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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The National Research Center for Career and
3 Technical Education has identified a very strong correlation
4 between students taking 3 or more Career and Technical
5 Education (CTE) courses and being far more likely to enroll in
6 college; and

7 WHEREAS, Students taking 3 or more CTE courses are 28% more
8 likely to graduate from high school; and

9 WHEREAS, A commitment to career and technical education
10 helps to ensure that Illinois has a strong, well-trained
11 workforce that enhances productivity in business and industry,
12 and solidifies the State's leadership in the national and
13 international marketplaces; and

14 WHEREAS, Providing citizens with career and technical
15 education can stimulate the growth and vitality of businesses
16 and industries by preparing workers for the occupations
17 forecasted to experience the largest and fastest growth in the
18 next decade; and

19 WHEREAS, Career and technical education institutions
20 strive to provide rigorous and relevant curricula that
21 integrate academics, utilize technology, partner with

1 community colleges through dual credit programs, and prepare
2 students for 21st century skills; and

3 WHEREAS, The first area career/vocational centers in
4 Illinois began operations in 1967 with 837 students; and

5 WHEREAS, There are presently 24 area career/vocational
6 centers, which offer skilled training to over 10,000 11th and
7 12th grade students; and

8 WHEREAS, Section 17-2.4 of the School Code established a
9 maximum tax rate by referendum of 0.5% for not more than 5
10 years for the purpose of establishing or constructing an area
11 career/vocational center, with the levy sun-setting after a
12 5-year period; and

13 WHEREAS, Area career/vocational centers have been
14 subsequently funded through tuition, the State Career and
15 Technical Education Improvement Grant, and, in some cases, the
16 Carl D. Perkins Vocational-Technical Education Act; and

17 WHEREAS, Many buildings housing area career/vocational
18 centers are over 40 years old and in desperate need of repairs,
19 renovations, and even expansion; and

20 WHEREAS, In the face of the present recession and

1 reductions in member districts' equalized assessed valuations,
2 districts who are members of career/vocational centers are
3 unable to increase the present tuition charges to cover said
4 costs further; unless a funding mechanism is established,
5 career/vocational centers may have to either reduce the number
6 of students they can accept or reduce entire programs; and

7 WHEREAS, Unlike a school district, area career/vocational
8 centers have no direct taxing authority; and

9 WHEREAS, Transportation is an essential component for
10 students to access career and technical education programs;
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
13 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
14 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Area Career
15 and Technical Education and Vocational Centers Task Force,
16 consisting of the following members:

17 (1) one member, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

18 (2) one member, appointed by the President of the
19 Senate;

20 (3) one member, appointed by the Minority Leader of the
21 Senate;

22 (4) one member, appointed by the Speaker of the House
23 of Representatives;

1 (5) one member, appointed by the Minority Leader of the
2 House of Representatives;

3 (6) one member, of the Governor's staff, appointed by
4 the Governor;

5 (7) 2 members, appointed by the Illinois Career and
6 Technical Administrators;

7 (8) one career center director, appointed by the
8 Governor;

9 (9) one education for employment system director,
10 appointed by the Governor;

11 (10) one member, appointed by the Illinois State Board
12 of Education; and

13 (11) one superintendent of a school district whose
14 district is a member of an area career/vocational
15 cooperative, appointed by the Governor; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That all appointments shall be made no later than
17 45 days following the adoption of this resolution; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall meet no later than 90
20 days following the adoption of this resolution at the call of
21 the members appointed by the Speaker and the President; the
22 members of the Task Force shall select a chair person at the
23 initial meeting; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall meet at the call of the
2 chair; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the members of the Task Force shall serve
4 without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for their
5 reasonable and necessary expenses from funds appropriated for
6 that purpose; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Office of the Governor shall provide
8 administrative support to the Task Force to the fullest extent
9 of its abilities; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall study the issue of
11 funding of area career/vocational centers and career and
12 technical education programs, including transportation for
13 said programs, and shall consider the possibility of enacting
14 legislation to make changes to said funding; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall hold a minimum of 7
16 public hearings in the State, one-half of which shall be held
17 at an area career/vocational center; the Task Force shall
18 report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the
19 General Assembly before February 28, 2014, at which time the
20 Task Force shall disband; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

1 delivered to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the Illinois
2 House of Representatives, the President and Minority Leader of
3 the Illinois Senate, the Governor, the State Superintendent of
4 Education, and the Illinois Career and Technical
5 Administrators.