



SR0446

LRB097 14751 AEK 59771 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Illinois Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund
3 went into debt during the recent economic recession and will
4 not reach solvency for years to come; and

5 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois borrowed from the federal
6 government to continue to meet its benefit obligations during
7 the recession; and

8 WHEREAS, The federal interest waiver on these loans expired
9 in January of 2011 and the State of Illinois has been accruing
10 interest on these federal loans; and

11 WHEREAS, Representatives of the Illinois business and
12 labor communities met over the last 3 months in an effort to
13 reach a joint agreement on these debt and deficit issues; and

14 WHEREAS, This working group sought to address the immediate
15 and long term solvency issues of the Illinois Unemployment
16 Insurance Trust Fund; and

17 WHEREAS, Representatives of business and labor reached an
18 agreement to address the immediate solvency issues of the trust
19 fund and outstanding debt to the federal government, the
20 product of which has been committed as House Amendment 4 and

1 House Amendment 5 to Senate Bill 72 of the 97th General
2 Assembly; and

3 WHEREAS, The Trust Fund debt is not the result of
4 overspending but rather a direct result of an economic downturn
5 that forced employers to reduce their workforce, and as a
6 consequence increased the numbers drawing unemployment
7 benefits in Illinois; and

8 WHEREAS, A sustainable Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund
9 is necessary to provide an adequate social safety net to the
10 citizens of Illinois and a healthy trust fund is necessary to
11 ameliorate; and

12 WHEREAS, Unemployment rates in Illinois remain
13 unyieldingly high, and it is in the interest of the people of
14 the State of Illinois for their General Assembly to monitor,
15 study, and correct any shortcomings in the structure and
16 operation of the Illinois Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, House Amendment 4 and House Amendment 5 to Senate
19 Bill 72 of the 97th General Assembly include specific points in
20 time, specifically in 2016 and again in 2018, at which business
21 and labor representatives will have again worked to realize
22 long term sustainable goals for the State's Unemployment

1 Insurance Trust Fund and the related benefit system; and

2 WHEREAS, Both business and labor representatives recognize
3 and agree that long-term reforms would benefit the unemployment
4 insurance system in Illinois; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Illinois
7 Unemployment Insurance Reform Committee is hereby created to
8 study the system of unemployment insurance benefits, trust fund
9 stability, and reforms that interested parties believe are
10 warranted; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That within 90 days after the adoption of this
12 resolution the President of the Illinois Senate and the Speaker
13 of the Illinois House shall each appoint 2 representatives of
14 organized labor, and the Minority Leader of the Senate and the
15 Minority Leader of the House shall each appoint 2
16 representatives of the state's employers; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That within 90 days after the adoption of this
18 resolution the President of the Illinois Senate, the Minority
19 Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the Illinois House, and
20 the Minority Leader of the Illinois House shall each appoint
21 one member of their respective caucuses to the Unemployment
22 Insurance Reform Committee; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Employment
2 Security shall provide all necessary and requested technical
3 and advisory assistance to the Reform Committee; and be it
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Unemployment Insurance Reform
6 Committee shall recommend the structure and reforms necessary
7 to stabilize and ensure an adequate and sound Unemployment
8 Insurance Trust Fund and benefits system for Illinois; and be
9 it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Unemployment Insurance Reform
11 Committee shall submit a written report of their activities and
12 recommendations, by majority vote of the members appointed, to
13 the General Assembly by January 1, 2015.