



HJ0027

LRB099 10154 MST 30377 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, From 1961 to 1972, the United States military
3 conducted a large-scale defoliation program aimed at
4 destroying the forest and jungle cover used by enemy North
5 Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops fighting against U.S. and South
6 Vietnamese forces in the Vietnam War; and

7 WHEREAS, The most commonly used, and most effective,
8 mixture of herbicides was Agent Orange, named for the orange
9 stripe painted on the 55-gallon drums in which the mixture was
10 stored; and

11 WHEREAS, Questions regarding Agent Orange arose in the
12 United States after an increasing number of returning Vietnam
13 veterans and their families began to report a range of
14 afflictions, including rashes and other skin irritations,
15 miscarriages, psychological symptoms, Type-2 diabetes, birth
16 defects in children, and cancers such as Hodgkin's disease,
17 prostate cancer, and leukemia; and

18 WHEREAS, Some 400,000 people were killed or maimed as a
19 result of exposure to herbicides like Agent Orange; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1991, President George H.W. Bush signed into
21 law the Agent Orange Act, which mandated that some diseases

1 associated with defoliants (including non-Hodgkin's lymphomas,
2 soft tissue sarcomas, and chloracne) be treated as the result
3 of wartime service and helped codify the Veterans
4 Administration's response to veterans with conditions related
5 to their exposure to Agent Orange; and

6 WHEREAS, The federal VA's Agent Orange Registry Health Exam
7 alerts veterans to possible long-term health problems that may
8 be related to Agent Orange exposure during their military
9 service, and the registry data helps the VA understand and
10 respond to these health problems more effectively; and

11 WHEREAS, This free comprehensive health exam includes an
12 exposure history, medical history, physical exam, and any tests
13 if needed while requiring no copayment; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
16 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Illinois
17 Task Force on Agent Orange to investigate and form
18 recommendations on how best to communicate with veterans
19 affected by Agent Orange concerning the treatment options
20 available to them; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, The Task Force shall consist of 9 members as
22 follows: (1) one member appointed by The Speaker of the House

1 of Representatives; (2) one member appointed by the Minority
2 Leader of the House of Representatives; (3) one member
3 appointed by the President of the Senate; (4) one member
4 appointed by the Senate Minority leader; (5) the Director of
5 the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, who shall act as
6 the Chair; (6) one Veterans' Service Officer from the
7 Department of Veterans' Affairs, appointed by the Director of
8 Veterans' Affairs; (7) one representative from the Department
9 of Public Health, appointed by the Director of Public Health;
10 (8) one representative from the Secretary of State's Office,
11 appointed by the Secretary of State; and (9) one representative
12 of local county health departments in Illinois appointed by the
13 Director of Public Health; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, The Task Force shall meet periodically at the
15 discretion of the Chair; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall
17 provide administrative and other support to the Task Force; and
18 be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall present a report of its
20 findings, which shall include its recommendations for
21 legislation, if any, to the Illinois House of Representatives
22 and the Senate on or before January 1, 2016.