



HR0409

LRB103 34293 LAW 64119 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of former Illinois State Representative and Assistant Minority Leader William B. "Bill" Black of Danville, who passed away on September 9, 2023; and

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WHEREAS, Bill Black was born in Danville on November 11, 1941; he was raised in a small-business family; he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from William Jewell College in Missouri, followed by a master's degree in education from the University of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Exercising his interest in the Danville community, Bill Black became a leader at the Danville Area Community College; he was a member of the Vermilion County Board from 1976 to 1986, serving as chairman from 1981 to 1983; and

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WHEREAS, In February 1986, Bill Black was appointed to join the Illinois House of Representatives, representing Danville and many of its surrounding communities, after his predecessor in the Illinois House, Harry "Babe" Woodyard, accepted an appointment to the Illinois Senate in 1986; he was elected to his first full term in the Illinois House in

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1 November 1986; and

2 WHEREAS, As a member of the Republican caucus, Bill Black
3 developed an interest and expertise in issues concerning
4 community colleges, higher education, mental health, the
5 LI-HEAP program of energy assistance for persons with
6 challenged incomes, the fight against DUI moving violators,
7 and many other programs; he was appointed to committees on
8 these issues, serving repeatedly as a spokesperson; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1991, Bill Black was named one of the ten
10 Outstanding State Legislators in the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, Repeatedly demonstrating his knowledge and
12 expertise on issues of importance to all members of the
13 Illinois House from every region of the State, particularly
14 members of the House Republican Caucus, Bill Black became the
15 acknowledged floor leader of the Caucus, leading the
16 Republican side in many House discussions and debates, with
17 the title of House Assistant Minority Leader; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2010, when Bill Black announced his plans to
19 become a private citizen in the company of his wife Sharon, his
20 children, and his grandchildren, his colleagues paid tribute
21 to him in an extraordinary display on the Illinois House
22 floor, with more than 30 of his colleagues rising, one after

1 the other, to recount stories of his wisdom and temperament as
2 a leader for them all; and

3 WHEREAS, Although Bill Black was looking forward to his
4 retirement, his community and his state capital gave him a new
5 round of duties; he was elected by his neighbors to the
6 Danville City Council as an alderman in 2011; he was appointed
7 to the Springfield-based Procurement Policy Board in 2013, and
8 he joined the Danville Area Community College (DACC) Board of
9 Trustees by appointment in 2014; appearing once again on
10 Danville-area-wide ballots, he was elected to the DACC Board
11 of Trustees in 2015, serving until 2021; and

12 WHEREAS, Bill Black was recognized by the Danville Area
13 Community College for his continued service with the building
14 and naming of the new William B. Black Health Professions
15 Center in his honor, with the center constituting a health
16 professions hub that offers courses, certifications, and
17 training in biomedical engineering, nursing, medical imaging,
18 health information technology, emergency medical technology,
19 medical assisting, nursing assisting, and phlebotomy; and

20 WHEREAS, Bill Black leaves behind a reputation as a giant
21 in Illinois politics who was a happy warrior of the political
22 battlefield; he will be remembered as a leader who fought for
23 his Danville and Vermilion County communities and for all of

1 the people of Illinois; and

2 WHEREAS, Bill Black is survived by his wife, Sharon; his
3 daughter, Debra (Scott) Alexander; his son, Doug (DeeDee)
4 Black; six grandchildren; his brother, Bob (Jackie) Black; and
5 his stepsisters, Denia (Don) Zuch and Cathy Speerly;
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
8 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 we mourn the passing of former State Representative and
10 Assistant Minority Leader William B. "Bill" Black and extend
11 our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who
12 knew and loved him; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Bill Black as an expression of our
15 deepest sympathy.