



SR0560

LRB096 16036 MJR 31284 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, A recent analysis shows that more than half of all Illinois children suspended from public schools are African-American, even though they represent less than one-fifth of the enrollment; and

3

4

WHEREAS, Expulsions rates also disproportionately hit African-American students, causing them to miss more classroom instruction time, which leads to increased rates of drop outs, joblessness, and incarceration; and

5

6

7

8

9

WHEREAS, In the last decade, suspensions of African-American students have escalated by 75% while those of white students have dropped more than 5%; white students are expelled 16% more often than they were 10 years ago, but African-American students are expelled 56% more often; and

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

WHEREAS, Caucasian students make up nearly three-fifths of public school enrollment, yet in the most recent data, they account for one-third or fewer of both suspensions and expulsions; therefore, be it

19

20

21

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Task Force on Eliminating Racial Bias in Suspensions and Expulsions be

1 convened, consisting of eleven members as follows:

2 (1) one member appointed by the Governor, who shall
3 serve as chair;

4 (2) one member appointed by the President of the
5 Senate;

6 (3) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
7 Representatives;

8 (4) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
9 Senate;

10 (5) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
11 House of Representatives;

12 (6) one member appointed by the Chairperson of the
13 Illinois State Board of Education;

14 (7) one member appointed by the Governor upon the
15 recommendation of an association representing school
16 boards;

17 (8) one member appointed by the Governor upon the
18 recommendation of the Chicago Board of Education;

19 (9) one member appointed by the Governor upon the
20 recommendation of an organization representing teachers;

21 (10) one member appointed by the Governor upon the
22 recommendation of a different organization representing
23 teachers; and

24 (11) one member appointed by the Governor upon the
25 recommendation of an association representing regional
26 superintendents, who shall have expertise in administering

1 a regional safe school program; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall examine the causes of
3 the racial gap in suspension and expulsion rates, consider the
4 long-term implications of the inequity, and issue a report to
5 the General Assembly by April 15, 2010 that makes
6 recommendations for removing bias from the suspension and
7 expulsion processes.