



HR0816

LRB103 40739 LAW 73552 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Pace, the Suburban Bus
4 Division of the Regional Transportation Authority, on the
5 occasion of its 40th anniversary; and

6 WHEREAS, Pace was formed by legislation passed by the
7 Illinois General Assembly in 1983, and it officially began
8 operations on July 1, 1984; and

9 WHEREAS, At its founding, Pace's new leadership inherited
10 responsibility for operating hundreds of suburban bus routes
11 that had previously been operated by financially struggling
12 municipal and private bus companies throughout northeastern
13 Illinois; and

14 WHEREAS, Pace consolidated and modernized those various
15 operations into a unified, streamlined, and efficient transit
16 agency while also closely coordinating with its partner
17 agencies Metra and the Chicago Transit Authority under the
18 oversight of the Regional Transportation Authority; and

19 WHEREAS, Pace became responsible for operating ADA
20 Paratransit services in Chicago as well as the suburbs after a
21 change in State law in 2005, leading to vast improvements in

1 customer satisfaction and greater ridership on that service;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Pace buses were authorized to use the shoulder of
4 Interstate 55 in the southwest suburbs due to a change in State
5 law in 2011, resulting in tremendous improvements in travel
6 time and on-time performance on that corridor and a subsequent
7 600% ridership increase in the first seven years of the law's
8 enactment; and

9 WHEREAS, Pace launched its Pulse rapid transit program
10 with an initial line on Milwaukee Avenue in 2019 and a second
11 line on Dempster Street in 2023, with three more lines now in
12 development, leading to faster travel times and greater
13 ridership on those corridors; and

14 WHEREAS, Pace, as the operator of a fleet of more than 700
15 buses, recognized its responsibility for pollution reduction
16 and committed itself to converting its entire fleet to
17 zero-emission vehicles by 2040, a goal that they are on
18 schedule to meet; and

19 WHEREAS, Pace has proven to be a consistent reformer,
20 ensuring its services meet the needs of the commuting public,
21 as evidenced by the Vision2020 program of 2001, during the
22 COVID-19 pandemic, and this year's ReVision project; amidst

1 the COVID-19 pandemic, the suburban transit provider
2 especially demonstrated both how essential it was to
3 transit-dependent commuters in northeastern Illinois and how
4 compassionate its leadership was while navigating the evolving
5 crisis to ensure public health and safety; and

6 WHEREAS, Pace has emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic with
7 a renewed spirit of reform by implementing many new programs,
8 including VanGo, a reservation-based service providing public
9 transit where and when it is needed, while also ensuring
10 taxpayer funding is utilized efficiently; and

11 WHEREAS, Over its 40-year history, Pace has been a
12 national leader in innovation and technology through
13 implementing a number of initiatives, including the Vanpool
14 program, the Intelligent Bus System (IBS) for real-time
15 tracking of buses, the On Demand service, the TripCheck
16 tracking system for paratransit customers, the Mobility as a
17 Service (MaaS) program on the Transit mobile app, and the new
18 Rideshare Access Program; and

19 WHEREAS, In a recent study concerning the future of public
20 transportation in northeastern Illinois, Pace remains more
21 efficient when compared to peer agencies across the country;
22 and

1 WHEREAS, Pace's responsiveness to its stakeholders in
2 northeastern Illinois continues to ensure that public transit
3 riders in the six-county region will be well served for the
4 next 40 years; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we congratulate Pace, its Board of Directors, and its
8 employees on providing 40 years of safe, equitable, efficient,
9 and environmentally responsible transportation in the
10 six-county region of northeastern Illinois, and we wish the
11 suburban transit provider continued success in the decades
12 ahead; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the Pace Board of Directors as an expression of
15 our esteem and respect.