



Introduced Version

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**HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing the Centennial of  
Bosma Enterprises, Inc.

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**Bosma, DeLaney**

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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20152803

2015

HC 1065/DI 84



## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing the Centennial of Bosma Enterprises, Inc.

*Whereas, In 1915 the State of Indiana authorized the creation of the Board of Industrial Aid for the Blind and provided a \$10,000 annual budget to create opportunities to improve the lives of people who had lost their sight;*

*Whereas, The Board established an industrial training program to teach skills to adult men who lost their eyesight so they could work in the Board's workshop or other industrial settings;*

*Whereas, Since the first product the workshop produced was brooms, which were sold all over the state, the program has grown to offering a wide variety of high-quality products and services to government agencies and private sector companies across North America;*

*Whereas, Returning World War I veterans with disabilities were provided skills training through the Soldier's Rehabilitation Act that were ultimately expanded to provide vocational rehabilitation to include anyone with a disability;*

*Whereas, By 1943 with millions of men and women off fighting the war, employers began looking to people with disabilities to fill the job vacancies, and the Vocational Rehabilitation program doubled in size as stereotypes began to change about the abilities of people with disabilities;*



*Whereas, The Board of Industrial Aid was dissolved in 1953 and the workshop and rehabilitation program were placed under the control of Indiana Rehabilitation Services, which later merged with the Indiana Department of Human Services;*

*Whereas, In 1984 Indiana renamed the agency the Charles E. Bosma Industries for the Blind after State Senator Charles Bosma, a well-known advocate in the Indiana General Assembly for people with disabilities;*

*Whereas, State budget considerations lead the State to announce in 1986 that it would close the workshop, one of the few places someone who was blind could work in the Indianapolis area;*

*Whereas, a small group of dedicated individuals formed a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and completed negotiations with the State in 1988 to take over what had formerly been Bosma Industries for the Blind, thus preserving the employment and job readiness skills training for people who were blind;*

*Whereas, in 2006 the state transitioned all state-run rehabilitation services for people who are blind or visually impaired to Bosma;*

*Whereas, Employment opportunities at Bosma have grown from brooms and textiles through brake line assembly, dry food packaging, surgical and examination glove packaging, health and safety kit packaging, contract packaging and warehousing, Ice Melt packaging, and a full line of digital printing services;*

*Whereas, The 1990 passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act has opened doors for people with disabilities and provided access allowing people the right to pursue opportunities and live life to their greatest potential; and*

*Whereas, For 100 years Bosma Enterprises has consistently created services and opportunities for persons with vision disabilities to live meaningful lives, Bosma Enterprises now looks forward to even greater opportunities*



*in the years ahead in providing services and training to assist clients in navigating blindness: Therefore,*

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives  
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,  
the Senate concurring:*

1           SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly thanks Bosma  
2           Enterprises for its century of dedicated services to the thousands of  
3           people whose lives have been enriched by its many programs and its  
4           caring and dedicated personnel.

5           SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of  
6           Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to Bosma  
7           Enterprises.

