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LRB098 11543 RPM 44224 r

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois serves over 2,000,000
3 students in 862 school districts statewide; and

4 WHEREAS, State funding for pre-kindergarten through grade
5 12 education in Illinois has been reduced by \$861,000,000 since
6 fiscal year 2009; of that amount, general State aid has been
7 reduced by more than \$320,000,000; and

8 WHEREAS, Illinois ranks 50th in terms of the state
9 proportion of kindergarten through grade 12 funding, providing
10 for just 32.5% of all funds spent on kindergarten through grade
11 12 public education, despite the plain language of Article 10
12 of the Illinois Constitution which states "The State has the
13 primary responsibility for financing the system of public
14 education."; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2007, 23% of Illinois school districts reported
16 deficit spending, and today more than 67% of Illinois school
17 districts report deficit spending; and

18 WHEREAS, Reductions in State spending have increased
19 school districts' reliance on local resources, impacting
20 classroom services and financial stability, at a time when
21 school districts are required to do more necessary improvements

1 and initiatives such as teacher and principal evaluations, new
2 and higher learning standards, and assessments; and

3 WHEREAS, The General Assembly must stay engaged in public
4 education issues and be prepared to make legislative and
5 administrative recommendations; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
8 CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the General Assembly's
9 Advisory Committee on Education Funding, consisting of 12
10 members, appointed as follows: 3 members of the Senate majority
11 caucus, appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom
12 shall be designated as a co-chair; 3 members of the Senate
13 minority caucus, appointed by the Senate Minority Leader, one
14 of whom shall be designated as a co-chair; 3 members of the
15 House majority caucus, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
16 Representatives, one of whom shall be designated as a co-chair;
17 and 3 members of the House minority caucus, appointed by the
18 House Minority Leader, one of whom shall be designated as a
19 co-chair; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Advisory Committee on Education Funding
21 shall:

22 (1) conduct a thorough review of the existing
23 distribution methods and expenditures of all

1 pre-kindergarten through grade 12 education funding with a
2 focus on general State aid as defined in Section 18-8.05 of
3 the School Code; and

4 (2) make recommendations to implement an education
5 funding system that:

6 (a) is adequate;

7 (b) is equitable;

8 (c) prepares students for achievement and success
9 after high school; and

10 (d) supports teachers and school leaders; and

11 (3) consider the following when making its
12 recommendations:

13 (a) the number of students in a school and school
14 district and the level of need of those students,
15 including special needs populations;

16 (b) a school district's ability to provide local
17 resources to pay for basic education needs;

18 (c) transparency and accountability;

19 (d) revenue predictability to support sound
20 planning and budgeting by local school boards and
21 administration; and

22 (e) the long-term implications and outcomes of the
23 funding system, along with provisions that require the
24 system to be monitored, publicly reported, assessed,
25 and improved over time; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Advisory Committee on Education Funding
2 shall seek input from stakeholders and members of the public on
3 issues and possible improvements to the existing funding
4 system; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That members of the Advisory Committee on
6 Education Funding shall serve without compensation, and the
7 State Board of Education shall provide administrative and other
8 support to the Advisory Committee on Education Funding; and be
9 it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Advisory Committee on Education Funding
11 shall meet at the call of the co-chairs, but shall meet a
12 minimum of 4 times per year; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Advisory Committee on Education Funding
14 shall share its legislative and administrative recommendations
15 with the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
16 Representatives, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and the
17 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives no later than
18 February 1, 2014; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the Chairman of the State Board of Education and
21 the State Superintendent of Education; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education shall provide a
2 copy of this resolution to school districts in the State.