



HJ0079

LRB097 21042 GRL 68356 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The National Research Center for Career and  
3 Technical Education has identified a very strong correlation  
4 between students taking 3 or more Career and Technical  
5 Education (CTE) courses and being far more likely to enroll in  
6 college; and

7 WHEREAS, Students taking 3 or more CTE courses are 28% more  
8 likely to graduate from high school; and

9 WHEREAS, A commitment to career and technical education  
10 helps to ensure that Illinois has a strong, well-trained  
11 workforce that enhances productivity in business and industry,  
12 and solidifies the State's leadership in the national and  
13 international marketplaces; and

14 WHEREAS, Providing citizens with career and technical  
15 education can stimulate the growth and vitality of businesses  
16 and industries by preparing workers for the occupations  
17 forecasted to experience the largest and fastest growth in the  
18 next decade; and

19 WHEREAS, Career and technical education institutions  
20 strive to provide rigorous and relevant curricula that  
21 integrate academics, utilize technology, partner with

1 community colleges through dual credit programs, and prepare  
2 students for 21st century skills; and

3 WHEREAS, The first area career/vocational centers in  
4 Illinois began operations in 1967 with 837 students; and

5 WHEREAS, There are presently 24 area career/vocational  
6 centers, which offer skilled training to over 10,000 11th and  
7 12th grade students; and

8 WHEREAS, Section 17-2.4 of the School Code established a  
9 maximum tax rate by referendum of 0.5% for not more than 5  
10 years for the purpose of establishing or constructing an area  
11 career/vocational center, with the levy sun-setting after a  
12 5-year period; and

13 WHEREAS, Area career/vocational centers have been  
14 subsequently funded through tuition, the State Career and  
15 Technical Education Improvement Grant, and, in some cases, the  
16 Carl D. Perkins Vocational-Technical Education Act; and

17 WHEREAS, Many buildings housing area career/vocational  
18 centers are over 40 years old and in desperate need of repairs,  
19 renovations, and even expansion; and

20 WHEREAS, In the face of the present recession and

1 reductions in member districts' equalized assessed valuations,  
2 districts who are members of career/vocational centers are  
3 unable to increase the present tuition charges to cover said  
4 costs further; unless a funding mechanism is established,  
5 career/vocational centers may have to either reduce the number  
6 of students they can accept or reduce entire programs; and

7 WHEREAS, Unlike a school district, area career/vocational  
8 centers have no direct taxing authority; and

9 WHEREAS, Transportation is an essential component for  
10 students to access career and technical education programs;  
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
13 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
14 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Area Career  
15 and Technical Education and Vocational Centers Task Force,  
16 consisting of the following members:

17 (1) one member, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

18 (2) one member, appointed by the President of the  
19 Senate;

20 (3) one member, appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
21 Senate;

22 (4) one member, appointed by the Speaker of the House  
23 of Representatives;

1           (5) one member, appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
2 House of Representatives;

3           (6) one member, of the Governor's staff, appointed by  
4 the Governor;

5           (7) 2 members, appointed by the Illinois Career and  
6 Technical Administrators;

7           (8) one career center director, appointed by the  
8 Governor;

9           (9) one education for employment system director,  
10 appointed by the Governor;

11           (10) one member, appointed by the Illinois State Board  
12 of Education; and

13           (11) one superintendent of a school district whose  
14 district is a member of an area career/vocational  
15 cooperative, appointed by the Governor; and be it further

16           RESOLVED, That all appointments shall be made no later than  
17 45 days following the adoption of this resolution; and be it  
18 further

19           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall meet no later than 90  
20 days following the adoption of this resolution at the call of  
21 the members appointed by the Speaker and the President; the  
22 members of the Task Force shall select a chair person at the  
23 initial meeting; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall meet at the call of the  
2 chair; and be it further

3           RESOLVED, That the members of the Task Force shall serve  
4 without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for their  
5 reasonable and necessary expenses from funds appropriated for  
6 that purpose; and be it further

7           RESOLVED, That the Office of the Governor shall provide  
8 administrative support to the Task Force to the fullest extent  
9 of its abilities; and be it further

10          RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall study the issue of  
11 funding of area career/vocational centers and career and  
12 technical education programs, including transportation for  
13 said programs, and shall consider the possibility of enacting  
14 legislation to make changes to said funding; and be it further

15          RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall hold a minimum of 7  
16 public hearings in the State, one-half of which shall be held  
17 at an area career/vocational center; the Task Force shall  
18 report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the  
19 General Assembly before February 1, 2013, at which time the  
20 Task Force shall disband; and be it further

21          RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

1 delivered to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the Illinois  
2 House of Representatives, the President and Minority Leader of  
3 the Illinois Senate, the Governor, the State Superintendent of  
4 Education, and the Illinois Career and Technical  
5 Administrators.