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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, A school treasurer is the only lawful custodian of school funds and is responsible for all receipts, disbursements, and investments of school funds; and

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WHEREAS, For most school districts across the State, each school board appoints a member of the school board as treasurer for a term of one year or the board appoints a non-member to serve as treasurer; and

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WHEREAS, However, the trustees of schools in Cook County appoint a township treasurer to serve as the treasurer for all schools located within the township; and

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WHEREAS, If a school district wants to withdraw from the jurisdiction of the township treasurer, they must either seek legislative approval from the General Assembly or go through a lengthy process that includes approval from each school board under the jurisdiction of the township treasurer and a referendum approved by the voters; and

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WHEREAS, Over time, the General Assembly has exempted seven school districts from having to go through the lengthy withdrawal process in order to no longer be under the jurisdiction of the township treasurer in the Proviso and

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1 Cicero Townships; and

2 WHEREAS, In 2012, a Better Government Association's
3 investigation into the financial practices of the Lyons
4 Township Treasurer's Office revealed that the township
5 treasurer had been pilfering township funds for his own use;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Many school districts in Lyons Township would like
8 to withdraw from the jurisdiction and authority of the township
9 treasurer because they believe they can appoint a treasurer to
10 provide the same duties at a lower cost; however, they have
11 been unsuccessful in withdrawing from the jurisdiction of the
12 township treasurer's office as of yet; and

13 WHEREAS, It is essential for the General Assembly to fully
14 understand the duties of the township treasurer's offices to
15 ensure they are still a necessary component of the public
16 school system in Cook County; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 there is created the Review of the Township Treasurer's Office
20 Task Force to study the efficacy of the township treasurer's
21 offices and to determine if they provide adequate services to
22 the school districts in which they serve; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Task Force will consist of the following
2 members:

3 (1) Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House;
4 and

5 (2) Four members appointed by the Minority Leader of
6 the House;

7 RESOLVED, That the members of the Task Force shall elect
8 amongst themselves a chairperson; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall call upon current and
10 past township treasurers, school finance experts, and current
11 and past school administrators in districts under the
12 jurisdiction of township treasurers to provide testimony and
13 expertise to the Task Force; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Illinois State Board of Education shall
15 provide administrative and other support to the Task Force; and
16 be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall meet at the request of
18 the chairperson, but shall meet no less than four times prior
19 to December 31, 2019; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall present its findings to

1 the General Assembly no later than December 31, 2019; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be dissolved after
4 submitting its findings to the General Assembly.