

## 1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In the development of the American railway  
3 system most railroads had routes to and from Chicago; and

4 WHEREAS, The Chicago area is still the key railroad  
5 network hub for most North American railroads; and

6 WHEREAS, Chicago's role as the central hub of the North  
7 American rail freight industry has been magnified by recent  
8 mergers within the railroad industry; and

9 WHEREAS, Today, within the Chicago area, there are over  
10 700 miles of mainline tracks that carry more than 1,100  
11 trains going through the area daily; and

12 WHEREAS, The Chicago area is also criss-crossed by the  
13 operation of local, commuter, and inter-city passenger  
14 trains; and

15 WHEREAS, There are no federal or State laws restricting  
16 train lengths and, according to industry sources, coal trains  
17 can be up to 150 cars long; and

18 WHEREAS, This tremendously high number of trains has  
19 resulted in severe problems with trains blocking grade  
20 crossings for significant periods of time; and

21 WHEREAS, This blocking of grade crossings has endangered  
22 the ability of police officers, ambulance drivers, and fire  
23 fighters to perform their duties; and

24 WHEREAS, In addition to the constant and aggravating  
25 inconvenience these crossing blockages cause to motorists,  
26 there are reports that school children, fearing they will be  
27 late for school, are crawling underneath these trains while  
28 the trains are blocking intersections; therefore, be it

29 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that there is created the  
2 Grade Crossing Obstruction Task Force consisting of 5 members  
3 of the Senate, with 3 members and the chairman appointed by  
4 the President of the Senate and 2 members appointed by the  
5 Minority Leader of the Senate; all members shall serve  
6 without compensation; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall study various issues  
8 relating to frequency and duration of grade crossing  
9 blockages and the effectiveness of the railroad industry's  
10 attempts to deal with this serious problem; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall meet at the call of  
12 the Chairman, shall hold public hearings, shall receive the  
13 assistance of legislative staff, and shall report its  
14 findings and recommendations to the Senate on or before  
15 January 31, 2002; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That upon filing its report the Task Force is  
17 dissolved.