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LRB098 12210 GRL 46288 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Transportation included in its multi-year plan a potential new rail route that would go from Moline/Rock Island to Danville, via Galesburg, Peoria, Bloomington/Normal, and Champaign/Urbana; and

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WHEREAS, This east-west corridor further enhances access for our students to colleges and universities throughout the State of Illinois and increases the number destinations available on our passenger rail system, which makes passage rail service an even more attractive method of alternative transportation; and

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WHEREAS, IDOT has asked Amtrak for a feasibility study to analyze the ridership, capital costs, and operating costs of this potential new route; and

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WHEREAS, The new route will consist of two round-trips per day, with the tightest connectivity to the Chicago-St. Louis corridor and connection times to the Carbondale and Quincy corridors as well; and

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WHEREAS, The study will also include requirements for service facilities at either end of the corridor, along with those estimated costs; and

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1 WHEREAS, Amtrak should also include in its proposal cost a
2 study of a very tightly-scheduled express bus service, similar
3 to California's tightly-scheduled Thruway service that
4 connects the various passenger rail corridors with towns
5 throughout that state; and

6 WHEREAS, The study should analyze the revenue and costs of
7 bus service that would meet Chicago-St. Louis trains each way
8 at Normal, with single-ticketing so passengers can buy one
9 ticket and check bags only once; the study also should analyze
10 the ticket price that would make the bus service
11 self-sufficient; and

12 WHEREAS, The express bus service would possibly be a
13 forerunner to actual train service between the identified
14 cities; and

15 WHEREAS, Amtrak is expected to begin the study in the
16 summer of 2013; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Illinois Department
19 of Transportation is supported and encouraged to continue its
20 efforts in studying the feasibility of passenger rail service
21 between Moline/Rock Island, Galesburg, Peoria,

1 Bloomington/Normal, Champaign/Urbana, and Danville; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 delivered to the Illinois Department of Transportation.