



1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

2 (As Amended by Senate Amendment Nos. 1 & 2)

3 WHEREAS, The Great Migration, a long-term movement of
4 African Americans from the South to the urban North,
5 transformed Chicago and other northern cities between 1916 and
6 1970; and

7 WHEREAS, Chicago attracted slightly more than 500,000 of
8 the approximately 7 million African Americans who left the
9 South during these decades; and

10 WHEREAS, Before the Great Migration, African Americans
11 constituted just 2 percent of Chicago's population, but by 1970
12 African Americans constituted 33 percent of Chicago's
13 population; and

14 WHEREAS, What had been in the nineteenth century a largely
15 southern and rural African American culture became a culture
16 deeply infused with urban sensibility in the twentieth century;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, What had been a marginalized population in Chicago
19 emerged by the mid-twentieth century as a powerful force in the
20 city's political, economic, and cultural life; and

1 WHEREAS, The Black Metropolis National Heritage Area
2 Project Steering Committee has worked with Congressman Bobby
3 Rush on federal legislation for the Black Metropolis District
4 National Heritage Area (NHA) and the Great Migration Centennial
5 will serve as one of the benchmarks for the National Heritage
6 Area which focuses on preservation, tourism & economic
7 development, conservation, recreation, education &
8 interpretation; and

9 WHEREAS, The Black Metropolis National Heritage Area
10 Project Steering Committee has identified 10 Major Promise
11 Programs for the next century which include:

- 12 1. Great Migration Public Art;
- 13 2. In Motion: African American Migration Experience;
- 14 3. Great Migration Trail: Rails to Trails Conservancy
15 Project;
- 16 4. The Rosenwald Building;
- 17 5. The Chicago Blues Museum;
- 18 6. The Pullman Porter Great Migration Blues Trail;
- 19 7. Leadership Development Institute;
- 20 8. Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships;
- 21 9. Black Metropolis Social Innovation Fund; and
- 22 10. Bronzeville Postmark and Postal Sub-station; and

23 WHEREAS, The Great Migration Centennial celebrates the
24 promise that Chicago once offered a people in search of a

1 better life 100 years ago; and

2 WHEREAS, The theme adopted by the Black Metropolis National
3 Heritage Project Steering Committee, "Creating a New Promise",
4 acknowledges the hope that has been restored through the new
5 political administration and addresses the need for the greater
6 Chicagoland region to deliver on its promise and create a new
7 social compact for the future; and

8 WHEREAS, To succeed in the 21st century global competition
9 for jobs, prosperity, and quality of life for all, we must have
10 inspiring and well-accepted plans to produce action; and

11 WHEREAS, The Great Migration Centennial will challenge
12 children and adults throughout the region to make choices today
13 that will define the way we live for the next century;
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
17 CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Illinois Great Migration
18 Centennial Commission is created; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the members of the Commission shall include
20 the President of the Senate or his designee and the Speaker of
21 the House of Representatives or his designee, each serving as

1 one of the co-chairpersons, the Governor or his designee, one
2 vice-chairperson appointed by the co-chairpersons, all of whom
3 shall serve as the Executive Committee and 25 appointed
4 members, with the Governor, the President of the Senate, the
5 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of
6 the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the House of
7 Representatives appointing 5 members each; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the appointed members shall serve without
9 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable and
10 necessary expenses from non-public sources if funds allow; and
11 be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the appointed members shall be from diverse
13 backgrounds so as to reflect the diverse citizenry of Illinois
14 working together for a common democratic cause, and that their
15 individual qualifications shall include varying educational,
16 professional, and civic experiences that bring different
17 perspectives and cooperative outlooks to the Commission; and be
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That the purpose of the Commission is to plan for
20 the Great Migration Centennial to be commemorated and
21 celebrated from January to December 2016 and to:

- 22 1. Elevate the centennial of the Great Migration to a
23 high-profile bi-partisan event;

1 2. Recognize the Great Migration as the largest
2 migration to ever occur in North America;

3 3. Stimulate and encourage the creation and growth of
4 programs about the Great Migration;

5 4. Highlight and publicize the institutions in the
6 State that are connected to the Great Migration and their
7 impact;

8 5. Work with coordinated statewide groups
9 commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Great
10 Migration; and

11 6. Encourage communities and citizens to support and
12 get involved in the commemoration; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, The Great Migration Centennial Commission serves
14 to promote a deeper knowledge, understanding and engagement in
15 the life and times of the African American Migration
16 Experience, through conferences, publications, preservation of
17 historic sites, and local, statewide and national observances
18 as well as arts projects, forum, travel and tourism promotions
19 and year-long celebration activities; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Commission's preliminary goals are to
21 develop:

22 1. a national honorary committee of historians,
23 educators, authors, politicians, celebrities and other
24 notables;

1 2. educational curriculum, events, tours, exhibits and
2 programs at the elementary, high school, secondary,
3 graduate and post-graduate level;

4 3. a signature entertainment event for fundraising and
5 broadcast purposes;

6 4. an educational symposium with university partners,
7 the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment
8 for the Humanities, the Illinois Arts Council, as well as
9 private foundations and other philanthropic organizations;

10 5. a year-long cultural promotional event calendar
11 supported by travel packages and other travel or tourism
12 incentives; and

13 6. a logo and trademark design for official use on all
14 Centennial commissioned related merchandise, apparel and
15 products officially licensed; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Commission shall meet as frequently as
17 necessary, at the call of the co-chairpersons; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, The Commission shall have the option of creating
20 a Council of Advisors and any working groups or committees it
21 deems necessary; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, The Commission shall have the option to
23 collaborate with any federal or local commissions designated to

1 recognize the Great Migration Centennial commemoration via
2 internet links, shared exhibits, activities and programs; and
3 be it further

4 RESOLVED, The Commission shall work with and establish
5 opportunities with the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs
6 and the Mayor's Office of Special Events; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Commission shall, while working in
8 coordination with and with the assistance of the Black
9 Metropolis National Heritage Area Project Steering Committee,
10 broaden outreach by using established channels, including
11 publicly supported media and electronic, computer-assisted
12 communication systems, and elicit voluntary assistance from
13 educational, legal, civic, and professional organizations and
14 institutions, as well as notable individuals; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That no later than December 31, 2012, the
16 Commission shall report to the General Assembly and the
17 Governor on its planning progress to commemorate and celebrate
18 the Great Migration Centennial; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Historic Preservation Agency, subject
20 to appropriation, shall have responsibility for, and may
21 provide technical assistance and administrative support to,
22 the Commission in its efforts; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That any such appropriation may be refunded to
2 the Historic Preservation Agency, should the Commission choose
3 to do so; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 delivered to the Governor of the State of Illinois.