

1 AN ACT concerning journalism.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Local  
5 Journalism Task Force Act.

6 Section 5. Establishment. The Local Journalism Task Force  
7 is established to:

8 (1) conduct a comprehensive, nonbinding study relative  
9 to communities underserved by local journalism in  
10 Illinois; and

11 (2) review all aspects of local journalism including,  
12 but not limited to, the adequacy of press coverage of  
13 communities, the ratio of residents to media outlets, the  
14 history of local news in Illinois, print and digital  
15 business models for media outlets, the impact of social  
16 media on local news, strategies to improve local news  
17 access, and public policy solutions to improve the  
18 sustainability of local press business models and private  
19 and nonprofit solutions.

20 Section 10. Membership. The Task Force shall consist of  
21 the following 13 members: one member of the House of  
22 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of

1 Representatives; one member of the House of Representatives  
2 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of  
3 Representatives; one member of the Senate appointed by the  
4 President of the Senate; one member of the Senate appointed by  
5 the Minority Leader of the Senate; one member appointed by the  
6 Governor; one representative of the Medill School of  
7 Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications at  
8 Northwestern University; one representative of the Public  
9 Affairs Reporting Program at the University of Illinois at  
10 Springfield; one representative of the School of Journalism at  
11 Southern Illinois University Carbondale; one representative of  
12 the Illinois Press Association; one representative of the  
13 Illinois Broadcasters Association; one representative of the  
14 Illinois Legislative Correspondents Association; one  
15 representative of the Illinois Public Broadcasting Council;  
16 one representative of the Illinois News Broadcasters  
17 Association; one representative of the University of Illinois  
18 at Urbana-Champaign; and one representative of the Illinois  
19 Municipal League. Appointments shall be made no later than 30  
20 days following the effective date of this Act.

21 Section 15. Meetings. The Task Force shall meet a minimum  
22 of 5 times to review, study, and analyze existing literature  
23 as well as quantitative and qualitative data on the status of  
24 journalism in the State of Illinois.

1           Section 20. Support. The Department of Commerce and  
2           Economic Opportunity shall provide administrative and other  
3           support to the Task Force.

4           Section 25. Findings and recommendations. The Task Force  
5           shall submit its findings, along with its recommendations for  
6           legislation, to the Governor and the General Assembly no later  
7           than one year after the effective date of this Act.

8           Section 30. Repeal. This Act is repealed 2 years after the  
9           effective date of this Act.