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LRB102 26667 MST 37467 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Public Act 100-0465, the Evidence-Based Funding for Student Success Act, created the Professional Review Panel (PRP), a body that is responsible for continually evaluating the State's K-12 public school funding formula, the Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) Formula, to ensure that it is capturing the costs of providing a high-quality education to all students and to ensure that the formula is working as intended to make progress toward adequately and equitably funding all schools; and

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WHEREAS, The Professional Review Panel is tasked with studying and reviewing topics related to the implementation and effect of Evidence-Based Funding, as assigned by a joint resolution or Public Act of the General Assembly or a motion passed by the State Board of Education; and

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WHEREAS, The importance of continuous improvement within education cannot be overstated, and a commitment to continually working to increasing equity, even within an already equitable funding system, is critical to close opportunity and outcome gaps for Illinois students; and

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WHEREAS, Public Act 101-0654 charged the Professional Review Panel with conducting research and presenting findings

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1 to ensure that (i) the Adequacy Target calculation under
2 subsection (b) accurately reflects the needs of students
3 living in poverty or attending schools located in areas of
4 high poverty, (ii) racial equity within the Evidence-Based
5 Funding formula is explicitly explored and advanced, and (iii)
6 the funding goals of the formula distribution system
7 established under this Section are sufficient to provide
8 adequate funding for every student and to fully fund every
9 school in this State; and

10 WHEREAS, To consider these issues, the PRP formed an
11 ad-hoc committee that was comprised of diverse stakeholders,
12 including educators, school and district leaders, education
13 advocates, and members of the State Board of Education, and
14 that met biweekly from April through December of 2021; and

15 WHEREAS, The PRP Ad-Hoc Committee dedicated considerable
16 time, capacity, and expertise to conducting a robust review of
17 evidence and facilitating rich discussion of the issues under
18 its charge; and

19 WHEREAS, The findings included in the committee's final
20 report include potential opportunities for addressing trauma,
21 accounting for the needs of students living in concentrated
22 poverty, and increasing racial equity within the education
23 funding formula, all of which require further detailed

1 analysis and financial modeling and merit additional future
2 discussion; and

3 WHEREAS, The findings of the report call for additional
4 study and presentation of findings related to the appropriate
5 levels for re-enrolling and graduating high-risk high school
6 students who have been previously out of school by December
7 31, 2022; and

8 WHEREAS, The findings of the report suggest that the task
9 of exploring the potential to increase efficiency and to find
10 cost savings within the school system to expedite the journey
11 to a fully funded system would require further review by a
12 committee of diverse stakeholders convened by the Illinois
13 State Board of Education; and

14 WHEREAS, The availability of publicly accessible,
15 high-quality information about how districts allocate and
16 utilize funding received through the EBF formula is critical
17 for understanding how districts are working to support
18 historically underserved student groups and to increase equity
19 within their districts, including closing resource gaps by
20 student race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and
21 English-learner status; and

22 WHEREAS, The Illinois State Board of Education is in the

1 process of revising EBF spending plans that districts are
2 required to submit to the agency on an annual basis and
3 increasing the transparency of this information by
4 transitioning to the inclusion of these plans in the public
5 budget process by FY23; and

6 WHEREAS, The Professional Review Panel has diligently and
7 with dedication executed their task and delivered a thorough
8 and thoughtful report and findings; and

9 WHEREAS, ISBE has made a concerted effort to increase the
10 value and public transparency of the information reported
11 through districts' EBF spending plans; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that in keeping with the
14 spirit of the charge outlined in Public Act 101-0654, we
15 direct the Professional Review Panel and Illinois State Board
16 of Education to conduct the rigorous analysis and financial
17 modeling required to evaluate the potential value, impact, and
18 financial implications of implementing the findings in the PRP
19 Ad-Hoc Committee's report related to adjusting the
20 Evidence-Based Funding formula's calculations in order to more
21 accurately reflect the costs of supporting students exposed to
22 trauma and living in concentrated poverty (Charge B) as well
23 as to close racial equity gaps in opportunity and outcomes

1 (Charges C and H); this includes modeling options, including
2 but not limited to those presented in the report for
3 differentiating existing cost factors within and adding new
4 cost factors to the formula's calculation of districts'
5 Adequacy Targets in order to understand the implications for
6 equity as well as the anticipated fiscal impact of said
7 adjustments; this analysis is to be completed and shared by
8 November 30, 2022; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That we call on the Professional Review Panel to
10 complete the study and development of findings related to
11 re-enrolling students who have dropped out of school by the
12 extended deadline included within the PRP Ad-Hoc Committee
13 report of December 31, 2022; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That we urge the Illinois State Board of
15 Education to complete their revision of the district spending
16 plans template and requirements and annually make all
17 districts' spending plans publicly available on the Illinois
18 State Board of Education's website starting with Fiscal Year
19 2023 by January 2023; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
21 delivered to the State Superintendent of Education, the Chair
22 of the Illinois State Board of Education, and members of the
23 Professional Review Panel.