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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has a prison population of
3 over 47,000 inmates in 25 adult facilities, with a staff of
4 10,200, at an annual cost of \$1.3 billion; and

5 WHEREAS, The State's correctional system is among the most
6 crowded in the nation and is operating at more than 150% of its
7 capacity, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics; and

8 WHEREAS, The State's high prison population and
9 overcrowding is fueled by a high recidivism rate, with 48% of
10 adults and 53% of juveniles returning to incarceration within 3
11 years; and

12 WHEREAS, Article I, Section 11 of the Illinois Constitution
13 requires that the determination of the State's criminal
14 penalties address both the seriousness of the crime as well as
15 the return of the offender to productive citizenship; and

16 WHEREAS, The administration has set a goal for the State to
17 reduce its prison population by 25% by 2025; and

18 WHEREAS, The Governor's creation of the Illinois State
19 Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform
20 recognized the importance of a comprehensive and

1 evidence-based approach to reduce the State's prison
2 population, while improving public safety; and

3 WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Corrections currently
4 maintains 7 Work Camps among its facilities as a transfer
5 alternative for inmates preparing for re-entry into society;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Work Camps provide adult education, high school
8 equivalency classes, vocational educational programs, and
9 community service opportunities to participants, as well as job
10 skills and an experience that may improve an inmate's
11 reintroduction to productive citizenship and may reduce the
12 likelihood of a return to the correctional system; and

13 WHEREAS, Work Camps provide thousands of hours of service
14 to the community; and

15 WHEREAS, The determination of the effectiveness of job
16 training, educational opportunities, and community service
17 should be included in the State's evidence-based effort to
18 reduce the recidivism rate, decrease the prison population, and
19 increase public safety; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
21 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE

1 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Task Force
2 on Work Camp Rehabilitation, consisting of the following
3 members:

4 (1) the Governor or his or her designee;

5 (2) the Director of Corrections or his or her designee;

6 (3) one member of the Illinois House of Representatives
7 chosen by the Speaker of the Illinois House of
8 Representatives;

9 (4) one member of the Illinois House of Representatives
10 chosen by the Minority Leader of the Illinois House of
11 Representatives;

12 (5) one member of the Illinois Senate chosen by the
13 President of the Illinois Senate;

14 (6) one member of the Illinois Senate chosen by the
15 Minority Leader of the Illinois Senate;

16 (7) the Chair of the Illinois Sentencing Policy
17 Advisory Council or his or her designee;

18 (8) one member of an association conducting
19 independent oversight of the State's adult and juvenile
20 correctional facilities chosen by the Governor;

21 (9) the Director of the Administrative Office of the
22 Illinois Courts or his or her designee;

23 (10) one member of a not-for-profit foundation that
24 uses evidence-based programs to assist clients with
25 criminal records to achieve employment, successfully
26 re-enter society, and reduce recidivism chosen by the

1 Governor; and

2 (11) the Director of the Illinois Criminal Justice
3 Information Authority or his or her designee; and be it
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That all appointments shall be made no later than
6 45 days following the adoption of this resolution; the Task
7 Force shall hold its first meeting no later than 90 days
8 following the adoption of this resolution and shall at that
9 time elect a chair from among the members; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall study and determine the
11 effectiveness of Work Camps; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall conduct an
13 evidence-based analysis of the State's current Work Camps and a
14 comparative analysis between Work Camps and other forms of
15 incarceration and rehabilitation; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall study and determine the
17 extent to which the educational, job training, and community
18 service options of Work Camps and other transitional programs
19 would be beneficial to the State's effort to reduce recidivism,
20 decrease the prison population, and improve public safety; and
21 be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Task Force may utilize evidence-based
2 analysis of other rehabilitative services, including, but not
3 limited to, mental health services, addiction recovery
4 services, work-release programs, adult transition centers,
5 Illinois correctional industries, vocational programs, and
6 educational programs; and be it further

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

9 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Criminal Justice Information
10 Authority shall provide administrative and other support to the
11 Task Force; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall report its findings and
13 any recommendations to the Governor, the General Assembly, and
14 the Director of Corrections on or before December 31, 2016; and
15 be it further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
17 delivered to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the Illinois
18 House of Representatives, the President and Minority Leader of
19 the Illinois Senate, the Governor, and the Director of
20 Corrections.