



HJ0059

LRB096 13019 AMC 27199 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Governor Quinn has proposed a drastic change in  
3 the benefits that are offered to public employees who are  
4 members of State-funded pension systems; and

5 WHEREAS, These changes have not been systematically  
6 analyzed for their potential impact on how the State of  
7 Illinois will be able to attract and retain high quality  
8 personnel; and

9 WHEREAS, The public policy implications of having older  
10 individuals performing jobs in the public safety arena have not  
11 been thoroughly studied; and

12 WHEREAS, Pension benefits directly impact the ability of  
13 school districts to attract college graduates to the teaching  
14 profession, especially in the critical areas of math and  
15 science; and

16 WHEREAS, Seventy-eight percent of all public employees in  
17 Illinois do not receive Social Security; and

18 WHEREAS, The retirement benefits provided by the Teachers'  
19 Retirement System of the State of Illinois, the State  
20 Universities Retirement System, and the State Employees'

1 Retirement System of Illinois are the primary source of  
2 retirement security for public employees; and

3 WHEREAS, The cost for the current benefits being earned  
4 today is lower than what is paid by a typical employer in the  
5 private sector; and

6 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has not fulfilled its  
7 obligation to properly fund these systems since their inception  
8 over 70 years ago; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
10 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
11 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Pension  
12 System Modernization Task Force; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be charged with the  
14 following tasks:

15 (1) analyze the public policy implications of changing  
16 pension benefits on the State of Illinois' ability to  
17 attract and retain public employees, teachers, and  
18 University professionals; and

19 (2) analyze the level of the current pension benefit  
20 structure in Illinois as it compares to other states in the  
21 geographical region and to other states that have systems  
22 that are not coordinated with Social Security; and

1           (3) analyze which pension benefits in Illinois should  
2           be modernized in order to put Illinois in line with other  
3           states; and be it further

4           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be composed of the  
5           following:

6           (1) two legislative members appointed by the Speaker of  
7           the House;

8           (2) two legislative members appointed by the President  
9           of the Senate;

10          (3) two legislative members appointed by the House  
11          Minority Leader;

12          (4) two legislative members appointed by the Senate  
13          Minority Leader;

14          (5) two members who are statewide education labor union  
15          representatives;

16          (6) two members who are statewide labor union  
17          representatives that do not represent an education labor  
18          union;

19          (7) four members who represent the business community,  
20          including, but not limited to, the Illinois Chamber of  
21          Commerce, the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, the  
22          Illinois Retail Merchants Association, and the National  
23          Federation of Independent Business;

24          (8) one member appointed by the Governor who shall act  
25          as chair; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the staff of the Commission on Government  
2 Forecasting and Accountability shall be responsible for  
3 staffing the Task Force in conjunction with the Illinois  
4 pension systems actuaries and staff; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall hold hearings on  
6 pension modernization, no less than one per month, between June  
7 of 2009 and October of 2009; and be it further

8           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall recommend pension  
9 benefit changes to modernize these systems; and be it further

10           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall report its findings to  
11 the General Assembly and the Governor on or before November 1,  
12 2009.