



SR0957

LRB098 19613 GRL 54808 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has a strategic interest in developing the best possible economic development strategy to create the most jobs for the least amount of taxpayer money, particularly as the State suffers from a relatively high unemployment rate; and

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WHEREAS, One of the programs that the State of Illinois currently administers is the EDGE (Economic Development for a Growing Economy) tax credit program that authorizes the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to craft agreements with for-profit companies to reduce or eliminate State corporate income taxes in exchange for the companies hiring and retaining Illinois employees; and

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WHEREAS, There is no statutory cap on the amount of EDGE tax credits that can be awarded to companies by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity; and

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WHEREAS, According to the Chicago Tribune, the Department authorized \$161 million of EDGE tax credits in 2011; and

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WHEREAS, The Department reported in June of 2013 that 82 separate agreements were reached that include in the aggregate the creation of 3,581 jobs and the retention of 15,215 jobs;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, The Department does not report the cost per job
3 for each of those 82 separate agreements; and

4 WHEREAS, The Department does not report the annual amount
5 of tax credits that were authorized as part of their annual
6 report; and

7 WHEREAS, It is of crucial importance for policymakers to
8 understand whether the cost of the EDGE tax credit program in
9 the aggregate and each of these agreements is justified based
10 on the job creation and retention benefits generated from the
11 agreements; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Auditor General is
14 directed to conduct a program audit of the Illinois Department
15 of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to examine the operations
16 and management of the Department as it relates to the
17 administration of the EDGE (Economic Development for a Growing
18 Economy) tax credit program and to report the findings to the
19 Illinois General Assembly; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Auditor General answer the question in
21 his report whether the job creation and job retention benefits

1 from the EDGE tax credit program is worth the cost to
2 taxpayers; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Department of Commerce and Economic
4 Opportunity fully cooperate with the audit and turn over any
5 materials requested by the Auditor General; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Auditor General is further directed to
7 commence this audit as soon as possible and, upon completion,
8 distribute a report in accordance with Section 3-14 of the
9 Illinois State Auditing Act; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
11 delivered to the Auditor General and to all 4 legislative
12 leaders of the Illinois General Assembly.