



HR0474

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Bible has long been a foundational text in
3 shaping the moral, cultural, and spiritual heritage of the
4 State of Illinois and the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, On September 12, 1782, a historic milestone
6 occurred in American history when the Continental Congress,
7 during the American Revolutionary War, officially approved the
8 publication of the first complete English-language Bible to be
9 printed in America, known as the "Aitken Bible" or the "Bible
10 of the Revolution"; and

11 WHEREAS, This monumental event, which took place in
12 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was under the direction of a
13 congressional committee led by James Duane and with the
14 endorsement of the congressional chaplains, marking not only a
15 turning point in American history but also underscoring the
16 role of spiritual heritage in the birth of our nation; and

17 WHEREAS, The Aitken Bible served not only as a religious
18 text but also as a powerful symbol of national resilience,
19 unity, and self-governance during one of the most trying times
20 in our country's history; and

21 WHEREAS, For centuries, the Bible has offered inspiration,

1 comfort, and moral guidance to countless Americans,
2 influencing individual lives and shaping our collective values
3 of justice, compassion, redemption, personal responsibility,
4 and the dignity of all human life; and

5 WHEREAS, Many of our greatest leaders, including
6 Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, Reverend Dr.
7 Martin Luther King Jr., and countless others, have drawn
8 wisdom and strength from the pages of Scripture; and

9 WHEREAS, The principles found in the Bible are reflected
10 in many aspects of life as an American and an Illinoisan,
11 including in our laws, our charitable institutions, the values
12 taught in our homes and schools, and the work of faith-based
13 organizations throughout the State; and

14 WHEREAS, Recognizing September 12 annually as "The Day of
15 the Bible" provides an opportunity for the people of Illinois
16 to reflect on the enduring influence of the Bible on our shared
17 cultural and historical identity and to reaffirm the
18 principles of liberty, equality, and justice that form the
19 bedrock of our State and nation; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
21 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
22 we declare September 12, 2025 as The Day of the Bible in the

1 State of Illinois; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That we encourage schools, civic institutions,
3 churches, and community organizations throughout the State to
4 observe this day with appropriate educational, historical, and
5 cultural programs and activities that highlight the Bible's
6 significance in the past, present, and future of our State and
7 nation.