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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 53

2 (As Amended by Senate Amendment No. 1)

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

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

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

13 WHEREAS, Trap, neuter, vaccinate, and return programs
14 manage and limit the growth of the number of feral or community
15 cats; and

16 WHEREAS, Management of feral cats is also affected by local
17 government ordinances; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
20 CONCURRING HEREIN, that a Feral Cat Task Force be appointed to

1 examine the Animal Control Act, the Humane Care for Animals
2 Act, and the Animal Welfare Act and any other relevant
3 statutory provisions, other trap, neuter, and return programs
4 in other states and trap and adopt programs and make
5 comprehensive written recommendations for change that would
6 result in the effective management of feral and community cats,
7 preserve wildlife, improve cat welfare, maintain property
8 rights, and enhance public health; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall consist of the
10 following members:

11 (1) the President of the Senate, or his designee;

12 (2) the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or his
13 designee;

14 (3) the Minority Leader of the Senate, or her designee;

15 (4) the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, or
16 his designee;

17 (5) a representative appointed by the Department of
18 Agriculture;

19 (6) a representative appointed by the Department of Natural
20 Resources;

21 (7) a representative appointed by the Illinois State
22 Veterinary Medical Association;

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

25 (9) a representative who is a county animal control

1 administrator from a county of over 4 million residents;

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

5 (11) a representative appointed by Best Friends Animal
6 Society;

7 (12) a representative appointed by the Illinois Farm
8 Bureau;

9 (13) a representative appointed by the Illinois Humane
10 Society;

11 (14) a representative appointed by the Illinois Chapter of
12 the Sierra Club;

13 (15) a representative appointed by the Illinois Audubon
14 Society;

15 (16) a representative appointed by the Illinois Wildlife
16 Society who is a certified wildlife biologist;

17 (17) a representative appointed by the County Animal
18 Controls of Illinois who is currently employed as an Animal
19 Control Administrator or an Animal Control Warden in a
20 county with a population of less than 2 million; and

21 (18) a representative from Tree House Humane Society; and
22 be it further

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

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

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

6 RESOLVED, That the Task Force members shall receive no
7 compensation, and shall conclude all business by January 1,
8 2017; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
10 delivered to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
11 House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the Senate,
12 and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.