



HR0803

LRB104 20909 RMO 34639 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B is a liver infection caused by the
3 hepatitis B virus, and current incidence estimates indicate
4 that approximately 1.8 million Americans are infected with
5 hepatitis B virus; and

6 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B spreads from person to person via
7 contact with infected blood and/or body fluids; and

8 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B infection can range from an acute,
9 mild, short-term illness to a chronic, serious, long-term
10 infection that can lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer; and

11 WHEREAS, Approximately one in two people who have
12 hepatitis B are unaware of their infection, and 85% of infants
13 and 50% of older children and adults with hepatitis B are
14 asymptomatic; and

15 WHEREAS, Infants face an increased hepatitis B exposure
16 risk through everyday contact and infected family members, and
17 they are susceptible to developing acute and serious health
18 issues if they are infected at birth or in early childhood; and

19 WHEREAS, Infants exposed to hepatitis B have a 90% risk of
20 developing chronic hepatitis B, greatly increasing their risk

1 of developing serious liver conditions such as liver cancer or
2 cirrhosis in their lifetimes; and

3 WHEREAS, Treatment reduces the risk of serious conditions
4 such as liver cancer or cirrhosis, but an estimated up to 75%
5 of people who have hepatitis B in the U.S. and are eligible for
6 treatment are not prescribed treatment, including 40% of those
7 with advanced liver disease; and

8 WHEREAS, To safeguard infant health, in 1991, the Advisory
9 Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issued its first
10 universal hepatitis B birth dose recommendation, which led to
11 the implementation of the universal hepatitis B vaccination
12 program in 1992 in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, Before the universal hepatitis B birth dose
14 recommendation, approximately 18,000 children in the United
15 States were infected each year by hepatitis B virus before
16 their tenth birthdays; and

17 WHEREAS, From 1990 to 2019, the universal hepatitis B
18 birth dose recommendation led to a 99% decline in reported
19 cases of acute hepatitis B in children and young adults and
20 averted an estimated 90,100 deaths in the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, The ACIP ended this universal hepatitis B birth

1 dose recommendation in 2025 and now recommends it for infants
2 born to women who tested positive for the hepatitis B virus or
3 whose status is unknown, limiting other infants to a
4 recommendation for shared clinical decision-making; and

5 WHEREAS, Public health analyses suggest that skipping or
6 delaying the hepatitis B birth dose could result in thousands
7 of preventable hepatitis B infections and hundreds of millions
8 in avoidable healthcare costs in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, Amidst these changes, several states have
10 reaffirmed their support for a universal hepatitis B birth
11 dose; and

12 WHEREAS, These state-level changes are beneficial to the
13 public health landscape and prosperity of those states; and

14 WHEREAS, Given existing shortfalls in annual hepatitis B
15 screening practices, despite a universal hepatitis B screening
16 recommendation for pregnant women, vaccination remains the
17 safest and most effective way to proactively safeguard public
18 health and prevent the devastating effects of hepatitis B
19 infection; and

20 WHEREAS, Given existing gaps related to linkage to care
21 for people who have hepatitis B, greater awareness of and

1 access to hepatitis B screening and treatment options is
2 needed to protect the health and well-being of individuals
3 across Illinois; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
5 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we declare July 28, 2026 as Hepatitis B Awareness Day in the
7 State of Illinois to continue educating the public on the
8 importance of hepatitis B vaccination, screening, and linkage
9 to care, to initiate meaningful dialogue around vaccination,
10 and to encourage the uptake of hepatitis B vaccines,
11 screening, and treatment; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we urge the Department of Health to direct
13 healthcare providers and public health officials to continue
14 to promote hepatitis B vaccination as a highly effective and
15 safe public health measure, increase public awareness about
16 the importance of all Illinois residents receiving a hepatitis
17 B vaccination, and promote outreach and education efforts
18 concerning hepatitis B vaccination; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That we urge the Illinois Department of Health
20 to collaborate with the Illinois Department of Insurance and
21 other applicable state agencies to expand access to and
22 awareness of hepatitis B testing and treatment options, ensure
23 coverage for the hepatitis B vaccine remains in place, and

1 identify, review, and remove any barriers to hepatitis B
2 vaccine, screening, and treatment access; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That we encourage the Illinois Department of
4 Health to work with any relevant state and local health
5 agencies, healthcare providers, and patients/community
6 representatives to develop an effective and actionable state
7 hepatitis B strategic plan focused on areas such as
8 immunization, screening, and linkage to care, which will align
9 stakeholders on shared objectives and efforts to facilitate
10 broad screening, vaccine, and treatment availability and
11 access; comparable initiatives in other states, such as the
12 New York Viral Hepatitis Strategic Plan, may be used as
13 guiding models for Illinois plan development; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That we encourage the Illinois Department of
16 Health to establish a hepatitis B working group to develop
17 measurable goals on which to center the hepatitis B strategic
18 plan, which may include but are not limited to strengthening
19 immunization infrastructure, improving coverage policies,
20 assessing vaccine administration fees, increasing community
21 demand, improving vaccine confidence, and promoting health
22 equity initiatives to improve vaccine, screening and treatment
23 uptake; the proposed hepatitis B working group is encouraged
24 to provide regular updates to the Illinois Department of

1 Health on its activities, progress toward established goals,
2 and any recommendations; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
4 delivered to the Illinois Department of Health and the
5 Illinois Department of Insurance.