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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The unintended or uncontrolled breeding of cats
3 leads to the births of thousands of kittens annually, many of
4 whom become feral cats, often referred to as "community cats";
5 and

6 WHEREAS, There is a need to preserve wildlife, improve cat
7 welfare, maintain property rights, and enhance public health by
8 humanely managing and limiting the growth of the number of
9 feral cats in Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, Feral cats are often impounded and killed, at
11 great expense to the community; and

12 WHEREAS, The eradication approach used for generations has
13 failed to adequately address the issue of feral cats, thereby
14 requiring a more effective approach; and

15 WHEREAS, Trap, neuter, vaccinate, and return programs that
16 provide humane and effective methods to manage and limit the
17 growth of the number of feral or community cats, prevent the
18 spread of rabies, and improve the cats' quality of life, are
19 recognized as beneficial and popular approaches; and

20 WHEREAS, Management of feral cats is also affected by local

1 government ordinances; and

2 WHEREAS, Communities in other states have developed
3 successful programs to manage feral cats; and

4 WHEREAS, Numerous Good Samaritans and farmers provide
5 life-sustaining care for feral or community cats and are not,
6 according to the Illinois Animal Control Act, considered owners
7 of the cats; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 CONCURRING HEREIN, that a Feral Cat Task Force be appointed to
11 examine the Animal Control Act, the Humane Care for Animals
12 Act, and the Animal Welfare Act and any other relevant
13 statutory provisions and make comprehensive written
14 recommendations for change that would result in the effective
15 management of feral and community cats; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall consist of the
17 following members:

- 18 (1) the President of the Senate, or his designee;
19 (2) the Speaker of the House or his designee;
20 (3) the Minority Leader of the Senate or her designee;
21 (4) the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives or
22 his designee;

1 (5) a representative appointed by the Department of
2 Agriculture;

3 (6) a representative appointed by the Department of Natural
4 Resources;

5 (7) a representative appointed by the Illinois State
6 Veterinary Medical Association;

7 (8) a representative appointed by the Illinois
8 Environmental Council;

9 (9) a representative who is a county animal control
10 administrator from a county of over 4 million residents;

11 (10) a representative who is on the Board of the Alliance
12 for Contraception in Cats & Dogs (ACCD) appointed by the
13 University of Illinois School of Veterinary Medicine;

14 (11) a representative appointed by Best Friends Animal
15 Society;

16 (12) a representative appointed by the Illinois Farm
17 Bureau;

18 (13) a representative appointed by the Illinois Humane
19 Society;

20 (14) a representative appointed by the Sierra Club;

21 (15) a representative appointed by the National Wildlife
22 Federation;

23 (16) a representative appointed by the County Animal
24 Controls of Illinois representing a county with a
25 population of less than 2 million;

26 (17) a representative from the Tree House Humane Society;

1 and

2 (18) a representative from the Animal Protective League of
3 Springfield; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Task Force members shall select a
5 Chairperson from among themselves; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That appointments to the Task Force must be made
7 by July 1, 2016; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall hold at least 3
9 hearings, which shall each be held in geographically separate
10 regions of the State; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall present a written
12 report to the Senate and the House of Representatives no later
13 than December 31, 2016; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Task Force members shall receive no
15 compensation, and shall conclude all business by January 1,
16 2017; and be it further

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