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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, There is currently a worldwide social and cultural campaign to raise awareness about sexual discrimination and harassment that has led both women and men to publicly report their experiences of widespread sexual discrimination and harassment; and

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WHEREAS, The members of the General Assembly recognize it is critical to continue this conversation in a productive and meaningful manner and that legal remedies and protections for those victimized by sexual discrimination and harassment should be appropriately maximized; therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that there is created the Task Force on Sexual Discrimination and Harassment; and be it further

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RESOLVED, That that the Task Force shall conduct a comprehensive review of the legal and social consequences of sexual discrimination and harassment, in both the public and private sectors, and make recommendations to the General Assembly; and be it further

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RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall, at a minimum, review

1 and produce recommendations concerning amendments to the legal
2 definition of the terms "sexual discrimination" and "sexual
3 harassment"; which behaviors should be legally actionable as
4 sexual harassment; review and assess best practices to improve
5 procedures for accepting sexual discrimination and harassment
6 complaints, including methods to increase and improve
7 reporting allegations of sexual harassment; the process and
8 structure for reporting allegations to ethics officers,
9 inspectors general, and others, and whether an independent
10 third party should be assigned to handle complaints; necessary
11 amendments to anti-retaliation and whistleblower protections
12 for individuals making sexual discrimination or harassment
13 complaints; the process for filing complaints with the
14 Department of Human Rights; the process for filing civil
15 complaints, including any applicable statute of limitations;
16 legal remedies available to victims of sexual discrimination
17 and harassment, including whether plaintiffs should be
18 entitled to punitive damages; the need for a code of conduct
19 and zero tolerance policies for units of government; the
20 ability of complainants to seek independent counsel when
21 reporting allegations; and the prevention of sexual
22 discrimination and harassment in the public and private sector;
23 and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That that the Task Force shall be comprised of
25 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the

1 Speaker of the House of Representatives and House members
2 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
3 Representatives, with each appointing no more than 20 members,
4 and the Chair appointed by the Speaker, and any action of the
5 Task Force shall be approved by a majority of those voting on
6 the question; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall work in conjunction
8 with any task force created by the Senate for a similar
9 purpose, and that both entities shall aspire to produce
10 legislation to address the concerns and issues presented to the
11 Task Force; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall make recommendations to
13 the General Assembly in the form of legislation, as well as a
14 report to the General Assembly no later than December 31, 2018,
15 provided that the Task Force is encouraged to produce interim
16 reports.