



HJ0006

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that school districts operate
3 more efficiently with a set ideal enrollment of students,
4 whether it is deconsolidating large districts or consolidating
5 small districts; and

6 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois currently has 869 public
7 school districts, the third most school districts in the nation
8 next to California and Texas; and

9 WHEREAS, City of Chicago School District 299 has an
10 enrollment of 404,589 students and 611 schools in one district;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, There are 82 school districts in the State of
13 Illinois with an enrollment of less than 200 students; and

14 WHEREAS, During this time of fiscal crisis, school district
15 reorganization has the potential to save valuable State dollars
16 and use that money more effectively; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
18 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
19 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the School
20 District Realignment and Consolidation Task Force within the

1 State Board of Education; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the task force is charged with examining the
3 number of school districts in this State, the optimal amount of
4 enrollment for a school district, where consolidation and
5 realignment would be beneficial, reducing the money spent on
6 duplication of efforts, improving the education of students by
7 having less obstacles between qualified teachers and their
8 students, and lowering the property tax burden; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That the task force shall be comprised of the
11 following members, all of whom shall serve without
12 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable and
13 necessary expenses from funds appropriated for that purpose:

14 (1) members appointed by the State Board of Education;

15 (2) a representative appointed by the Speaker of the
16 House of Representatives;

17 (3) a representative appointed by the Minority Leader
18 of the House of Representatives;

19 (4) a representative appointed by the President of the
20 Senate;

21 (5) a representative appointed by the Minority Leader
22 of the Senate;

23 (6) a representative of a statewide professional
24 teachers' organization appointed by the head of that

1 organization;

2 (7) a representative of a different statewide
3 professional teachers' organization appointed by the head
4 of that organization;

5 (8) a representative of a statewide organization that
6 represents school boards appointed by the head of that
7 organization;

8 (9) a representative of a statewide organization
9 representing principals appointed by the head of that
10 organization;

11 (10) a representative of City of Chicago School
12 District 299 appointed by the general superintendent of
13 schools;

14 (11) a representative of an association representing
15 school business officials appointed by the head of that
16 association;

17 (12) a representative of an association representing
18 school administrators appointed by the head of that
19 association;

20 (13) a representative from an organization
21 representing large unit school districts appointed by the
22 head of that organization;

23 (14) a representative from the Chicago Board of
24 Education appointed by the Chicago Board of Education; and

25 (15) a representative from an organization
26 representing administrators of special education appointed

1 by the head of that organization; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the members of the task force shall be
3 reimbursed for their travel expenses from appropriations to the
4 State Board of Education available for that purpose and subject
5 to the rules of the appropriate travel control board; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education shall provide
8 administrative and other support to the task force; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That the task force shall hold public hearings
11 and shall report its findings and recommendations to the
12 General Assembly on or before July 1, 2012; and that upon
13 filing its report the task force is dissolved.