



HJ0150 Engrossed

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 150

2 WHEREAS, Disconnected youth are young people ages 16 to 24
3 who are neither working nor in school; according to a recent
4 study by the Great Cities Institute at University of Illinois
5 at Chicago, in 2014, there were 154,094 disconnected youth in
6 Illinois; of those 37,975 were between 16 and 19 years of age,
7 and 116,119 between the ages of 20 and 24; and

8 WHEREAS, Of the 154,094 disconnected youth in Illinois in
9 2014, 37,975 were white, 32,024 Hispanic, and 67,772 were
10 African American; and

11 WHEREAS, The vast majority of disconnected youth come from
12 low income areas in both Chicago and downstate; and

13 WHEREAS, Many of these disconnected youth and young adults
14 would benefit from education and employment opportunities if
15 these opportunities were structured using the best program
16 practices of smaller, more flexible, and more structured
17 comprehensive programming to address their education, work,
18 and social development needs; and

19 WHEREAS, Illinois currently has a shortage of skilled
20 workers; provided with the right opportunities, these
21 disconnected youth could be trained to fill those vacancies for

1 the benefit of the employers, the Illinois economy, and their
2 own futures; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the Illinois Department of
4 Corrections Fiscal Report for 2014, only 19.7% of inmates in
5 Illinois prisons completed high school; only 19.2% completed a
6 GED program; leaving a shocking 62% of inmates in Illinois
7 without an education higher than 11th grade; and

8 WHEREAS, Disconnected youth without high school diplomas
9 earn \$516,000 less over their lifetimes than those with high
10 school diplomas and some college education; and

11 WHEREAS, The benefit to Illinois taxpayers is \$312,000 in
12 tax revenue over the lifetime of a disconnected youth who earns
13 a high school diploma; there would also be savings to the State
14 in social service expenditures such as welfare, mental health
15 and dependency services, and reduced risk of imprisonment or
16 other criminal justice related costs; and

17 WHEREAS, There is significant research and program
18 experience to draw upon to assist in the development of
19 successful programs to support disconnected youth so as to
20 improve their education and find employment; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
2 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Statewide
3 Task Force on Disconnected Youth in order to examine and
4 develop programs to address the growing numbers of disconnected
5 youth in Illinois; and be it further

6 RESOLED, That the purpose of the Task Force is to examine
7 policies, programs, and other issues related to developing a
8 variety of successful approaches using best program practices
9 for disconnected youth, with the goal of improving their
10 education, work-related skills, and social development, so
11 that they can successfully enter the workforce and become
12 productive adults; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be composed of the
14 following members:

15 1) eight legislators, two appointed by the president of the
16 Senate, two appointed by the Speaker of the House, two
17 appointed by the House Minority Leader, and two appointed
18 by the Senate Minority Leader;

19 2) one representative from the Governor's office appointed
20 by the Governor;

21 3) one representative of the State Board of Education
22 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education;

23 4) one representative of the Department of Human Services

1 appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Human
2 Services;

3 5)one representative of the Department of Children and
4 Family Services appointed by its Director;

5 6)one representative of the Illinois Department of
6 Juvenile Justice appointed by its Director;

7 7)one representative of the Department of Commerce and
8 Economic Opportunity appointed by its Director;

9 8)one representative of the Illinois Community College
10 Board appointed by its President; and

11 9)25 representatives of organizations with successful
12 experience working with disconnected youth, four
13 appointed by the President of the Senate, four appointed by
14 the Speaker of the House, four appointed by the House
15 Minority Leader, four appointed by the Senate Minority
16 Leader, and nine appointed by the Governor, with one of
17 these public representatives service as the Chairperson of
18 the Task Force; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the duties of the Task Force shall include
20 conducting a series of public hearings and listening sessions
21 throughout the State to discuss the issue of disconnected youth
22 and their impact on various regions of the State; completing a
23 reviewing of data regarding disconnected youth comparing
24 Illinois with other states in the region and nationally;
25 including a review of various financing and funding mechanisms

1 used by other states, counties, cities, foundations, and other
2 financial funding sources; and producing a final report with
3 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on
4 ways and means to address the challenge of disconnected youth
5 who have left school without a high school diploma; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Human Services is
8 requested to provide administrative support when needed; and be
9 it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall issue an interim report
11 of its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly no
12 later than November 30, 2016; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall issue a final report by
14 December 31, 2016; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That upon the filing of the final report the Task
16 Force is dissolved.