



HJ0035

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has committed to achieving a  
3 goal of 60% of adults in Illinois having a college degree or  
4 marketable certificate by the year 2025; and

5 WHEREAS, In order to reach that goal, the Illinois  
6 Community College System has committed to producing an  
7 additional 3,003 degrees by 2020 and an additional 18,997  
8 degrees by 2025, with a total of 22,000 additional degrees by  
9 2025; and

10 WHEREAS, Community colleges are the primary provider of  
11 higher education in Illinois, as 63.9% of all students who are  
12 enrolled in an institution of higher education in Illinois  
13 attend a community college; and

14 WHEREAS, Community colleges are the primary providers of  
15 higher education for at-risk, minority, low-income, and  
16 underrepresented populations; and

17 WHEREAS, According to the National Center for Education  
18 Statistics, nontraditional students represent greater  
19 proportions of populations in need, including women and  
20 racial-ethnic minorities, compared to their traditional  
21 counterparts; and

1           WHEREAS, Illinois community colleges have become less  
2 affordable as tuition and fees increased 52% from 2004 to 2010  
3 and have further increased over 32% since 2008; as of fiscal  
4 year 2012, tuition and fees average 5.2% higher than the  
5 national average; and

6           WHEREAS, The Illinois Community College System Economic  
7 Impact Study report clearly demonstrates that Illinois  
8 community colleges add skills to the workforce and boost the  
9 competitiveness of Illinois businesses; and

10           WHEREAS, Illinois community colleges have strong  
11 partnerships with local employers, providing needed vocational  
12 training and education for current and prospective employees;  
13 and

14           WHEREAS, The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of  
15 2014 provides requirements for even stronger collaboration and  
16 partnership between education and the workforce, with the  
17 involvement of the federal Departments of Education and Labor;  
18 and

19           WHEREAS, Illinois community college graduates contribute  
20 tremendously to their local communities, the State of Illinois,  
21 and the nation, generating \$4.0 billion in State income tax

1 revenue and \$14.2 billion in federal income tax revenue between  
2 2003 and 2012; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
5 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we affirm that community  
6 colleges play a dynamic and essential role in driving the  
7 economy and workforce of the State of Illinois; and be it  
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That in order to stimulate economic growth, have  
10 an educated population, and better prepare students for their  
11 careers, the General Assembly of the State of Illinois welcomes  
12 cooperation from the Office of the Governor of Illinois and  
13 will endeavor to address the issue of community college  
14 affordability, with special consideration taken for  
15 nontraditional students.