



HJ0087

LRB098 20595 MST 56958 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has been in economic turmoil  
3 for years and has gained notoriety across the country for  
4 spending outside of its means and falling into enormous debt  
5 that burdens Illinois's taxpayers; and

6 WHEREAS, Illinois has a total debt of \$187,000,000,000  
7 equaling roughly \$40,000 in debt per household in the State;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, A recent Commission on Government Forecasting and  
10 Accountability report estimates Illinois's unfunded pension  
11 liabilities alone total \$100,500,000,000; and

12 WHEREAS, The Illinois Comptroller has reported that the  
13 State currently has \$7,000,000,000 in unpaid bills and  
14 \$30,000,000,000 in bond debt; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2011, as a promise to Illinois taxpayers to pay  
16 off debt and to stabilize the State's economy, Illinois  
17 lawmakers pushed through a record income tax increase that  
18 raised the income tax rate on individuals to 5% from 3%, and on  
19 corporations to 7% from 4.8%; and

20 WHEREAS, Since the tax increase was passed, Illinois's

1 pension debt has grown and the State's economy has struggled  
2 due to increased spending; and

3 WHEREAS, The tax increases and irresponsible borrowing  
4 have forced businesses and residents to flee the State for more  
5 tax friendly and financially stable states that offer more hope  
6 for success; and

7 WHEREAS, The citizens of Illinois have been calling upon  
8 their elected officials to stand against wasteful spending and  
9 to assure its citizens that the Illinois General Assembly is  
10 ready to make the necessary changes to put Illinois on the path  
11 to prosperity while giving a much needed relief to taxpayers;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Real solutions exist to Illinois's massive debt  
14 and spending problems and these solutions exist without  
15 increasing the already high tax burden on its citizens;  
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
18 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
19 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Illinois Legislature is  
20 encouraged not spend outside of its projected 2014-2015 revenue  
21 estimate of \$34,495,000,000 as acknowledged in HJR80 of this  
22 General Assembly and that every legislator in this State

1 recognize that Illinois can no longer spend more money than it  
2 brings in through revenue and can no longer ask its citizens to  
3 bear the burden of government misspending; and be it further

4       RESOLVED, That the Illinois Legislature is urged to keep  
5 its promise and allow the temporary tax increase to sunset on  
6 January 1, 2015 as scheduled and to enact real spending  
7 reforms.