



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 26

2 WHEREAS, The Illinois economy is transforming; despite  
3 having the nation's fifth largest state economy, the State  
4 ranked only 35th in economic growth over the last 15 years; and

5 WHEREAS, Illinois' economic growth is lagging because we  
6 are losing good jobs; between 1990 and 2005, the number of  
7 manufacturing jobs in Illinois declined by 24.3%, or 222,500;  
8 during this same period, 34% of job growth occurred in  
9 education, health services, and hospitality, sectors that  
10 currently pay, on average, 29% less than manufacturing jobs;  
11 adjusted for inflation, median wages have declined leaving  
12 families with the same income they had in 1989; nearly 685,000  
13 working Illinoisans earn less than the living wage for a single  
14 adult - \$17,950 annually; and

15 WHEREAS, 40% of new job growth will be in mid- to high-wage  
16 sectors; manufacturers will continue to be a major employer,  
17 but most of these jobs will require increasingly sophisticated  
18 levels of skill; in fact, over 35% of Illinois' new jobs will  
19 require an associate degree or higher and 71% of the highest  
20 wage jobs will require a post-secondary degree; and

21 WHEREAS, To attract high wage jobs, Illinois will need  
22 high-skilled workers; but, at the same time that our economy

1 demands skilled workers in order to remain competitive and  
2 thrive, federal funds for workforce development continue to  
3 shrink, after adjusting for inflation; and

4 WHEREAS, It is time for Illinois to make a new commitment;  
5 about 594,000 twenty-five to fifty-four year olds have no high  
6 school diploma or equivalent; 60% of these working age  
7 individuals are without an associate degree or higher; just 35%  
8 of Illinois' young adults are enrolled in postsecondary  
9 education; over the next 15 years, 33% of the State's labor  
10 force will retire and the fastest growing segments of our  
11 population who must replace them have generally lower education  
12 levels; and

13 WHEREAS, Strong workforce development is a key driver of  
14 long-term business retention and growth; additionally,  
15 Illinois must use its economic development policies  
16 strategically targeting disadvantaged areas to foster  
17 high-wage job creation and to leverage infrastructure  
18 investments; these are the tools that can ensure Illinois'  
19 families, businesses, and communities enjoy a prosperous  
20 future; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
22 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
23 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that, to compete successfully in a

1 global economy and end poverty, Illinois needs an integrated  
2 economic and workforce development policy that works for  
3 everyone and that includes producing skilled workers in strong  
4 businesses with good jobs that foster thriving communities; and  
5 be it further

6 RESOLVED, That this new policy must provide lasting value  
7 to Illinois' 10 economic regions and offer sustainable  
8 programming in urbanized and rural communities throughout the  
9 State that allows for the flexibility necessary to address  
10 regional differences in the economy, business climate and the  
11 workforce; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly create, upon adoption  
13 of this resolution, a bipartisan task force, whose work shall  
14 endeavor to fulfill the following goals:

15 (1) Ensure Illinoisans develop the skills businesses  
16 demand in a modern economy;

17 (2) Create career paths and job opportunities for all  
18 working-age Illinoisans, from the least skilled and most  
19 disadvantaged to middle income workers whose skills have  
20 become obsolete;

21 (3) Invest resources in the capital and human  
22 infrastructure needed to attract and retain "high road"  
23 employers that provide quality jobs, wages, and benefits;

24 (4) Encourage entrepreneurship, small business growth,

1 technology transfers from Illinois' higher education  
2 system, and other economic/workforce development  
3 innovation in all communities across Illinois to grow  
4 competitive State businesses; and

5 (5) Support economic and workforce development that is  
6 environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable;  
7 and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That this task force shall conduct a thorough  
9 discovery process that will include identification of  
10 effective policies and programs; conduct public hearings;  
11 invite expert testimony and shall furnish a report of its  
12 findings whereupon clear and concise information of programs  
13 and policies will be made available to the public throughout  
14 Illinois; new legislation or policy changes developed during  
15 the course of the deliberations of the task force shall be  
16 introduced at the earliest possible moment; hearings shall be  
17 held within 6 months of the first meeting of the task force and  
18 the report shall be issued within 12 months of the meeting and  
19 not later than September 30, 2010 to the Governor and the  
20 General Assembly; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the requirement for the reporting to the  
22 General Assembly shall be satisfied by filing copies of the  
23 report with the Speaker, the Minority Leader, and the Clerk of  
24 the House of Representatives, and the President, the Minority

1 Leader, and the Secretary of the Senate, and the Legislative  
2 Research Unit, as required by Section 3.1 of the General  
3 Assembly Organization Act, and filing additional copies with  
4 the State Government Report Distribution Center for the General  
5 Assembly as required under paragraph (t) of Section 7 of the  
6 State Library Act; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the task force shall have the following  
8 members: 16 voting members, as follows: 4 members of the Senate  
9 appointed by the President of the Senate, 4 members of the  
10 Senate appointed by the Senate Minority Leader, 4 members of  
11 the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the  
12 House of Representatives, and 4 members of the House of  
13 Representatives appointed by the House Minority Leader; and be  
14 it further

15 RESOLVED, That all actions of the task force require the  
16 affirmative vote of at least 9 voting members; and be it  
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That the following persons shall serve without  
19 compensation as ex-officio, non-voting members of the task  
20 force:

21 (A) the Director of the Department of Commerce and  
22 Economic Opportunity, or his or her designee;

23 (B) the Director of the Department of Employment

1 Security, or his or her designee;

2 (C) the Secretary of the Department of Human Services,  
3 or his or her designee;

4 (D) the Secretary of the Department of Transportation,  
5 or his or her designee;

6 (E) the Secretary of the Department of Labor, or his or  
7 her designee;

8 (F) the Director of the Environmental Protection  
9 Agency, or his or her designee;

10 (G) the Director of the Illinois Community College  
11 Board, or his or her designee; and

12 (H) the Director of the Department of Corrections; and  
13 be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the departments of State government and the  
15 Illinois Community College Board shall work cooperatively to  
16 provide administrative support for the task force, and the  
17 Departments of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and  
18 Employment Security, subject to appropriation for this purpose  
19 and the limits of each agency's statutory authority, shall be  
20 the primary agencies in providing that support.