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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On May 4, 2000, the Governor of the State of Illinois issued Executive Order No. 4 that created the Governor's Commission On Capital Punishment; and

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WHEREAS, The duties of the Commission were: (1) to study and review the administration of the capital punishment process in Illinois to determine why that process has failed in the past, resulting in the imposition of death sentences upon innocent people; (2) to examine ways of providing safeguards and making improvements in the way law enforcement and the criminal justice system carry out their responsibilities in the death penalty process--from investigation through trial, judicial appeal, and executive review; (3) to consider, among other things, the ultimate findings and final recommendations of the House Death Penalty Task Force and the Special Supreme Court Committee on Capital Cases and determine the effect these recommendations may have on the capital punishment process; and (4) to make any recommendations and proposals designed to further ensure that the application and administration of the death penalty in Illinois is just, fair and accurate; and

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WHEREAS, In April 2002, the Commission issued its recommendations; and

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WHEREAS, Among the Commission's recommendations was Recommendation No. 37 that provided that the Illinois Supreme Court should consider ways in which information regarding relevant case law and other resources can be widely disseminated to those trying capital cases, through the development of a digest of applicable law by the Supreme Court and wider publication of the outline of issues developed by the State Appellate Defender or the State Appellate Prosecutor and/or the Attorney General; and

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1           WHEREAS, Section 16 of Article VI of the Illinois  
2           Constitution vests general administrative and supervisory  
3           authority over all courts in the Supreme Court of Illinois;  
4           and

5           WHEREAS, The adoption of Commission Recommendation No. 37  
6           by the Illinois Supreme Court would serve the best interests  
7           of the Illinois criminal justice system; therefore, be it

8           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL  
9           ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Illinois  
10          Supreme Court to adopt Recommendation No. 37 of the  
11          Governor's Commission On Capital Punishment; and be it  
12          further

13          RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this Resolution be  
14          presented to the Honorable Mary Ann McMorrow, Chief Justice  
15          of the Illinois Supreme Court.