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LRB100 18722 MST 33955 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Ford Heights School District 169 is located in the southern suburbs of Cook County and includes two elementary schools, the Medgar Evers Primary Academic Center and the Cottage Grove Upper Grade Center; and

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WHEREAS, According to the Chicago Tribune and the Cook County Clerk's Office, residents of Ford Heights had the highest composite suburban property tax rate in all of Cook County; the composite rate is determined by combining property taxes from schools, municipalities, park districts, library districts, and all other taxing bodies listed on property tax bills; and

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WHEREAS, The Ford Heights School District 169 is located in the Village of Ford Heights, which is considered one of the most disadvantaged suburbs in the United States; and

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WHEREAS, Despite only having around 400 students enrolled, the superintendent of Ford Heights District 169 earns \$250,853 this school year, with a generous package of benefits and his contract states that his salary is scheduled to rise to \$285,078.86 by July 1, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, The superintendent's salary is in the top 50 in

1 Illinois even though he is head of one of the smallest  
2 districts in the Chicago area; and

3 WHEREAS, The South Cook News reports that the district is  
4 spending \$2.3 million per year on non-teacher employees and  
5 administrators; for the 400 students and two school buildings,  
6 there are 10 full-time custodians, nine full-time secretaries,  
7 two principals, two assistant principals, and two attendance  
8 officers among several other district-level positions;  
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Auditor General is  
12 directed to conduct an audit of Ford Heights School District  
13 169; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the audit will examine the following issues:

15 (1) Whether the administrative expenses at the Ford  
16 Heights School District 169 are justified based on the  
17 number of students and school buildings and compared to  
18 other districts;

19 (2) Whether the superintendent's pay is justified  
20 based on the number of students and his responsibilities  
21 and compared to other districts;

22 (3) Whether there has been any misuse of school  
23 district funds or whether procedures can be improved or

1 updated; and

2 (4) Whether the school district is on sound financial  
3 footing and can make necessary bond and debt service  
4 payments; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Illinois State Board of Education and  
6 the Ford Heights School District 169 and any other State agency  
7 having information relevant to this audit cooperate fully and  
8 promptly with the Auditor General's Office in its conduct; and  
9 be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Auditor General commence this audit as  
11 soon as possible and report his findings and recommendations  
12 upon completion in accordance with the provisions of Section  
13 3-14 of the Illinois State Auditing Act.