



HJ0013HAM002

LRB095 03551 MJR 37957 a

1                                    AMENDMENT TO HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 13

2                    AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Joint Resolution 13 by  
3 replacing everything after the heading with the following:

4                    "WHEREAS, Compliance with the requirements of the National  
5 Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and the effects  
6 of surface discharging private sewage disposal systems on  
7 communities within the State are matters of extreme importance;  
8 and

9                    WHEREAS, Illinois is mandated by the federal Clean Water  
10 Act to adhere to and enforce the standards set forth by the  
11 NPDES to protect the waters of the United States; and

12                    WHEREAS, Failure of Illinois to enforce NPDES standards on  
13 surface discharging private sewage disposal systems requires  
14 the federal Environmental Protection Agency to withdraw from  
15 the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency the authority to

1 grant NPDES permits under State and federal law; and

2 WHEREAS, Loss of NPDES permit standing could have a  
3 devastating effect on jobs and water quality in Illinois; and

4 WHEREAS, Malfunctioning or improperly operating and  
5 maintained surface discharging private sewage disposal systems  
6 can pose serious health hazards; a surface discharging system  
7 that is malfunctioning or improperly operating and maintained  
8 may contain raw sewage, which is not always obvious or visible  
9 to the untrained eye and may contain disease-causing organisms,  
10 such as bacteria and viruses that come from the digestive  
11 tract, respiratory tract, and skin; diseases commonly  
12 associated with improperly treated sewage include  
13 Gastroenteritis, Shigellosis, Salmonella, Hepatitis A, and  
14 Leptospirosis; and

15 WHEREAS, There are soil conditions of the State in which a  
16 surface discharging system is the only viable choice due to the  
17 poor absorption qualities of the soil types, such as high clay,  
18 rock content, or high seasonal water table, although reasonable  
19 technical measures may exist to minimize or eliminate  
20 discharges from these systems to waters of the United States;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, A failing surface discharging system has the

1 potential to affect an entire subdivision or surrounding area;  
2 in particular the discharge may become a tempting nuisance to  
3 neighborhood children and pets who may play in or around the  
4 pooling discharge and, subsequently, become directly infected  
5 or become the modes of transmission by tracking disease-causing  
6 organisms into their homes; and

7 WHEREAS, Existing discharging septic systems were  
8 permitted to be installed under the Private Sewage Disposal  
9 Licensing Act without the owners being aware of the  
10 requirements of the federal Clean Water Act; and

11 WHEREAS, Different states and regions require varying  
12 degrees of permit conditions, including different testing and  
13 sampling requirements per year; and

14 WHEREAS, We want to ensure that while we protect the  
15 environment, we also place the minimum burden possible on  
16 owners of these existing and new systems; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
18 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
19 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Joint Task  
20 Force on National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System  
21 (NPDES) Compliance, which shall be charged with the following  
22 tasks:

1           (1) examining the State's current compliance with  
2 NPDES laws, rules, and guidelines related to surface  
3 discharging private sewage disposal systems;

4           (2) forming a reasonably complete picture of where in  
5 the State surface discharging private sewage disposal  
6 systems have been permitted and where they have not been  
7 permitted;

8           (3) examining alternatives to surface discharging  
9 private sewage disposal systems;

10          (4) examining how other states are regulating surface  
11 discharging private sewage disposal systems; and

12          (5) examining how Illinois can comply with national  
13 NPDES laws, rules, and guidelines in such a way as to  
14 minimize the financial impact upon Illinois homeowners who  
15 currently use surface discharging private sewage disposal  
16 systems; and be it further

17          RESOLVED, That the Joint Task Force shall consist of 8  
18 members, 2 of whom shall be appointed by the President of the  
19 Senate; 2 of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the  
20 House of Representatives; 2 of whom shall be appointed by the  
21 Minority Leader of the Senate; and 2 of whom shall be appointed  
22 by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; and be  
23 it further

24          RESOLVED, That the Joint Task Force shall meet initially at

1 the call of the Speaker and the President, shall select 2  
2 members as co-chairpersons, one from each political party, at  
3 its initial meeting, and shall thereafter meet at the joint  
4 call of the co-chairpersons; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Environmental Protection Agency shall  
6 provide support staff for the Joint Task Force; and be it  
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That the Joint Task Force shall report its  
9 findings to the General Assembly by filing copies of its report  
10 with the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate no  
11 later than January 1, 2008; and that upon filing its report the  
12 Joint Task Force is dissolved.".