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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Many people throughout the State put themselves and others at risk by trespassing along the right-of-way of railroads or ignoring railroad crossing warning devices at public crossings; and

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WHEREAS, Parents and children alike may be unfamiliar with proper behavior near railroad tracks; therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we encourage K through 12 schools in this State to include the following language in their student handbooks:

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"As a parent, you teach your children to strive for excellence, pursue their interests, and to be safe and responsible citizens. Operation Lifesaver is an international, nonprofit education and awareness program dedicated to ending tragic collisions, fatalities, and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings and on railroad rights of way. Operation Lifesaver strives to increase public awareness about the dangers around the rails. The program seeks to educate both pedestrians and drivers, young and old, to make safe decisions at crossings and around railroad tracks.

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Your children will take critical information they

1 learn from you into their future. Operation Lifesaver wants  
2 to help you make sure their future is a safe one.

3 Here are some tips about walking across railroad tracks  
4 and trespassing:

5 (1) Cross tracks ONLY at designated pedestrian or  
6 roadway crossings. Observe and obey all warning signs  
7 and signals.

8 (2) Never walk down a train track; it's illegal and  
9 it's dangerous. By the time a locomotive engineer can  
10 see a trespasser or a vehicle on the tracks, it is too  
11 late. The train cannot stop quickly enough to avoid a  
12 collision.

13 (3) The only safe place to cross is at a designated  
14 public crossing with a cross buck, flashing red lights,  
15 or a gate. If you cross at any other place, you are  
16 trespassing and can be ticketed or fined.

17 (4) Do not cross the tracks immediately after a  
18 train passes. A second train might be blocked by the  
19 first. Trains can come from either direction. Wait  
20 until you can see clearly around the first train in  
21 both directions.

22 (5) Flashing red lights signal that a train is  
23 approaching from either direction. You can be fined for  
24 failure to obey these signals. Never walk around or  
25 behind lowered gates at a crossing. Stay Alive! DO NOT  
26 cross the tracks until the lights have stopped flashing

1           and it is safe to do so.

2                   (6) Remember, rails and recreation do not mix!";

3           and be it further

4           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
5   delivered to the State Superintendent of Education.