



# Office of the City Clerk

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## Legislation Text

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**File #:** R2013-6, **Version:** 1

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### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The winter of 2012/2013 has seen an epidemic in influenza (the flu) cases across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Forty-seven states have reported a widespread breakout of the flu with twenty-four states reporting a "high level" of flu. The State of Illinois is one of those twenty-four states reporting a "high level" of flu; and

WHEREAS, In the State of Illinois alone, the number of flu-related intensive care unit (ICU) hospitalizations so far this year is 368, with twenty-seven flu-related ICU deaths. The majority of hospitalizations and deaths are of people in their 50s and older. The Illinois Department of Public Health expects to see an increase in the number of hospitalizations and deaths as more health care providers report cases from previous weeks as well as current cases; and

WHEREAS, Public health officials note that the flu season imposes a financial cost each year across the Nation. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention projects the total economic burden of each flu season to be \$87.1 billion, which includes direct medical costs of \$10.4 billion and lost income due to illness or death estimated at \$16.3 billion each year. While hospitalization costs are important contributors, lost productivity from missed work days and lost lives comprise the bulk of the economic burden of the flu; and

WHEREAS, The flu is not to be taken lightly, for it kills between 3,000 and 49,000 people in the United States each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, Yonatan Grad, a research fellow at Harvard University's School of Public Health, concluded that the only defense against the flu now is to develop the most effective vaccine and deliver it to as many people as possible; and

WHEREAS, The people of the City of Chicago are understandably concerned about the outbreak of flu this year and expect their local government to assist in any way possible to reduce the outbreak of new flu cases; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this seventeenth day of January, 2013, do hereby call upon representatives of the City of Chicago's Department of Public Health to appear before the City Council Committee on Health and Environmental Protection to discuss how^wide spread the flu is in the City of Chicago and ways to effectively treat, and prevent&urttie>fpread of, the flu in Chicago.