



HR0247

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, FIRST®, For Inspiration and Recognition of
3 Science and Technology, is a global nonprofit organization
4 that prepares young people for the future through a suite of
5 inclusive, team-based robotics programs for ages 4-18 with
6 thrilling, sports-like challenges to build self-confidence and
7 collaborative problem-solving skills, which have a proven and
8 lasting impact on STEM learning and interest; and

9 WHEREAS, Robotics is rapidly proving to be one of the most
10 effective, compelling, and engaging means for teaching and
11 reinforcing fundamental science, technology, engineering, and
12 mathematics (STEM) concepts as well as inspiring the nation's
13 youth to pursue STEM-related careers, thereby helping to
14 create a highly skilled, 21st-century American workforce; and

15 WHEREAS, There is a strong need to recognize America's
16 leadership in robotics technology, educate the public on
17 robotics technology's broad potential, growing importance, and
18 future impact on American society, underscore the need for
19 increased investment in robotics technology research and
20 development, and inspire the nation's youth to pursue careers
21 in robotics and other STEM-related fields; and

22 WHEREAS, The United States has the largest number of

1 academic and research organizations with dedicated programs
2 focused on the advancement of robotics technology; and

3 WHEREAS, Aptitude in mathematics, science, and engineering
4 is essential for a knowledge-based society; and

5 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois must continue to make deep,
6 hands-on STEM experiences a true priority in school districts
7 around the country by unlocking increased funding for
8 programming that builds strong foundations for STEM literacy,
9 increases diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEM, and
10 prepares the STEM workforce for the future; and

11 WHEREAS, Not all STEM jobs of the 21st century require a
12 traditional four-year degree, so greater pathways toward STEM
13 education must be encouraged; and

14 WHEREAS, Robotics has matured into an all-encompassing and
15 enabling technology that, as a pillar of 21st-century American
16 innovation, is positioned to fuel a broad array of next
17 generation products and applications and transform our
18 society; and

19 WHEREAS, The emerging market for robotics and related
20 technology in various sectors, including health care, national
21 defense, homeland security, energy, manufacturing, logistics,

1 transportation, agriculture, education, consumer goods, and
2 others, is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of
3 nearly 20 percent over the next few years to become a worldwide
4 \$27,000,000,000 industry; and

5 WHEREAS, Robotics is a critical technology capable in the
6 near term of contributing to the economic recovery by creating
7 new jobs, increasing productivity, improving quality, and
8 increasing worker safety; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
10 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we declare the third Friday in March 2025 and March 2026 as
12 FIRST® Robotics Day in the State of Illinois; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we recognize the continuing importance of
14 the National Science Foundation's math and science education
15 programs and encourage local school districts and other
16 educational agencies to fund afterschool robotics programs;
17 and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we encourage schools and educators to
19 observe the day with appropriate activities that teach
20 students about robotics and engage them with the study of
21 mathematics and science.