



HJ0074

LRB096 14762 MJR 29615 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois and the federal government  
3 have the authority to legislate costly and complex changes to  
4 elementary and secondary education; and

5 WHEREAS, The State and federal government frequently  
6 advance mandates that are either not funded or under-funded and  
7 without specific evidence of the need for such mandate; and

8 WHEREAS, These unfunded or under-funded mandates are  
9 policies that require school district action but do not provide  
10 adequate monetary or instructional resources to implement,  
11 seriously undermining the ability of school districts to focus  
12 their limited resources on appropriate educational activities;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Compliance with new mandates places the financial  
15 responsibility of implementing State mandates onto the local  
16 taxpayers, which has resulted in a shift of percentage funding  
17 from the State, from 37.8% in 2000 to 34.6% in 2008; and

18 WHEREAS, In the past 17 years, 105 unfunded or under-funded  
19 education bills have become law; and

20 WHEREAS, Specifically, in 2009 alone, the General Assembly

1 passed 74 education bills to the Governor, 19 of which, or,  
2 nearly 26% were new unfunded or under-funded mandates on school  
3 districts; and

4 WHEREAS, The most costly under-funded mandates on school  
5 districts are special education services, which in 1975 the  
6 federal government pledged to incrementally fund up to 40% of  
7 the states' excess cost of the mandated programs, but never  
8 upheld its commitment; and

9 WHEREAS, The 2008 Illinois State Board of Education School  
10 Districts' Special Education and Expenditures and Receipts  
11 Report showed that local school districts have to fill a \$900  
12 million gap in annual special education funding that is beyond  
13 their special education tax levy because of inadequate State  
14 and federal funding to meet the special education mandate; and

15 WHEREAS, Either legislating unfunded or under-funded  
16 mandates must end or more effort should be made to follow the  
17 dictates of the Illinois State Mandates Act to make the  
18 necessary appropriations for the incurred costs attributable  
19 to all state mandates that are directed to school districts;  
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
22 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE

1 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that a Blue Ribbon Committee on  
2 Elementary and Secondary Education Mandates be established  
3 within the State Board of Education to review state mandates on  
4 school districts to determine whether the mandates (1) are  
5 necessary for the health and safety of students in compliance  
6 with federal laws, (2) are essential to the academic integrity  
7 of Illinois public school systems, (3) exceed federal  
8 requirements, or (4) superfluous to the core academic programs  
9 of Illinois school districts; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Committee shall include members from  
11 organizations representing the interests of school  
12 administrators, school board members, teacher unions, regional  
13 superintendents, vocational education, the business community,  
14 and State Board of Education personnel, and others as deemed  
15 necessary by the Committee; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Committee shall make recommendations to  
17 the General Assembly on the elimination of unnecessary and  
18 costly mandates in the School Code and the Administrative Code  
19 by March 31, 2010.