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LRB102 10345 LAW 15672 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has seen a decline in the
3 number of residents with college degrees that would serve as a
4 basis for improving the economic conditions and subsequent
5 quality of life improvements for the State; and

6 WHEREAS, This has led to a loss of overall population in
7 the State and a skills gap that has not been addressed as a top
8 priority, leading to increasing burdens on State and local
9 government to meet the needs of the residents; and

10 WHEREAS, Executive Order 2019-03, An Action Agenda for
11 Workforce Development and Job Creation, signed by Gov. JB
12 Pritzker, directs Illinois' state agencies to review current
13 and potential industries targeted for economic growth and
14 recommend how workforce resources for disenfranchised
15 populations may be improved in communities throughout
16 Illinois; and

17 WHEREAS, The four Illinois state agencies involved in
18 implementing the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
19 Act, the Departments of Commerce & Economic Opportunity,
20 Employment Security, and Human Services and the Illinois
21 Community College Board, and representatives of the Illinois
22 Workforce Innovation Board have prepared an agenda that will

1 create opportunities for all Illinoisans; and

2 WHEREAS, Those agencies presented a report, An Action
3 Agenda for Workforce Development and Job Creation, that
4 includes evidence-based practices, promising innovations, and
5 collaborative input from leaders across the State; its goal is
6 to ensure that businesses, individuals, and communities have
7 the opportunity to prosper and contribute to the State's
8 economic growth, specifically attracting and retaining young
9 people to Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, The U.S. Census Bureau asserts that 93 of 102
11 counties in Illinois have lost populations since 2010; and

12 WHEREAS, Since the end of the Great Recession in 2011, the
13 prime working-age population in Illinois has declined five
14 percent while the U.S. prime working-age population has grown
15 1.4 percent; and

16 WHEREAS, In collaboration with the State of Illinois,
17 Community Foundations of Illinois have focused their efforts
18 on increasing talent retention and regional prosperity and
19 combatting deteriorating and financially distressed
20 communities by creating a new scholarship that will lessen the
21 burdens of government by preventing further erosion of the
22 State's economic base by recruiting and retaining college

1 educated employees to live and work in the State; and

2 WHEREAS, With this new scholarship, the Community
3 Foundations of Illinois seek to lessen the burdens of
4 government and improve the quality of life and economic
5 conditions of the residents of the State, which is consistent
6 with the goals of Executive Order 2019-03; it will be a vital
7 part of the State's effort to expand talent retention,
8 stimulate greater investments in our communities, and improve
9 our economic outlook; and

10 WHEREAS, The new scholarship will support the efforts of
11 local partners to attract young professionals with expertise
12 in Illinois trades, such as agribusiness and food processing,
13 biotechnology, energy, healthcare, professional services,
14 information technology, financial activities, leisure,
15 hospitality, and transportation, distribution, and logistics;
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we urge the Community Foundations of Illinois to enter into a
20 joint effort with the State of Illinois to administer
21 post-graduation scholarship programs, which are designed to
22 lessen the burdens of government by improving income levels,
23 decreasing unemployment rates, increasing household incomes,

1 and increasing the percentage of residents with college
2 degrees living and working in financially distressed areas in
3 the State in accordance with the rules and regulations of the
4 individual Community Foundations and Executive Order 2019-03.