



HR0199

LRB099 03761 GRL 23774 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, On July 16, 2014, Jesse Vega, also known as Jesse  
3 Ortiz, escaped from Elgin Mental Health Center custody while  
4 being transported to a court hearing concerning criminal  
5 charges pending against him; and

6           WHEREAS, Vega was charged with aggravated domestic  
7 battery, aggravated battery causing great bodily harm,  
8 aggravated battery in a public place, obstructing justice, and  
9 aggravated driving under the influence with a suspended or  
10 revoked license; and

11           WHEREAS, Vega remained at large for 8 hours, placing the  
12 community in harm's way for an extended period of time; and

13           WHEREAS, At the time of the escape, Vega was accompanied by  
14 3 security officers; he fled from the vehicle as it was stopped  
15 at a gas station in a residential neighborhood; and

16           WHEREAS, The safety of individuals residing, working, or  
17 traveling in our neighborhoods is of paramount concern; the  
18 public requires a full understanding of how this escape  
19 occurred so officials may take the necessary steps to help  
20 prevent any future escape; and

1           WHEREAS, This escape constitutes a breakdown in either the  
2 design or execution of the procedures governing the  
3 transportation of prisoners at the Elgin Mental Health Center;  
4 therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
6 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
7 direct the Office of the Auditor General to conduct an  
8 investigation to examine the circumstances surrounding Vega's  
9 escape and evaluate whether prisoner transport procedures need  
10 to be improved at Elgin Mental Health Center or other State  
11 facilities; and be it further

12           RESOLVED, That we urge the administration of the Elgin  
13 Mental Health Center and all other institutions involved with  
14 this inquiry to make available all information to the Office of  
15 the Auditor General that may be necessary to their  
16 investigation; and be it further

17           RESOLVED, That the Office of the Auditor General shall  
18 present a report to the Illinois House of Representatives  
19 detailing the findings of its investigation and any  
20 recommendations for procedural reform, should they result from  
21 the investigation, not more than one year after the passage of  
22 this resolution; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
2 delivered to the Governor, the Director of the Department of  
3 Human Services, the Director of the Department of Corrections,  
4 and the members of the Illinois congressional delegation.