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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Rabbi Reuven Frankel of Deerfield, who passed away on April 24, 2013; and

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WHEREAS, Rabbi Frankel was born in Jerusalem; his family immigrated to Chicago in 1939; after 2 years in Chicago, his family moved to New York and he studied at Brooklyn College; he spent time in Cleveland, Ohio, and Chattanooga, Tennessee, studying and working before eventually returning to New York to study at the Cantors Institute of the Jewish Teleological Seminary; and

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WHEREAS, From 1957 to 1967, Rabbi Frankel was the associate cantor at Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield, Michigan, while earning a bachelor's and master's degree in music from Wayne State University; after brief stops in Albany, New York, where he spent 2 years as cantor at Temple Israel, and Congregation Shaarey Zedek, he became the cantor at Congregation Beth El in Highland Park in 1970; and

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WHEREAS, Rabbi Frankel worked as a cantor at synagogues around the country for 2 decades, but in 1976, at the age of 45 and in his sixth year as a cantor at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El in Highland Park, he decided to complete his rabbinical

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1 studies he had started as a youth; he studied at the Hebrew
2 Theological College in Chicago and was ordained 2 years after
3 making his decision to resume his studies; and

4 WHEREAS, Rabbi Frankel joined Congregation B'nai Tikvah in
5 1979 as the rabbi; he retired in 1999; and

6 WHEREAS, Rabbi Frankel interpretations of a wide variety of
7 Yiddish, Hebrew, and liturgical music led to appearances on
8 radio, television, and at universities as a singer and
9 lecturer; he recorded several albums and has more than 100
10 songs available on iTunes; and

11 WHEREAS, Rabbi Frankel was the beloved husband for 59 years
12 of Penina (nee Ducoff); the loving father and mentor of Hillel
13 (Jennifer Salas), Aaron (Jenny Wittner), and Noam (Laura Sova);
14 the adored Zadie of Eli Blair, Caleb and Gabriel Frankel, and
15 Lee Sova-Claypool; the cherished brother of the late Naftali
16 (Penina) Frankel, the late Esther Davis, the late Devora
17 Friend, and the late Yaffa Flitterman; the dear brother-in-law
18 of the late Rabbi Bernard (Helen) Ducoff; and the grandfather
19 of 4; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
22 Rabbi Frankel, and extend our sincere condolences to his

1 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to the family of Rabbi Frankel as an expression of
5 our deepest sympathy.