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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Budgeting for Results Commission has stated goals of increasing postsecondary graduation among Illinoisans to 60% by 2025 and minimizing achievement gaps between different types of students; and

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WHEREAS, In its legislative declaration, the Charter Schools Law states that the purpose for charter schools in this State is to improve pupil learning; increase learning opportunities for all children, with special emphasis on expanding options for at-risk pupils; encourage innovation, parental engagement, community involvement, and expanded public school options; create new professional opportunities for teachers; and hold charter schools accountable; and

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WHEREAS, Charter schools serve 13% of Chicago's student population and a growing number of students in downstate and suburban communities; 91% of the students enrolled in charter schools across this State come from low-income families and 95% are minorities, making charter schools a key component to help close the achievement gaps that persist; and

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WHEREAS, The 2 fundamental pillars of charter schools are autonomy and accountability, each of which must be enforced through high-quality authorizing; therefore, be it

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1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
3 CONCURRING HEREIN, that a Task Force on Charter School Funding
4 be created to examine charter school funding issues, including
5 the following:

6 (1) to compile a comparative analysis of charter school
7 funding practices across the United States;

8 (2) to examine the current funding provisions in the
9 Charter Schools Law for the purpose of ensuring funding
10 equity, specifically the provision allowing school
11 districts to provide charter schools funding in the range
12 of 75% to 125% of the district's per capita tuition charge;
13 and

14 (3) to review the effects of State-authorized charter
15 schools on the students served by the charter, the students
16 in the home school district, and the home school district's
17 budget; and be it further

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

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

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

24 (3) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of

1 Representatives;

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

4 (5) the State Superintendent of Education or his or her
5 designee;

6 (6) the chairperson of the State Charter School
7 Commission or his or her designee;

8 (7) the chief executive officer of a school district in
9 a city having a population exceeding 500,000 or his or her
10 designee;

11 (8) one member appointed by the Governor, upon
12 recommendation of an organization representing teachers in
13 a school district in a city having a population exceeding
14 500,000;

15 (9) one member appointed by the Governor, upon
16 recommendation of the largest statewide organization
17 representing teachers;

18 (10) one member appointed by the Governor, upon
19 recommendation of the second-largest statewide
20 organization representing teachers;

21 (11) one member appointed by the Governor, upon
22 recommendation of a statewide organization representing
23 charter schools in this State;

24 (12) one member appointed by the Governor, upon
25 recommendation of an organization representing downstate
26 and suburban school boards;

1 (13) a principal of a currently operating,
2 high-performing, charter school in this State, appointed
3 by the State Superintendent of Education;

4 (14) one member appointed by the Governor who is a
5 parent of a charter school student, upon recommendation of
6 a charter school;

7 (15) one member appointed by the Governor, upon
8 recommendation of the largest charter school in this State;

9 (16) one member appointed by the Governor who is a
10 representative of a community organization that operates
11 charter schools, upon recommendation of that community
12 organization;

13 (17) one member appointed by the Governor, upon
14 recommendation of an organization representing the
15 business community in this State;

16 (18) one member appointed by the Governor, upon
17 recommendation of an education advocacy group that
18 organizes parents and supports high-quality, public school
19 options, including high-quality, public charter schools;
20 and

21 (19) one member appointed by the Governor representing
22 each Commission-approved charter school in this State,
23 upon recommendation of the leadership of the
24 Commission-approved charter schools; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the members of the Task Force shall elect a

1 chairperson from among their membership and that the State
2 Charter School Commission shall provide administrative
3 support; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the members of the Task Force shall be
5 appointed within 30 days after the adoption of this resolution
6 and shall begin meeting no later than 30 days after the
7 appointments are finalized; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall issue a report making
9 recommendations on any changes to State laws with regard to
10 charter school funding on or before January 15, 2014 and that
11 the task force shall be dissolved upon issuance of this report;
12 and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
14 delivered to the Governor, the State Superintendent of
15 Education, the State Charter School Commission, and the Chief
16 Executive Officer of City of Chicago School District 299.