



SR1078

LRB101 21075 LAW 71430 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Approximately half of Illinois high school graduates enrolling as full-time freshmen in Illinois public community colleges require remedial education; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois employers report that recent high school and postsecondary institutional graduates often lack the critical skills necessary to succeed in high-demand and growing occupational areas, and that they are unable to find qualified workers to meet their industry's needs; and

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WHEREAS, Student readiness for postsecondary education and careers cannot be reduced to a single metric but must instead be understood as a multifaceted set of knowledge, skills, and abilities that allow students to successfully meet the challenges of postsecondary education and career in order to live healthy, productive lives; and

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WHEREAS, Enabling high school students to engage in career and postsecondary education development activities and incentivizing achievement in career-oriented education, particularly in high-demand industry sectors, promotes postsecondary and career readiness and facilitates better-informed postsecondary education decisions; and

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1 WHEREAS, Aligning support from State agencies, school
2 districts, postsecondary education providers, employers, and
3 other public and private organizations will lead to the
4 development and implementation of a robust and coordinated
5 postsecondary education and career readiness system in
6 Illinois; and

7 WHEREAS, The Illinois Postsecondary and Workforce
8 Readiness Act establishes a voluntary system for school
9 districts to award college and career pathway endorsements on
10 high school diplomas; the endorsement demonstrates students'
11 readiness for college and careers, completion of instruction
12 and professional learning experiences in a selected career
13 interest area, and incentivizes career exploration and
14 development, particularly in high-demand career fields; and

15 WHEREAS, The Illinois Postsecondary and Workforce
16 Readiness Act takes a student-centered and competency-based
17 approach to create four strategies to help students prepare for
18 postsecondary and career opportunities, which include offering
19 a Postsecondary and Career Expectations framework (PaCE),
20 piloting competency-based high school graduation requirements,
21 supporting students to avoid remediation in college through
22 targeted math instruction during their senior year, and
23 creating a new system for school districts to award college and
24 career pathways endorsements on high school diplomas; and

1 WHEREAS, The Postsecondary and Career Expectations
2 framework outlines what students should know and actions they
3 should take from middle school through 12th grade to select the
4 right postsecondary option, prepare for careers, and access
5 financial aid opportunities; and

6 WHEREAS, Illinois enacted the Postsecondary and Workforce
7 Readiness Act to deploy a number of strategies to prepare more
8 students for meaningful career opportunities by supporting
9 postsecondary and career planning, promoting and incentivizing
10 competency-based learning programs, reducing remedial
11 education rates, increasing alignment between K-12 and
12 postsecondary education systems, and implementing college and
13 career pathway systems; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we encourage high
16 schools across the State to participate in the Postsecondary
17 and Workforce Readiness Program to help address key barriers to
18 the successful transition of Illinois high school students into
19 college and careers.