



HR0096

LRB098 02964 HLH 32979 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives recognize the hardships Illinois property owners face in the economic climate of today; and

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WHEREAS, The National and State economies are in a recession which began, in part, by the collapse of the housing market; and

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WHEREAS, This collapse has resulted in the fall of many Illinois property owners' property values, which has triggered property tax rates to increase to keep Illinois local governments' revenues stable; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois local governments rely heavily on property taxes as revenue; in 2007, property taxes accounted for 68% of local governments' general own-source revenue; and

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WHEREAS, The condition of property values decreasing and property taxes increasing is causing financial problems for many Illinois property owners, and is resulting in many homeowners losing or being at risk of losing their homes; and

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WHEREAS, The 96th General Assembly passed and Governor signed into law Public Act 96-1418 in response to the concerns

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1 of Illinois property owners; and

2 WHEREAS, The goals of Public Act 96-1418 included expanding  
3 the Returning Veterans Homestead Exemption to reduce the  
4 property tax liability of a returning veteran in the year after  
5 the veteran has returned home; lowering the service-connected  
6 disability requirement for the Disabled Veterans Standard  
7 Homestead Exemption to 70% from 75% to increase the number of  
8 veterans who are eligible for the exemption; and extending the  
9 Alternative General Homestead Exemption for 3 more years; and

10 WHEREAS, In addition, Public Act 96-1418 requires: (i)  
11 county boards of review to make their rules and procedures  
12 available to the public; (ii) county assessors to make a  
13 plain-English explanation of equalization factors available to  
14 the public; and (iii) county assessors to make an additional  
15 set of disclosures with a change in assessment notice; and

16 WHEREAS, Public Act 96-1418 also created 7 Taxpayer Action  
17 Boards; and

18 WHEREAS, Taxpayer Action Boards have the following goals:  
19 (i) to oversee the implementation of P.A. 96-122 with an  
20 emphasis on the transparency and disclosure provisions of that  
21 Public Act; (ii) to make recommendations about other useful  
22 disclosures in addition to those required by P.A. 96-122; and

1 (iii) to make recommendations concerning the implementation of  
2 the transparency reform provisions of P.A. 96-122 in their  
3 respective counties; and

4 WHEREAS, Each Taxpayer Action Board is required to conduct  
5 a study that critically evaluates the manner in which its  
6 county assesses residential property and examines the accuracy  
7 of computer-assisted mass appraisal; as part of its study, each  
8 Board shall conduct at least 2 public hearings; and

9 WHEREAS, Each Taxpayer Action Board must report to the  
10 Governor and the General Assembly summarizing its findings,  
11 must maintain and administer a website cataloguing taxpayer  
12 assistance information linked to the Department of Revenue's  
13 website, must propose to its county government changes to  
14 property tax policies and procedures, if appropriate, and must  
15 propose to the Department of Revenue changes to property tax  
16 policies and procedures, if appropriate; and

17 WHEREAS, A Taxpayer Action Board was to be established in  
18 each of the following counties: Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall,  
19 Lake, McHenry, and Will; each Board was to be composed of 7  
20 members; and

21 WHEREAS, The 7 members of each board are to be named by the  
22 Governor and serve 2-years terms; and

1           WHEREAS, As of January 7, 2013, there have been no  
2 appointments made by Governor Quinn to any of the 7 boards; and

3           WHEREAS, No studies, reports, or findings have been  
4 published; therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
6 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
7 we call on Governor Quinn to immediately appoint members to the  
8 Taxpayer Action Boards to research the property tax system in  
9 each of their respective counties to help identify ways to make  
10 the systems more transparent; and be it further

11           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
12 presented to the Governor.