



HR0771

LRB098 18229 GRL 53360 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The goal of the State's education funding system is to afford all school districts the opportunity to provide a comparable, quality education; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois' past and present financial conditions continue to have a detrimental effect on the students attending school districts not under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law; and

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WHEREAS, The primary task of the General State Aid formula, which appropriated \$4.4 billion in Fiscal Year 2014, is to provide funding for all school districts by measuring the local property wealth of a district and providing State funds on an equalized basis; and

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WHEREAS, Since the General State Aid formula was updated in 1999 to include an adjustment that accounts for perceived losses in local resources due to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law, it has diverted limited resources from the General State Aid Foundation Level grants; and

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WHEREAS, In 2000, 88% of the General State Aid formula was used for Foundation Level grants to equalize school district resources across the State; Property Tax Extension Limitation

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1 Law adjustments represented just 2% of the formula calculation;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, In 2013, the Foundation Level grants dropped to
4 53% of the formula and Property Tax Extension Limitation Law
5 adjustments now represent 13% of the formula; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2000, the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law
7 adjustments required \$46 million from funds available for
8 General State Aid; in 2013, that amount escalated to \$629
9 million; and

10 WHEREAS, This represents an increase of over 1,300% in
11 Property Tax Extension Limitation Law adjustment funding; if
12 this trend continues, Foundation Level grants to equalize
13 school district resources will soon represent less than half of
14 the General State Aid formula; and

15 WHEREAS, General State Aid appropriations have declined
16 over the last 3 years from \$4.6 billion in Fiscal Year 2011 to
17 \$4.4 billion in Fiscal Year 2014 - a reduction of \$200 million;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Fully funding General State Aid in Fiscal Year
20 2014 would have cost over \$5 billion dollars, which represents
21 a \$600 million gap; and

1 WHEREAS, In the past 3 years, school districts have
2 witnessed a proration of General State Aid funds because the
3 General State Aid Foundation Level has not been statutorily
4 adjusted to match the appropriation, causing teacher layoffs
5 and termination of school programs, services, and activities;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The mathematical difference between the Property
8 Tax Extension Limitation Law adjustment and the prorated amount
9 of General State Aid is roughly the same; and

10 WHEREAS, Prorating General State Aid only widens the gap
11 between the wealthiest districts and the poorest districts, due
12 in large part to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law
13 adjustment; and

14 WHEREAS, An inference can be made that non-Property Tax
15 Extension Limitation Law counties and their school districts
16 are subsidizing Property Tax Extension Limitation Law counties
17 and their school districts; and

18 WHEREAS, The General State Aid proration over the past 3
19 years has made it difficult for school districts to meet State
20 mandates; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we urge the Governor and the members of the General Assembly to
4 cease the proration of General State Aid allocations and to
5 fully fund the formula to benefit school districts most in need
6 of State support through the formula by prioritizing the
7 Foundation Level grant; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That we pledge to work with all stakeholders to
9 determine a State aid formula that equalizes funding for school
10 districts, utilizing local and State funds, to ensure that all
11 school districts have similar resources to educate students.