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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Language barriers continue to exist for many
3 Illinois residents who are limited English proficient, known as
4 "LEP"; these barriers limit their ability to fully participate
5 in civic life and maximize their economic productivity; and

6 WHEREAS, Such language barriers for LEP residents create
7 very real challenges when trying to access information about
8 available government services or an individual's legal rights
9 or obligations under State and local laws; and

10 WHEREAS, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act requires program
11 recipients of federal funds, such as certain State agencies, to
12 take reasonable steps to insure that LEP persons have
13 meaningful access to their programs and activities; and

14 WHEREAS, Nearly 10% of Illinois' population is LEP, giving
15 Illinois the 5th largest LEP population in the United States at
16 over 1.1 million residents; and

17 WHEREAS, Illinois' immigrant communities have rapidly
18 grown and now one in every five Illinois residents is an
19 immigrant; and

20 WHEREAS, Illinois is proud of being one of the most

1 immigrant-friendly states in the nation; and

2 WHEREAS, The public safety, health, economic prosperity,
3 and general welfare of all Illinois residents is furthered by
4 increasing language access to State programs and services; and

5 WHEREAS, The Governor's Office of New Americans
6 Interagency Task Force, which met from 2006 to 2008,
7 recommended that Illinois commit to providing meaningful
8 access to State services for the LEP population to encourage
9 and accelerate immigrant and refugee integration; and

10 WHEREAS, Despite admirable efforts by certain State
11 agencies, much work remains to provide meaningful access; and

12 WHEREAS, Other immigrant-friendly states and cities have
13 attempted to address this issue by implementing language access
14 laws or ordinances that require a base-line level of language
15 access to government services and information for LEP
16 individuals; and

17 WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly is committed to
18 exploring legislative solutions to improve language access for
19 LEP residents by researching lessons learned and best practices
20 from these other parts of the country; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
3 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Task Force on Language
4 Access to Government Services is created to:

5 (1) review existing language access laws or ordinances
6 in other parts of the country, including existing reports or
7 academic publications on such laws or ordinances;

8 (2) evaluate their effectiveness in eliminating
9 language barriers for LEP communities;

10 (3) consider any other available and relevant
11 information on language access issues in Illinois, including
12 Census data, community feedback, or surveys

13 (4) identify and recommend specific best-practices and
14 provisions for a State language access law; and

15 (5) produce a final report summarizing the task force's
16 findings and detailing its specific recommendations for a State
17 language access law and highlight any areas of major
18 disagreement within the task force; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall consist of the
20 following members, who shall serve without compensation:

21 (1) one member of the Senate appointed by the President
22 of the Senate;

23 (2) one member of the Senate appointed by the Minority
24 Leader of the Senate;

25 (3) one member of the House of Representatives

1 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

2 (4) one member of the House of Representatives
3 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
4 Representatives;

5 (5) one member appointed by the Governor as a
6 representative of his office;

7 (6) one member appointed by the Attorney General as a
8 representative of her office;

9 (7) one member appointed by the Secretary of State as a
10 representative of his office;

11 (8) one member appointed by the Secretary of the
12 Illinois Department of Human Services as a representative of
13 her office;

14 (9) five members appointed by the Governor, upon
15 recommendation of an non-profit organization that promotes
16 civic engagement and advocates on behalf of immigrant
17 communities through a coalition of member organizations that
18 serve Latino, Asian, African, Arab, and European immigrants;
19 and

20 (10) five members appointed by the Governor, upon
21 recommendation of an non-profit organization that promotes
22 civic engagement among Asian American communities and
23 advocates on behalf of Asian American communities through its
24 Pan-Asian coalition; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the members of the Task Force shall be

1 appointed within 30 days after the adoption of this resolution
2 and shall begin meeting no later than 30 days after the
3 appointments are finalized; in the event that any appointments
4 are not made within 30 days after the adoption of this
5 resolution, the Secretary of Human Services shall make such
6 appointments within 15 days after the appointment deadline; and
7 be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the members of the Task Force shall elect a
9 chairperson from among their membership and that the Department
10 of Human Services shall provide administrative support; and be
11 it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall hold its first meeting
13 by September 1, 2013; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall submit its final report
15 to the Illinois General Assembly, the Governor, and the
16 Attorney General no later than July 1, 2014.