

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 24

2 WHEREAS, The right to a quality education is a  
3 fundamental right Illinois owes to all of its children; and

4 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is over-reliant on  
5 property taxes to fund education; and

6 WHEREAS, This over-reliance on property taxes has created  
7 a number of problems for education funding, tax equity, and  
8 economic development across the State of Illinois; and

9 WHEREAS, In particular, the State's over-reliance on  
10 property taxes is a primary cause of the significant  
11 differences between per student education funding across the  
12 State; and

13 WHEREAS, The over-reliance on property taxes also has  
14 created significant hardships for rural areas of the State,  
15 for areas of concentrated poverty in urban areas of the  
16 State, and for senior citizens on fixed incomes in  
17 gentrifying areas of the State; and

18 WHEREAS, Numerous commissions and task forces, such as  
19 the Ikenberry Commission and the Governor's Education Funding  
20 Advisory Board, have recommended that Illinois assume primary  
21 responsibility for funding education by reducing its reliance  
22 on property taxes and using more State-based revenue to fund  
23 education; and

24 WHEREAS, Any changes the State makes in how it funds  
25 education should ensure that:

- 26 (i) Every school district in the State has sufficient  
27 financial resources to fund a quality education;
- 28 (ii) No school district loses money as a result of the  
29 reform; and
- 30 (iii) The State-based revenue sources used to replace  
31 property taxes are adjusted through the use of credits or

1 other tax relief, so that the State does not create  
2 additional financial burdens for low-income and  
3 moderate-income families and senior citizens; therefore,  
4 be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
6 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
7 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created a Joint  
8 Committee on Property Tax Reform and School Funding Reform  
9 which shall be charged with reforming the State's fiscal  
10 system to ensure it is fundamentally sound, fair, and capable  
11 of funding a quality education for all Illinois children; and  
12 be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Joint Committee on Property Tax Reform  
14 and School Funding Reform shall be comprised as follows:  
15 eight members of the House of Representatives, the Speaker of  
16 the House appointing four, with one serving as  
17 co-chairperson, and the Minority Leader of the House  
18 appointing four; and eight members of the Senate, the  
19 President of the Senate appointing four, with one of them  
20 serving as co-chairperson, and the Minority Leader of the  
21 Senate appointing four; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Joint Committee on Property Tax Reform  
23 and School Funding meet at least six times during the 93rd  
24 General Assembly and summarize its findings and  
25 recommendations in a preliminary report to the General  
26 Assembly by December 31, 2003, and in a final report to the  
27 General Assembly by December 31, 2004.