



HJ0136

LRB095 21570 NHT 51556 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, A charter school is a public school opened and  
3 operated by community organizations, universities,  
4 foundations, and school teachers with its own unique mission  
5 and focus, set by its board in accordance with the Charter  
6 Schools Law, which provides schools with autonomy in exchange  
7 for greater accountability; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1996, the General Assembly enacted the Charter  
9 Schools Law to "promote new options within the public school  
10 system" and "provide pupils, educators, community members, and  
11 parents with the stimulus to strive for educational  
12 excellence"; and

13 WHEREAS, There are now almost 20,000 students attending  
14 this State's charter schools; and

15 WHEREAS, Charter schools are a part of public education  
16 reform in this State; charters are not the single solution for  
17 all education needs, but they can offer flexible and innovative  
18 educational techniques and programs to talented professional  
19 educators and community members who otherwise lack an avenue  
20 through which to provide education within the public school  
21 system; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2           NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
3           SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that, in order to investigate the  
4           effectiveness of charter schools and gather information, there  
5           is convened a task force of the General Assembly that consists  
6           of 5 House members from the majority party appointed by the  
7           Speaker of the House, 4 House members from the minority party  
8           appointed by the Minority Leader of the House, 5 Senate members  
9           from the majority party appointed by the President of the  
10          Senate, and 4 Senate members from the minority party appointed  
11          by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and be it further

12          RESOLVED, That this task force shall do the following:

13           (1) identify the statutory and public policy limitations  
14          that have affected charter school operations;

15           (2) determine if changes to the charter school sector are  
16          needed to alleviate demand for charter schools throughout this  
17          State;

18           (3) identify the effectiveness of charter schools under  
19          current law and the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001;  
20          and

21           (4) assess current State Board of Education policies and  
22          practices to determine if they are maximizing the effectiveness  
23          of charter schools in increasing teaching and learning  
24          resources for students and teachers and improving performance  
25          in school districts across this State; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the task force shall file a report with the  
2           General Assembly concerning its findings on or before October  
3           15, 2008; and be it further

4           RESOLVED, That the task force shall encourage the  
5           participation of as well as entertain questions from  
6           representatives of the following entities and any other  
7           interested parties: the Illinois Network of Charter Schools,  
8           the Illinois Federation of Teachers, the Chicago Teachers  
9           Union, Service Employees International Union, the Illinois  
10          Education Association, the Civic Committee of the Commercial  
11          Club of Chicago, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, the  
12          Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, the Metropolitan Planning  
13          Council, the State Board of Education, and the Alternative  
14          Schools Network.