



HJ0069

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Postsecondary education is essential in the  
3 modern economy; and

4 WHEREAS, The demographics of Illinois' population are  
5 changing dramatically and rapidly; and

6 WHEREAS, The demands of employers in every sector of the  
7 economy require ever-higher levels of educational attainment;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The National Conference of State Legislatures  
10 issued a Blue Ribbon Commission report, "Transforming Higher  
11 Education - National Imperative, State Responsibility", in  
12 October 2006, calling for the development of a state higher  
13 education agenda; and

14 WHEREAS, The Board of Higher Education has the statutory  
15 responsibility for higher education master planning;  
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
18 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
19 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Board of Higher Education  
20 undertake a master plan for Illinois higher education through

1 the creation of a Task Force on Higher Education and the  
2 Economy to study the challenges and opportunities facing higher  
3 education, the State's workforce needs, demographic trends,  
4 and higher education funding and student financial aid; and be  
5 it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be chaired by the  
7 Chairperson of the Board of Higher Education and be comprised  
8 of 4 members of the General Assembly, one appointed by the  
9 Speaker of the House, one appointed by the Minority Leader of  
10 the House, one appointed by the President of the Senate, and  
11 one appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and 12  
12 members appointed by the Governor from nominees recommended by  
13 the Board of Higher Education as follows:

14 (1) a trustee or senior administrator of a public  
15 university;

16 (2) a trustee or senior administrator of a community  
17 college;

18 (3) a trustee or senior administrator of an independent  
19 college or university;

20 (4) 2 business leaders from statewide business  
21 associations or the Illinois Workforce Investment Board;

22 (5) a leader of the healthcare industry;

23 (6) a local school superintendent;

24 (7) a labor leader representing a statewide labor  
25 organization;

1           (8) 2 faculty members, one from a community college and  
2 one from a public university;

3           (9) one student; and

4           (10) one representative of the proprietary education  
5 sector; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the master plan shall do the following:

7           (1) define the public needs for higher education,  
8 through collection and analysis of data about the State's

9           (i) social conditions, including age, race and ethnicity,  
10 family structure, family income, regional differences,  
11 educational attainment, population migration, and health  
12 characteristics; (ii) economic conditions, including  
13 industry mix, importing and exporting, economic strengths,  
14 effects of globalization, State gross domestic product,  
15 tax collections, new business starts, regional  
16 differences, personal income, and healthcare quality and  
17 availability; and (iii) educational conditions, including  
18 governance and coordination, finance, achievement gaps,  
19 student pipeline issues, healthcare and professional  
20 education, institutional focus, and regional differences;

21           (2) review existing policies to determine how the  
22 Illinois higher education system operates and meets the  
23 public needs of this State in such areas as (i) preparation  
24 for the workplace and college, including kindergarten  
25 through grade 12 student development, teacher and school

1 leader preparation, dual enrollment, curriculum alignment  
2 between kindergarten through grade 12 schools and higher  
3 education, use of placement examinations, high school  
4 graduation standards, and college entrance requirements,  
5 the need for remedial coursework in colleges and  
6 universities, adult education and adult literacy,  
7 mechanisms for feedback on student and graduate  
8 performance, data systems, efficiency and productivity,  
9 marketing, and financial implications; (ii) postsecondary  
10 participation, including institutional and sector  
11 capacity, underrepresented groups, distance education,  
12 off-campus degree completion opportunities, dual  
13 enrollment, counseling, advising, and other student  
14 services, adult education, healthcare, graduate and  
15 professional training, certificate and workforce training,  
16 data systems, efficiency, and productivity, marketing, and  
17 financial implications; (iii) affordability, including  
18 adequacy of campus funding, tuition and fee policies,  
19 financial aid programs and policies (including need-based  
20 aid, merit-based aid, institutional aid, waiver programs,  
21 savings programs, loan programs, healthcare, and graduate  
22 professional training), the relationship between public  
23 funding, tuition and fees, and financial aid, data systems,  
24 and efficiency and productivity, (iv) degree completion,  
25 including counseling, advising, childcare, and other  
26 student services, underrepresented groups, off-campus

1 degree completion, transfer agreements, the Illinois  
2 Articulation Initiative, the Course Applicability System,  
3 stop-out and dropout intervention, student goals less than  
4 a degree, and data systems, efficiency, and productivity,  
5 (v) research and economic development, focusing on  
6 critical workforce needs, workforce development, adult  
7 education and retraining, research and development,  
8 applied research activities, technology transfer,  
9 retention of graduates, health care provision and  
10 training, regional cultural resources, data systems,  
11 efficiency, and productivity, and financial implications;  
12 and (vi) learning, including student assessment, use of  
13 placement exams, achievement gaps, remediation, and  
14 student performance feedback systems; and

15 (3) provide recommendations for statewide goals for  
16 higher education, sector and institutional roles and  
17 responsibilities, accountability measures, coordination  
18 strategies, and a schedule for implementation; and be it  
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That the Board of Higher Education may draw on  
21 the expertise and research of national educational consultants  
22 and State institutional policy centers; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the House and Senate higher education and  
24 higher education appropriation committees may hold hearings to

1 explore such issues as college preparation, degree persistence  
2 and completion, affordability, the needs of nontraditional  
3 students, the effect of demographic trends on enrollments,  
4 student services, and degree completion, finance and student  
5 aid, deferred maintenance and capital needs, and other topics  
6 as determined by these committees; and be it further

7       RESOLVED, That the Board of Higher Education shall present  
8 a preliminary report to the Task Force on its findings and  
9 conclusions based on the collection and review of data, its  
10 audit of existing policies, and public hearings; and be it  
11 further

12       RESOLVED, That the Board of Higher Education shall provide  
13 quarterly progress reports to the Governor, legislative  
14 leaders, the House and Senate Higher Education Committees, the  
15 House Appropriations - Higher Education Committee, and the  
16 Senate Appropriations III Committee, with the first report to  
17 be completed within 3 months after the appointment of the Task  
18 Force; and be it further

19       RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall establish a public  
20 comment period and mechanisms, including public hearings and a  
21 web-based outlet for written testimony, to gather evidence and  
22 viewpoints of the public, institutional administrators,  
23 students and families, faculty, employers, local civic and

1 educational leaders, and other interested parties and  
2 stakeholders regarding the preliminary report; and be it  
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall create a master plan  
5 and public agenda for higher education that shall consider, but  
6 not be limited to, all of the following:

7 (1) demographics of the State's population;

8 (2) the State's economic and educational conditions;

9 (3) educational attainment levels and needs of the  
10 State's residents;

11 (4) integration of prekindergarten through grade 12  
12 schools and postsecondary education in goals, outcomes,  
13 and data collection;

14 (5) student pipeline issues, including college  
15 readiness, articulation to college, and postsecondary  
16 retention, transfer, and graduation rates;

17 (6) adult learners;

18 (7) workforce readiness;

19 (8) college affordability and trends in higher  
20 education financing, financial aid, and student debt and  
21 alternatives to maximize efficient use of resources;

22 (9) capital needs and deferred maintenance at public  
23 colleges and universities;

24 (10) future academic and financial pressures for  
25 public higher education, including retention of faculty

1 and staff;

2 (11) innovation in approaches to teaching and  
3 learning;

4 (12) the role of higher education in the global  
5 competitiveness of the State;

6 (13) the value of academic research;

7 (14) partnerships involving prekindergarten through  
8 grade 12 schools, higher education, and business; and

9 (15) productivity and accountability; and be it  
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall report to the General  
12 Assembly and the Governor on or before August 15, 2008 with a  
13 master plan and public agenda for Illinois higher education  
14 that includes each of the following:

15 (1) goals for academic preparation, participation  
16 in postsecondary education, affordability, degree  
17 completion, research and economic development, and  
18 learning;

19 (2) responsibilities for educational sectors and  
20 financial implications;

21 (3) accountability measures;

22 (4) coordination; and

23 (5) timelines and responsibilities; and be it  
24 further



1           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
2 delivered to the Governor, the Chairperson of the Board of  
3 Higher Education, the Chairperson of the Illinois Community  
4 College Board, the Chairperson of the State Board of Education,  
5 the Chairperson of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission,  
6 and the President of each public college and university in this  
7 State.