



HR0295

LRB097 11585 GRL 54597 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Steamfitters Local 353 was granted a charter for
3 membership from the United Association of Journeymen and
4 Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the
5 United States and Canada on June 10, 1911 in Peoria; and

6 WHEREAS, Steamfitters Local 353 started humbly with a
7 membership of 12 men; in the last 100 years, the organization
8 has grown to a membership of 621 journeymen and apprentices;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, In 1949, Steamfitters Local 353 was instrumental
11 in the organization of the refrigeration industry, welcoming
12 those organized members into Local 353; and

13 WHEREAS, Steamfitters Local 353 merged with Local 528 from
14 Pekin on January 1, 1978 and Local 579 from Canton on October
15 1, 1981; these mergers increased the jurisdictional area of
16 Local 353 to encompass 11 counties in central Illinois; and

17 WHEREAS, The members of Steamfitters Local 353 work
18 tirelessly in many fields, including pipefitting,
19 refrigeration, HVAC, food processing plants, chemical plants,
20 powerhouses, hospitals, and green awareness projects, thereby
21 helping to make their communities comfortable, safe, and

1 healthy; and

2 WHEREAS, Recognizing the need for a well-trained
3 workforce, Steamfitters Local 353 started the Joint Apprentice
4 Training Committee in 1948; the Local 353 apprenticeship
5 program strives to equip their members with the skills,
6 certifications, and training necessary to become valuable
7 members of the work-force in central Illinois and across the
8 nation; and

9 WHEREAS, Recognizing the need to create a proactive and
10 well-trained workforce, Steamfitters Local 353 broke ground on
11 a state-of-the-art facility on September 17, 1998; the
12 organization moved into their present location in July of 1999;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Steamfitters Local 353 has worked to create a
15 sense of solidarity among their members by promoting numerous
16 union causes, including labor rallies, the Peoria Labor Day
17 Parade, and job fairs at local area schools; Local 353 also
18 participates in "Get out to Vote" by manning phone banks; and

19 WHEREAS, Steamfitters Local 353 contributes to
20 humanitarian causes in its community; Local 353 sponsors an
21 annual charity golf outing which contributes to the Thomas
22 Jefferson Foundation, providing scholarships for handicapped

1 students and the Children's Miracle Network; members of the
2 Local man phone lines at the Children's Miracle Network
3 telethon; the Local also hosts an annual blood drive for the
4 Red Cross, which encourages their members to "give the gift of
5 life" and actively supports the United Way, both financially
6 and through volunteer work; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
8 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 we congratulate the members of Steamfitters Local 353 on the
10 occasion of the 100th anniversary of the organization's charter
11 with the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of
12 the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and
13 Canada and wish them continued success and happiness in the
14 future; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the members of Steamfitters Local 353 as a symbol
17 of our esteem and respect.