHEREAS, The protection of every person's right of access to public records and government meetings is an important part of a representative democracy; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois units of government should strive for openness and transparency in all aspects of their operations and seek to set a standard in this regard; and

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1 WHEREAS, The American Society of News Editors and the
2 Illinois Press Association celebrate annually the openness of
3 American democracy and government during Sunshine Week in honor
4 of founding father and open government advocate, James Madison;
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare March 11
8 through March 18, 2018 as "Sunshine Week", a week devoted to
9 the openness and transparency of government, commemorating the
10 anniversary of James Madison's birth; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That we will work diligently throughout the year
12 to enhance the public's access to government records and
13 information, and to ensure that all meetings of deliberative
14 bodies and committees are fully noticed and open to the public.