



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The University of Illinois was chartered in 1867  
3 as a public, land-grant institution to develop the State's  
4 capacities in agriculture and industry, and the university has  
5 grown to become one of the country's premier public higher  
6 education institutions for public service and for teaching and  
7 research across academic disciplines; and

8 WHEREAS, A primary goal of public universities is to  
9 provide broad public access to affordable, high-quality,  
10 post-secondary education and training; and

11 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has appropriated \$712.9  
12 million in fiscal year 2007 to the University of Illinois in  
13 the form of appropriations, grants, reimbursements, and other  
14 State support, and these public funds are generated by taxes  
15 paid by individuals who live and work in the State; and

16 WHEREAS, The University of Illinois, as the State's  
17 flagship university, is the only public Illinois institution of  
18 higher learning ranked as "more selective" by U.S. News & World  
19 Report, meaning that acceptance to the university generally  
20 requires strong performance on standardized tests and an  
21 impressive class ranking, but that these factors alone cannot  
22 secure admission; and

23 WHEREAS, Illinois has for decades been a net exporter of  
24 college students, and students who attend colleges and  
25 universities out-of-state are less likely to live in Illinois  
26 after graduation and to contribute to Illinois's economy  
27 through increased tax revenues and participation in an educated  
28 workforce; and

29 WHEREAS, University of Illinois officials have recently  
30 announced a new strategic plan that includes decreasing total

1 enrollment while increasing the percentage of incoming  
2 freshmen who are out-of-state residents, thereby further  
3 decreasing the number of qualified in-state students who may  
4 enroll at the State's already-competitive flagship university;  
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
7 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
8 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created a Joint Task  
9 Force on Resident Student Enrollment for the purpose of  
10 reviewing the University of Illinois's proposed change in  
11 enrollment policies and determining the benefits or drawbacks  
12 to the State of enacting these new policies; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the task force shall consider the economic  
14 and social benefits that the State of Illinois could stand to  
15 reap by retaining Illinois residents as higher education  
16 students or by importing out-of-state students to our  
17 universities and colleges, as well as examine whether adequate  
18 alternatives exist for in-state students who will now face  
19 increased competition for spots in the University of Illinois's  
20 freshman class; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the President of the Senate, the Speaker of  
22 the House, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority  
23 Leader of the House shall each appoint no more than four  
24 members of the General Assembly to serve on the Joint Task  
25 Force on Resident Student Enrollment, which members shall serve  
26 on a voluntary basis and must not be responsible for any costs  
27 associated with their participation in the task force; and be  
28 it further

29 RESOLVED, That the task force shall meet as necessary and  
30 shall report its findings to the General Assembly by filing  
31 copies of its report with the Secretary of the Senate and the  
32 Clerk of the House no later than March 15, 2007; and that upon

1 filing its report the task force is dissolved; and be it  
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
4 delivered to the President and the Board of Trustees of the  
5 University of Illinois and to the Board of Higher Education.