



SR0431

LRB098 12673 AMC 47195 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois serves over 2,000,000
3 students in 862 school districts statewide; and

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WHEREAS, State funding for pre-kindergarten through grade
5 12 education in Illinois has been reduced by \$861,000,000 since
6 fiscal year 2009; of that amount, general State aid has been
7 reduced by more than \$320,000,000; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois ranks 50th in terms of the state
9 proportion of kindergarten through grade 12 funding, providing
10 for just 32.5% of all funds spent on kindergarten through grade
11 12 public education, despite the plain language of Article 10
12 of the Illinois Constitution, which states: "The State has the
13 primary responsibility for financing the system of public
14 education."; and

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WHEREAS, In 2007, 23% of Illinois school districts reported
16 deficit spending, and today more than 67% of Illinois school
17 districts report deficit spending; and

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WHEREAS, Reductions in State spending have increased
19 school districts' reliance on local resources, impacting
20 classroom services and financial stability, at a time when
21 school districts are required to do more necessary improvements

1 and initiatives, such as teacher and principal evaluations, new
2 and higher learning standards, and assessments; and

3 WHEREAS, The General Assembly must stay engaged in public
4 education issues and be prepared to make legislative and
5 administrative recommendations; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that there is created the
8 Advisory Committee on Education Funding, consisting of members
9 appointed as follows: 4 members of the Senate majority caucus
10 appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom shall be
11 designated as a co-chair, and 4 members of the Senate minority
12 caucus appointed by the Senate Minority Leader, one of whom
13 shall be designated as a co-chair; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Advisory Committee on Education Funding
15 shall do the following:

16 (1) conduct a thorough review of the existing
17 distribution methods and expenditures of all
18 pre-kindergarten through grade 12 education funding, with
19 a focus on general State aid as defined in Section 18-8.05
20 of the School Code;

21 (2) make recommendations to implement an education
22 funding system that:

23 (A) is adequate;

1 (B) is equitable;

2 (C) prepares students for achievement and success
3 after high school; and

4 (D) supports teachers and school leaders; and

5 (3) consider the following when making its
6 recommendations:

7 (A) the number of students in a school and school
8 district and the level of need of those students,
9 including special needs populations;

10 (B) a school district's ability to provide local
11 resources to pay for basic educational needs;

12 (C) transparency and accountability;

13 (D) revenue predictability to support sound
14 planning and budgeting by school boards and
15 administrations; and

16 (E) the long-term implications and outcomes of the
17 funding system, along with provisions that require the
18 system to be monitored, publicly reported, assessed,
19 and improved over time; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Advisory Committee on Education Funding
21 shall seek input from stakeholders and members of the public on
22 issues and possible improvements to the existing funding
23 system; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That members of the Advisory Committee on

1 Education Funding shall serve without compensation, and the
2 State Board of Education shall provide administrative and other
3 support to the Advisory Committee on Education Funding; and be
4 it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Advisory Committee on Education Funding
6 shall meet at the call of the co-chairs, but shall meet a
7 minimum of 4 times per year; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Advisory Committee on Education Funding
9 shall share its legislative and administrative recommendations
10 with the President of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the
11 Senate no later than February 1, 2014; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 delivered to the Chairperson of the State Board of Education
14 and the State Superintendent of Education; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education shall provide a
16 copy of this resolution to school districts in this State.