



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB0134

Introduced 2/9/2021, by Sen. Steve Stadelman

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Local Journalism Task Force Act. Establishes the Local Journalism Task Force, consisting of one member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, one member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, one member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, one member appointed by the Governor, and one representative of each of the following entities: the Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications at Northwestern University; the Public Affairs Reporting Program at the University of Illinois at Springfield; the School of Journalism at Southern Illinois University Carbondale; the Illinois Press Association; the Illinois Broadcasters Association; the Illinois Legislative Correspondents Association; the Illinois Public Broadcasting Council; and the Illinois Municipal League. Directs the Task Force to study communities underserved by local journalism and review all aspects of journalism. Requires the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to provide administrative support. Provides that the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations of legislation to the Governor and General Assembly.

LRB102 15340 JLS 20697 b

1 AN ACT concerning journalism.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Local
5 Journalism Task Force Act.

6 Section 5. Establishment. The Local Journalism Task Force
7 is established to:

8 (1) conduct a comprehensive, nonbinding study relative
9 to communities underserved by local journalism in
10 Illinois; and

11 (2) review all aspects of local journalism including,
12 but not limited to, the adequacy of press coverage of
13 communities, the ratio of residents to media outlets, the
14 history of local news in Illinois, print and digital
15 business models for media outlets, the impact of social
16 media on local news, strategies to improve local news
17 access, and public policy solutions to improve the
18 sustainability of local press business models and private
19 and nonprofit solutions.

20 Section 10. Membership. The Task Force shall consist of
21 the following 13 members: one member of the House of
22 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of

1 Representatives; one member of the House of Representatives
2 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
3 Representatives; one member of the Senate appointed by the
4 President of the Senate; one member of the Senate appointed by
5 the Minority Leader of the Senate; one member appointed by the
6 Governor; one representative of the Medill School of
7 Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications at
8 Northwestern University; one representative of the Public
9 Affairs Reporting Program at the University of Illinois at
10 Springfield; one representative of the School of Journalism at
11 Southern Illinois University Carbondale; one representative of
12 the Illinois Press Association; one representative of the
13 Illinois Broadcasters Association; one representative of the
14 Illinois Legislative Correspondents Association; one
15 representative of the Illinois Public Broadcasting Council;
16 and one representative of the Illinois Municipal League.
17 Appointments shall be made no later than 30 days following the
18 effective date of this Act.

19 Section 15. Meetings. The Task Force shall meet a minimum
20 of 5 times to review, study, and analyze existing literature
21 as well as quantitative and qualitative data on the status of
22 journalism in the State of Illinois.

23 Section 20. Support. The Department of Commerce and
24 Economic Opportunity shall provide administrative and other

1 support to the Task Force.

2 Section 25. Findings and recommendations. The Task Force
3 shall submit its findings, along with its recommendations for
4 legislation, to the Governor and the General Assembly no later
5 than one year after the effective date of this Act.

6 Section 30. Repeal. This Act is repealed 2 years after the
7 effective date of this Act.