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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Since 2000, gas tax revenues have declined  
3 significantly as a result of less driving, increasing fuel  
4 efficiency and decreasing purchasing power; while motor fuel  
5 prices have increased dramatically over the last several years,  
6 the total amount of motor fuel consumed in Illinois has  
7 remained relatively stagnant over the same time frame; and

8 WHEREAS, Since reaching its current rate structure in 1996,  
9 revenue from the State's motor fuel tax has experienced  
10 relatively limited growth; in 2000, \$1.384 billion in revenue  
11 was generated from the State's motor fuel tax; in Fiscal Year  
12 2011, the total amount collected was \$1.347 billion; and

13 WHEREAS, As gas tax revenues dwindle, policymakers  
14 throughout the nation have had to divert billions from the  
15 general fund and other non-transportation funds to pay for  
16 infrastructure; this is increasing pressure on transportation  
17 policy makers to search for new, viable road financing  
18 mechanisms; and

19 WHEREAS, Mileage-based user fees are an alternative way to  
20 finance the construction and maintenance of roads; rather than  
21 the current gas tax method, which is based on the amount of  
22 fuel purchased at the pump, a vehicle miles traveled tax is

1 based on how many miles are driven; and

2 WHEREAS, A mileage-based user fee system has been proposed  
3 in the United States and elsewhere in the world as an  
4 infrastructure funding mechanism to replace the gas tax;  
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
8 CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Task Force on  
9 Sustainable Transportation Funding, to be comprised of the  
10 following members, with an emphasis on bipartisan and statewide  
11 legislative representation and diverse non-legislative  
12 stakeholder representation:

13 (1) one member of the Illinois House of Representatives  
14 and 2 members of the public who represent the transportation  
15 industry, the Illinois transportation research community, or  
16 national research and policy-making bodies appointed by the  
17 Speaker of the House of Representatives;

18 (2) one member of the Illinois Senate and 2 members of  
19 the public who represent the transportation industry, the  
20 Illinois transportation research community, or national  
21 research and policy-making bodies appointed by the President of  
22 the Senate;

23 (3) one member of the Illinois House of Representatives  
24 and 2 members of the public who represent the transportation

1 industry, the Illinois transportation research community, or  
2 national research and policy-making bodies appointed by the  
3 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;

4 (4) one member of the Illinois Senate and 2 members of  
5 the public who represent the transportation industry, the  
6 Illinois transportation research community, or national  
7 research and policy-making bodies appointed by the Minority  
8 Leader of the Senate;

9 (5) one member who is currently employed by the  
10 Illinois Department of Transportation appointed by the  
11 Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation; and

12 (6) one member who is currently employed by the  
13 Illinois Department of Revenue appointed by the Director of the  
14 Illinois Department of Revenue; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the members of the Task Force shall serve  
16 without compensation; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the members of the Task Force shall be  
18 considered members with voting rights; a quorum of the Task  
19 Force shall consist of a simple majority of the members of the  
20 Task Force; all actions and recommendations of the Task Force  
21 must be approved by a simple majority vote of the members; and  
22 be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall meet within 60 days of

1 the adoption of this resolution; the Task Force shall elect one  
2 member as chairperson at its initial meeting through a simple  
3 majority vote of the Task Force and shall thereafter meet at  
4 the call of the chairperson; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation  
6 shall provide administrative and other support to the Task  
7 Force; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall:

9 (1) analyze the current trends between the  
10 infrastructure needs of Illinois and the revenue received from  
11 federal and State gas taxes and the level of highway and road  
12 investment that would reduce congestion, keep Illinois'  
13 economy competitive, and keep drivers safe; and

14 (2) analyze a user-fee based alternative to the current  
15 system of taxing highway use through motor vehicle fuel taxes;  
16 the Task Force shall gather public comment on the user-fee  
17 based alternative approach and make recommendations to the  
18 Department of Transportation, including recommendations on the  
19 creation of pilot programs to be used to test alternative  
20 approaches; the Task Force may also make recommendations to the  
21 Department on criteria to be used to evaluate pilot programs;  
22 and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That when the Task Force is studying user-fee

1 based alternatives to the current system of taxing highway use  
2 through motor vehicle fuel taxes and developing  
3 recommendations on the design of pilot programs to test  
4 alternative approaches, the Task Force shall, under  
5 consultation with highway users and transportation  
6 stakeholders, take into consideration:

7 (1) the availability, adaptability, reliability and  
8 security of methods that might be used in recording and  
9 reporting highway use;

10 (2) the protection of any personally identifiable  
11 information used in reporting highway use;

12 (3) the ease and cost of recording and reporting  
13 highway use;

14 (4) the ease and cost of administering the collection  
15 of taxes and fees as an alternative to the current system; and

16 (5) any effective methods of maintaining compliance;  
17 and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall submit a report of its  
19 findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by January  
20 1, 2015.