



HJ0051

LRB097 14750 RPM 59767 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Gifted and talented students make up 5% to 10% of
3 the prekindergarten to grade 12 student population in Illinois;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Students with gifts and talents, and high-ability
6 students who have not been formally identified for gifted
7 education services, require modifications to the general
8 education curriculum to fully meet their educational needs; and

9 WHEREAS, There is a growing gap at the highest levels of
10 achievement between the performance of subgroups of students,
11 particularly those students who are African-American or
12 Hispanic and those who are Caucasian, on statewide assessments
13 of academic progress; and

14 WHEREAS, Effective assessment and instruction of students
15 with gifts and talents require educators to have specialized
16 knowledge and skills; and

17 WHEREAS, Interventions and strategies that have been
18 demonstrated to be successful with gifted and talented students
19 can be modified to improve the achievement of all students; and

20 WHEREAS, Illinois has not provided funding designated for

1 the education of gifted and talented students directly to local
2 school districts since 2003; and

3 WHEREAS, There are currently no accountability mechanisms
4 in place in Illinois for education services for gifted and
5 talented children; and

6 WHEREAS, Students who are both gifted and have a disability
7 (twice-exceptional) present special challenges because their
8 disability often masks their academic potential or their
9 academic strengths may mask their disability, resulting in the
10 lack of services and supports for this population; and

11 WHEREAS, Legislation creating the Talent Act, H.R. 1674 and
12 S. 857, has been introduced in Congress by Representative Elton
13 Gallegly (R-California) and by Senator Charles Grassley
14 (R-Iowa), respectively; and

15 WHEREAS, The Talent Act would assist states and school
16 districts in addressing the needs of gifted and talented
17 students, including twice-exceptional students, and in
18 improving the teaching of gifted and talented students;
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
21 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE

1 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the United States
2 Congress to pass the Talent Act either as a separate Act or as
3 an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act or
4 another Act of Congress; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we urge members of the Illinois
6 congressional delegation to become co-sponsors of the Talent
7 Act legislation; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
9 delivered to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United
10 States House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority
11 Leaders of the United States Senate, and each member of the
12 Illinois congressional delegation.