



SR1716

LRB100 21945 MST 39929 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, For the greater part of 20 years, the United States Government has used the 1996 National Defense Authorization Act to allow the Defense Secretary to give local law enforcement agencies the Defense Department's excess military equipment at no cost to the agency; and

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WHEREAS, New and used material, including Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles and weapons determined by the Department of Defense to be "military grade" are transferred to local law enforcement; and

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WHEREAS, The increased militarization of police throughout the United States has contributed to continuing abuses of police powers, which pose a serious threat to the constitutional rights of the American People, including residents of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Militarized policing has deepened the divide between communities and police, reducing public trust in law enforcement officers; and

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WHEREAS, The federal government and the State of Illinois have thus far failed to adequately provide reasonable long-lasting restrictions and oversight on the use of military

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1 grade weapons by police; and

2 WHEREAS, In 2015, then-President Barack H. Obama took steps
3 to demilitarize local police by banning tracked armored
4 vehicles, bayonets, grenade launchers, camouflage uniforms,
5 and large-caliber weapons and ammunition; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2017, President Donald J. Trump rolled back the
7 Obama-era demilitarization policies, thereby allowing military
8 equipment, typically used for warfare, to once again be
9 distributed to local police agencies; and

10 WHEREAS, The right for the governor of a state to declare
11 martial law has been seen as a given power in his or her
12 position during extreme circumstances; and

13 WHEREAS, The existence of war between a state and a limited
14 number of its citizens in a small geographical area, stemming
15 from a rebellious act against the government, does not invoke
16 the necessity of martial law in that territory; therefore, be
17 it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we strongly oppose the
20 partisan impulses and the lack of adequate solutions
21 surrounding the demilitarization of police agencies; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That we do not believe the use of military grade
3 weapons and gear by police, in either urban or rural settings,
4 provides safety to the residents of those communities; and be
5 it further

6 RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Congress to
7 drastically reduce, if not eliminate, the amount of military
8 equipment provided to local law enforcement agencies; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That suspending ordinary law, more specifically
11 as it pertains to searches and seizures, and replacing it with
12 martial law holds no place in the State of Illinois, unless
13 properly called for by the executive branch of the United
14 States Government or the executive branch of the Illinois State
15 Government; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
17 delivered to the President of the United States, to all members
18 of the United States Senate, all members of the United States
19 House of Representatives, all members of the Illinois General
20 Assembly, and the Governor of the State of Illinois.