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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois maintains a vital interest  
3 in and obligation to promote job creation in Illinois, as well  
4 as attraction of businesses providing jobs to the State work  
5 force, thereby benefiting Illinois communities, and the well  
6 being of the State economy; and

7           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois, over many years, has made  
8 substantial investments promoting technological research at  
9 such notable institutions as Argonne National Labs, Illinois  
10 Institute of Technology, Northwestern University, Southern  
11 Illinois University, the University of Chicago, and the  
12 University of Illinois, and development of facilities serving  
13 technology startups in Carbondale, Champaign-Urbana, Chicago,  
14 Lake County, Peoria, Springfield, and elsewhere; and

15           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois over the last decade has  
16 invested funds that directly assist small, high technology  
17 companies, through programs such as the Illinois Technology  
18 Enterprise Centers and the Illinois Entrepreneurship Center  
19 programs; and

20           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is facing and is expected to  
21 continue encountering fiscal challenges on account of global  
22 economic conditions that cause unemployment within the State,

1 thereby both reducing tax revenues and limiting the State's  
2 ability to promote job creation and business attraction; and

3 WHEREAS, Certain not-for-profit organizations, including  
4 the iBIO Institute and its sole member, the Illinois  
5 Biotechnology Industry Organization (iBIO), have evidenced  
6 through successful programs and private-sector fundraising a  
7 willingness to and capability of lessening the State's economic  
8 development burdens; and

9 WHEREAS, More particularly, the iBIO Institute in 2007  
10 raised funds primarily from private sector sources and launched  
11 PROPEL as a bundle of programs designed to assist in the  
12 creation, retention, and attraction of technology companies  
13 that have been determined by the National Academies of Science  
14 to be critically important engines of job growth; and

15 WHEREAS, PROPEL has lessened the burdens of State  
16 government by providing assistance to 49 job-creating  
17 technology firms, creating and retaining more than 185 jobs and  
18 acquiring in the process new capital investment here of \$10  
19 million; and

20 WHEREAS, The iBIO Institute's sole member, iBIO, has  
21 successfully executed an Ambassadors Program, which  
22 orchestrated the assistance, on a pro bono basis, of executives

1 of biotechnology, nanotechnology, and information technology  
2 firms to assist the State's business attraction efforts, a  
3 program which has already assisted the attraction of 2 overseas  
4 companies that are now establishing US Headquarters in  
5 Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, Separately, the iBIO Institute has raised private  
7 sector funds to further lessen the burdens of government  
8 through development and promotion of innovative education  
9 programs which prepare students for careers in science-based  
10 innovation, all the while working closely with State agencies  
11 such as the Department of Commerce and Economic Development,  
12 the Illinois Math and Science Academy, the Illinois Board of  
13 Higher Education, and the Illinois State Board of Education,  
14 among others; and

15 WHEREAS, The iBIO Institute and its sole member, iBIO, now  
16 wish to consolidate their economic development activities,  
17 including PROPEL, within the iBIO Institute, so as to more  
18 effectively lessen the burdens of State government and more  
19 easily attract private sector dollars, including foundation  
20 and philanthropic funding, to this cause; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL  
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
23 CONCURRING HEREIN, that the General Assembly expressly

1 reaffirms the State's obligation for economic development,  
2 including job creation in Illinois and the attraction of  
3 job-creating businesses to this State; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly proclaims that it views  
5 the iBIO Institute and other not-for-profits wishing to lessen  
6 the economic development burdens of State government as acting  
7 on behalf of Illinois and that it shall be State policy to  
8 encourage activities such as PROPEL and the Ambassadors Program  
9 conducted by such organizations; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That all State agencies, including without  
11 limitation the aforementioned State departments and  
12 organizations, are directed to cooperate with the iBIO  
13 Institute and other not-for-profits seeking to raise funds and  
14 execute programs that promote job creation in and attract  
15 businesses to Illinois; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That copies of this Joint Resolution shall be  
17 provided to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, President of the  
18 Senate, Minority Leader of the Senate, Speaker of the House of  
19 Representatives, Minority Leader of the House of  
20 Representatives, Directors of all affected agencies, the  
21 Chairpersons of appropriate General Assembly committees,  
22 including to the committees on Agriculture & Conservation,  
23 Bio-Technology, Finance, and Rules, and to the iBIO Institute.