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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The taxpayers of the State of Illinois are
3 currently facing a tremendous financial hardship due to the
4 ever-increasing tax burden that is being placed upon them;
5 homeowners and business owners are fleeing this State in order
6 to escape the dismal economic climate; and

7 WHEREAS, Illinois has the second-highest property taxes in
8 the country, and adding to this, the General Assembly recently
9 approved a 32% increase in the income tax rate, in addition to
10 adding a back-door sales tax increase to E10 gasoline, which
11 will have a negative impact on families across this State; and

12 WHEREAS, In addition to the State creating a difficult
13 financial situation for taxpayers, certain local units of
14 government are exacerbating the problem; and

15 WHEREAS, The Cook County Board of Commissioners passed a
16 sweetened-beverage tax on November 10, 2016 (Ordinance Number
17 16-5931) that, beginning July 1, 2017, would impose a
18 sweetened-beverage tax at the rate of one cent per ounce on
19 sweetened-beverages, including soda, fountain drinks, certain
20 sweetened juices, ready-to-drink sweetened coffee drinks, and
21 sports and energy drinks, purchased in Cook County; and

1 WHEREAS, The tax is unnecessary and injurious to Illinois
2 families that are already facing difficult economic times; and

3 WHEREAS, This tax negatively impacts the State's economy by
4 directly hurting the Illinois beverage industry; and

5 WHEREAS, The sweetened-beverage tax has been the subject of
6 much public criticism and legal challenge; businesses have
7 challenged the legality of the law (both under the uniformity
8 clause of the Illinois Constitution and its overly vague
9 construction); while the legal challenge brought forth delayed
10 the implementation of the tax, the ordinance went into effect
11 on August 2, 2017; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
14 strongly oppose the imposition of the sweetened-beverage tax
15 and urge the Cook County Board of Commissioners to immediately
16 repeal the sweetened-beverage tax for its negative effect on
17 the already over-taxed residents of Cook County.