WHEREAS, It has long been reported that Illinois is facing a critical teacher shortage, which has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, According to the 2020 Illinois Educator Shortage Survey commissioned by the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents, 77% of Illinois school districts reported having a teacher shortage problem, and 93% of school districts have a substitute teacher shortage; and

WHEREAS, This 2020 survey also indicated that school districts reported 17% of their teacher positions are unfilled or filled by someone less than qualified for the position; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Addressing the Illinois Teacher Shortage Task Force whose purpose is the following:

(1) to obtain and analyze data on the teacher shortage, including how the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the shortage;

(2) to audit Illinois' teacher licensure laws and
rules to determine if any laws or rules are an impediment
to quality teachers joining the classroom;

(3) to study and review required examinations for
student teachers as well as professional development
requirements for existing teachers; and

(4) to provide recommendations on how to address the
teacher shortage by removing impediments in current laws
and rules; and be it further

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

(1) one member of a statewide professional teachers'
organization, appointed by the State Superintendent of
Education;

(2) one member of another statewide professional
teachers' organization, appointed by the State
Superintendent of Education;

(3) one member of a statewide professional teachers' 
organization that represents a school district in a city
with a population of over 500,000, appointed by the State
Superintendent of Education;

(4) one member of a statewide organization that
represents school administrators, appointed by the State
Superintendent of Education;

(5) one member of a statewide organization that
represents school board members, appointed by the State
Superintendent of Education;

(6) one member of a statewide organization that represents principals, appointed by the State Superintendent of Education;

(7) one member of a statewide organization that represents suburban school districts, appointed by the State Superintendent of Education;

(8) one member of a statewide organization that represents large unit school districts, appointed by the State Superintendent of Education;

(9) one member of a statewide organization that represents rural school districts, appointed by the State Superintendent of Education;

(10) two members representing teacher education preparation programs at in-state colleges and universities, appointed by the State Superintendent of Education;

(11) one member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(12) one member of the House of Representatives appointed by the House Minority Leader;

(13) one member of the Senate appointed by the Senate President; and

(14) one member of the Senate appointed by the Senate Minority Leader; and be it further
RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall have all appointments made within 30 days of the adoption of this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force members shall serve without compensation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall first meet at the call of the State Superintendent of Education within 30 days following all appointments being made; at which meeting, the Task Force shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among its members; at which time, meetings of the Task Force shall then be at the call of the chairperson; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Illinois State Board of Education shall provide administrative and technical support to the Task Force and be responsible for administering its operations and ensuring that the requirements of the Task Force are met; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall submit a report to the General Assembly by December 31, 2022 addressing the Task Force's purpose as stated above and providing recommendations on how to address the teacher shortage currently facing Illinois school districts, and upon filing of its final report, the Task Force is dissolved.