



HR0469

LRB104 15247 LAW 28397 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Crete Township in Will
4 County on the occasion of its 175th anniversary of township
5 government operations; and

6 WHEREAS, Township government was established in this State
7 by the Illinois Constitution of 1848; constitutional delegates
8 gave each county the option to choose between a township or a
9 county commission form of government; the first townships were
10 formed in Illinois in 1849, and they began operating a year
11 later; today, 85 of the State's 102 counties operate under a
12 township government system, which includes 1,433 townships,
13 serving more than 8 million people throughout Illinois; and

14 WHEREAS, The origin of township government in North
15 America dates back to the Pilgrims of 1636, and it still
16 operates under the same basic principles of democratic rule as
17 it did 389 years ago, such as the implementation of town
18 meetings as the cornerstone of citizen input; today, township
19 governments in Illinois still lean heavily on annual meetings
20 to permit each and every citizen an opportunity to give direct
21 input towards the governing process, holding these annual
22 meetings on the second Tuesday of April every year; and

1 WHEREAS, Modern township governments in Illinois continue
2 to provide the same basic services they did 175 years ago, and
3 these basic services include general assistance, providing
4 food, shelter, and emergency relief to people unable to
5 support themselves or who do not qualify for other forms of
6 assistance, in addition to property assessment through
7 township assessors setting property values for all real
8 property within a given township; township governments also
9 provide road and bridge maintenance through township road
10 crews, whose duties include maintaining roads and bridges as
11 well as keeping roads free of snow and ice in the winter
12 months; in fact, township governments maintain 53% of all
13 roads in Illinois, with township highway commissioners being
14 responsible for some 71,000 miles of Illinois roads; and

15 WHEREAS, Township governments in Illinois are as diverse
16 governmentally as they are geographically; despite this, they
17 all provide citizens with a basic set of accessible services;
18 Crete Township, for example, provides many services to senior
19 citizens, the youth, and the less fortunate, including
20 assisting the Eastern Will County Senior Citizens group by
21 making a healthy donation each year to offset transportation
22 costs, giving youth groups vital funding through yearly
23 donations, and offering Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to
24 the less fortunate as well as providing an ongoing pantry for
25 use by the community; and

1 WHEREAS, Township government is not only a system of
2 governance but also one of the intrinsic values handed down to
3 us by our ancestors, and its continuance in Illinois for the
4 past 175 years further cements the wisdom of our forefathers;
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we congratulate Crete Township in Will County on achieving 175
9 years of township government operations; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to Crete Township as an expression of our esteem and
12 respect.