

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The quality of education of Illinois' children
3 continues to be a high priority of the State; and

4 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois values the commitment and
5 dedication of the men and women comprising the State's
6 quality teaching and administrative force; and

7 WHEREAS, Illinois schools are experiencing a shortage of
8 teachers in a wide variety of areas from early childhood
9 through high school with very serious shortages in particular
10 subject areas; and

11 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education reports that 2,637
12 teaching and administrative positions were unfilled in the
13 fall of 2000; and

14 WHEREAS, Approximately 29,895 teachers and administrators
15 will be eligible to retire by 2003; and

16 WHEREAS, Many school districts have difficulty recruiting
17 and retaining high-quality teachers and administrators for
18 low-performing schools, for pupils with special needs, and
19 for schools serving rural areas or large populations of
20 pupils from low-income and minority families; and

21 WHEREAS, Many factors contribute to rising teacher and
22 administrator shortages and attrition rates including labor
23 market forces, compensation, and working conditions in
24 schools throughout the State; therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL
26 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Office of the
27 Governor, the State Board of Education, the Board of Higher
28 Education, the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois
29 Student Assistance Commission, and the Federation of
30 Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities shall work in

1 concert with the Teachers' Retirement System, the Chicago
2 Public Schools, various business organizations, and major
3 teacher and administrator associations to develop a strategic
4 plan for the State of Illinois to assist school districts in
5 responding to the need for recruiting and retaining
6 high-quality teachers in all geographic regions of the State
7 and throughout all subject areas; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a report shall be filed with the General
9 Assembly by October 15, 2001, recommending actions to be
10 included in the State's FY 2003 budget related to teacher
11 shortages; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 delivered to the Office of the Governor, the State Board of
14 Education, the Board of Higher Education, the Illinois
15 Community College Board, the Federation of Independent
16 Illinois Colleges and Universities, the Illinois Student
17 Assistance Commission, and the Teachers' Retirement System.