



HR1297

LRB095 21365 LCT 50616 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Transportation's  
3 traffic safety division is in what is known as the IDOT Annex,  
4 near IDOT's main headquarters, the State-owned Hanley  
5 Building, on Dirksen Parkway; and

6           WHEREAS, IDOT rents the Annex, next door to the Hanley  
7 Building; IDOT pays \$25.32 per square foot annually as rent, a  
8 total of more than \$1.7 million; and

9           WHEREAS, The current lease took effect in 2002 and expired  
10 in July 2007; the lease cost was \$1.66 million in fiscal 2007  
11 and \$1.72 million in fiscal 2008, which ends June 30; and

12           WHEREAS, At least seven buildings in Springfield could  
13 house the 150 people whose jobs the Illinois Department of  
14 Transportation plans to move to southern Illinois; and

15           WHEREAS, Rental costs for at least some of the Springfield  
16 options would be dramatically lower than what the State pays  
17 now; and

18           WHEREAS, IDOT officials say saving money is one reason they  
19 plan to move the nearly 150 jobs; and

1           WHEREAS, The City of Springfield has already lost 2,200  
2 State employees in the downtown area in recent years; if  
3 Springfield could, by any chance, get some of those back, it  
4 would be a boost to not only the entire city's economy, but to  
5 the downtown area in particular; and

6           WHEREAS, Illinois Department of Transportation will need  
7 to conduct a detailed analysis and public hearings before  
8 relocating the 150 Division of Traffic Safety employees to  
9 southern Illinois; and

10           WHEREAS, Benton is considered the leading candidate for the  
11 new location, but Benton Mayor Gary Kraft said last week that  
12 no structure in his city could house 150 new workers; and

13           WHEREAS, Covering moving expenses of displaced employees,  
14 as promised by IDOT, could cost \$2,500 to \$4,100 per household;  
15 and

16           WHEREAS, The numbers are rough estimates but underscore  
17 that the expense of moving the division would offset the  
18 savings IDOT expects from canceling a \$1.7 million lease at the  
19 current facility; and

20           WHEREAS, A new State law, signed by Governor Blagojevich,  
21 directs State government to give preference "whenever

1 operationally appropriate and economically feasible" to  
2 locating facilities "in historic properties and in buildings  
3 located within government recognized historic districts or  
4 central business districts designated as such by a local or  
5 regional planning agency"; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
7 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
8 urge the Governor to keep the Division of Traffic Safety of the  
9 Department of Transportation in Springfield; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 presented to the Governor.