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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The General Assembly is concerned with the health,
3 safety, and welfare of all returning veterans of this country's
4 armed forces to Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, The rate of mental health problems and suicides
6 for members of this country's armed forces remains startlingly
7 high; and

8 WHEREAS, Between 2005 and 2011, the veteran suicide rate in
9 Illinois was more than twice the rate for civilians; and

10 WHEREAS, 17.72% of all suicide deaths in Illinois are
11 veterans; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
13 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
14 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Task Force
15 on Veterans' Suicide to investigate the causes to and
16 prevention of suicides among returning Illinois veterans of the
17 United States Military; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, The Task Force shall consist of 8 members as
19 follows:

1 1) one member appointed by The Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives, and this member shall act as the chair;

3 2) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House
4 of Representatives;

5 3) one member appointed by the President of the Senate;

6 4) one member appointed by the Senate Minority leader;

7 5) one representative from the Department of Veterans'
8 Affairs, chosen by the Director of Veterans' Affairs;

9 6) one representative from the Department of Military
10 Affairs, chosen by the Director of Military Affairs;

11 7) one representative from the Department of Public Health,
12 chosen by the Director of Public Health; and

13 8) one representative of the Department of Human Services,
14 chosen by the Secretary of Human Services; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall meet periodically at
16 the discretion of the chair to investigate and form
17 recommendations concerning the issue of suicides among
18 Illinois veterans; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the members of the Task Force serve with no
2 compensation; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall
4 provide administrative and other support to the Task Force; and
5 be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Task Force on Veterans' Suicide
7 shall present a report of its findings, which shall include its
8 recommendations for legislation, if any, to the Illinois House
9 of Representatives and the Senate on or before January 1, 2015;
10 and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be dissolved after the
12 submission of its report to the Illinois House of
13 Representatives and Senate, thereby concluding its mission.