



SR0903

LRB098 20072 GRL 55329 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois needs to close achievement  
3 gaps and provide a quality education for all; and

4 WHEREAS, Latinos are the fastest growing population in the  
5 State; and

6 WHEREAS, There is a current population of 2 million Latinos  
7 in Illinois, which makes up 16% of the State's population; and

8 WHEREAS, In the State of Illinois, Latinos contribute to  
9 17% of the population of people between the ages of 18-24 and  
10 25% of the population of people under the age of 18; and

11 WHEREAS, Despite the fact that such a large percentage of  
12 the Hispanic population in Illinois is of college age, Latinos  
13 make up only 14% of the college enrollment in the State; and

14 WHEREAS, Sixty-nine percent of Hispanic high school  
15 graduates in the class of 2012 enrolled in college that fall, 2  
16 percentage points higher than the average rate; and

17 WHEREAS, Hispanic youth are less likely to enroll in a  
18 4-year college than their white counterparts, at a rate of 56%  
19 compared to 72%; and

1           WHEREAS, Hispanic youth are less likely to attend a  
2 selective college and are less likely to be enrolled in college  
3 full-time; and

4           WHEREAS, Latino students are less likely to earn a  
5 bachelor's degree and have the lowest graduation rate in the  
6 State at 7%; and

7           WHEREAS, The Illinois Community College System reported  
8 that there were 112,746 students identifying as Latino in 2012,  
9 constituting the second largest minority group; and

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

12           WHEREAS, Seventeen percent of Latinos in Illinois  
13 currently have an associate degree or higher; and

14           WHEREAS, There is a 50% skills gap for Latinos in Illinois,  
15 double the average for the general population, and therefore a  
16 need for effective education to provide more training to work  
17 towards closing the gap; therefore, be it

18           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Illinois Board of

1 Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board shall  
2 work along with the Illinois Latino Family Commission to  
3 develop a self-study guide that will be distributed to all  
4 public universities and community colleges throughout the  
5 State of Illinois; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Latino Family Commission shall provide  
7 administrative support during the creation of the guide; and be  
8 it further

9 RESOLVED, That the self-study shall include, but not be  
10 limited to, the following:

11 (1) identifying the current status and achievement levels  
12 for Latino students;

13 (2) examining the current practices that support Latino  
14 students;

15 (3) developing an action plan for improving Latino academic  
16 achievement; and

17 (4) creating a plan for increasing degree and certificate  
18 completion for Latino students; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Board of Higher Education and  
20 the Illinois Community College Board shall work with the  
21 Illinois Latino Family Commission to better understand low  
22 graduation and degree achievement among Latinos in public  
23 universities and community colleges and will generate a report

1 on this self-study; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Board of Higher Education and  
3 the Illinois Community College Board shall report their  
4 findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and the  
5 Governor on or before July 1, 2015; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Board of Higher Education and  
7 the Illinois Community College Board shall make this report  
8 available to all Illinois public universities and community  
9 colleges.