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FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE BOB FLIDER

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Flider-backed Bill to Find Ways to Reduce Poverty Advances to Senate

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Seeking to address one of the most important issues facing working class families in Illinois, state Rep. Bob Flider (D-Mount Zion) helped advance a measure out of the House on Wednesday that creates a special commission focused on the elimination of poverty.

“Illinois should be leading by example in the effort to reduce and ultimately eliminate poverty,” Flider said. “The special commission created by this bill will have the ability to bring together multiple resources to build a framework, formulate new legislation and promote activities that will result in helping our poorest citizens.”

House Bill 4369 creates the Commission on the Elimination of Poverty. The Commission will be charged with specific tasks with the primary goal of slashing the number of people living in poverty in Illinois by 50 percent by the year 2015. The poverty reduction effort will focus on issues of fair and affordable housing, health and nutrition, access to quality health care, job training and reliable transportation. The legislation is the result of a series of statewide forums on poverty organized by the Mid-America Institute on Poverty at the Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights.

“Whether it is in our inner-cities, rural areas or anywhere in-between, poverty ultimately affects us all,” Flider added. “There are currently 700,000 people who live in poverty in Illinois, which suggests the problem is not limited to any one region. We have a moral obligation to do better, and this commission will set us on the path to improve the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of people.”

HB 4369 now moves to the Senate for further consideration.

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