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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois needs effective and quality
3 education for all people; and

4 WHEREAS, The Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career
5 Success is the pathway to an Illinois where all residents have
6 affordable access to high-quality educational opportunities
7 that prepare Illinoisans for the jobs of the present and the
8 future; and

9 WHEREAS, The Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career
10 Success has documented the critical role higher education plays
11 in economic recovery and growth, particularly in ensuring that
12 this State has an educated workforce to meet the needs of
13 business and industry; and

14 WHEREAS, By 2020, 67% of Illinois jobs will require a
15 career certificate or college degree; and

16 WHEREAS, Forty-three percent of Illinois adults currently
17 have an associate degree or higher; and

18 WHEREAS, By 2018, the United States economy will have jobs
19 for 22 million people with college degrees, but a shortage of
20 nearly 8 million people with degrees; and

1 WHEREAS, The pipeline of young college graduates will not
2 be enough to meet workforce skills demands; and

3 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois and its higher education
4 institutions have a responsibility for student success,
5 including improved student retention, program completion, and
6 graduation; and

7 WHEREAS, One in five United States adults has some college
8 credits but no degree; and

9 WHEREAS, The Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career
10 Success has recommended that the Board of Higher Education, in
11 consultation with other higher education agencies, "develop a
12 strategy to provide incentives to complete degrees, focusing on
13 compacts between working adults and employers and on
14 individuals with substantial college credit but no degree"; and

15 WHEREAS, Prior Learning Assessment is a strategy that
16 should be considered as one way to support students' degree
17 completion that addresses time-to-degree and college
18 affordability barriers hindering working adults; and

19 WHEREAS, Prior Learning Assessment is the process by which
20 an individual's experiential and other extra-institutional

1 learning is assessed and evaluated for the purposes of granting
2 college credit, certification, or advanced standing toward
3 further education or training; and

4 WHEREAS, Many institutions offering Prior Learning
5 Assessments recognize the importance of ensuring that quality
6 standards are in place for the assessment of a student's
7 learning that will result to the award of college credit;
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
11 CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Higher Education Prior Learning
12 Assessment Task Force is created under the direction of the
13 Board of Higher Education; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be comprised of the
15 following 14 members; one senator appointed by the President of
16 the Senate; one senator appointed by the Minority Leader of the
17 Senate; one representative appointed by the Speaker of the
18 House of Representatives; one representative appointed by the
19 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; and 10 members
20 appointed by the Board of Higher Education to represent a
21 cross-section of the higher education community and experts in
22 experiential learning and national collegiate testing; and be
23 it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Higher Education shall provide
2 administrative support to the Task Force; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the members selected by the Board of Higher
4 Education shall serve without compensation; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Task Force's study shall include, but
6 not be limited to, the following:

7 (1) examining the history of Prior Learning Assessment and
8 its impact on the adult and non-traditional learner in
9 today's educational landscape;

10 (2) examining policies and practices in other states;

11 (3) determining existing Prior Learning Assessment methods
12 being utilized among Illinois' public colleges and
13 universities;

14 (4) reviewing the quality standards necessary to
15 adequately assess a student's learning, based upon
16 experience, non-academic training, education, etc. that
17 leads toward the award of college credit;

18 (5) considering alternative methods to award college
19 credit;

20 (6) considering transferability of credit and student
21 mobility;

22 (7) the industry recognition of credentials earned through
23 non-traditional means of demonstrating competency;

1 (8) the importance of college and university recognition of
2 credentials awarded by industry; and

3 (9) the acceptance of Prior Learning Assessment-based
4 credits, credentials, or degrees by licensing bodies; and
5 be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall report its findings and
7 recommendations to the Board of Higher Education, the Illinois
8 Community College Board, the Illinois Student Assistance
9 Commission, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois
10 Department of Veterans Affairs, the General Assembly, and the
11 Governor on or before December 1, 2016; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be dissolved after the
13 submission of the report to the General Assembly and the
14 Governor; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
16 delivered to the Governor and the chairpersons of the Board of
17 Higher Education, the Illinois Community College Board, the
18 Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and the Illinois State
19 Board of Education.