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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Illinois has required its public schools to
3 provide bilingual education services to English Learners (EL)
4 since 1972; today, more than 600 school districts serve more
5 than 205,000 language-minority children with bilingual
6 programs, with the goal of transitioning all English Learners
7 into mainstream classrooms in 3 years or less; although most EL
8 students are native speakers of Spanish, EL enrollees are
9 native speakers of 139 different languages; and

10 WHEREAS, Illinois bilingual educators have been remarkably
11 innovative, professional, and successful; despite many serious
12 obstacles to success, two-thirds of bilingual students attain
13 English proficiency; only 2.7% of language-minority students
14 drop out before completing transitional bilingual programs;
15 students who gain English proficiency meet or exceed the
16 Illinois Standards Achievement Test performance of native
17 English speakers in reading and mathematics for grades 6, 7,
18 and 8; about 7,400 teachers hold some type of EL certification;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education adopted new learning
21 standards in 2010 and is implementing an aligned assessment
22 this year; it is important to know how these changes are
23 impacting ELs, as well as the issues being discussed in

1 Congress regarding the rewrite of the Elementary and Secondary
2 Education Act; and

3 WHEREAS, Most Illinois counties now have EL enrollees; and

4 WHEREAS, Illinois adopted the State Seal of Biliteracy, to
5 be awarded beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, promoting
6 the importance of the development of proficiency in 2 or more
7 languages; ELs arrive at schools with linguistic assets in
8 their home languages, which, if developed, can be a basis for
9 biliteracy; while State law requires services for ELs,
10 including developing English proficiency, it does not require
11 the maintenance and development of the home language;
12 unsupported, proficiency in the home language can be lost over
13 time; subsequently, like other students, ELs often take a
14 foreign language in high school; we must study how to better
15 develop home languages and promote biliteracy in conjunction
16 with services for ELs; and

17 WHEREAS, Computers are now in widespread use in public
18 schools, but primarily in mainstream classrooms; the potential
19 of modern technology has yet to be harnessed in bilingual and
20 EL classrooms and must be studied on how best to be
21 incorporated into EL programs; and

22 WHEREAS, Teachers, schools, and districts have developed

1 highly effective instructional strategies that may not be
2 widely known; it is time to comprehensively identify those best
3 practices so that all programs may use them; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
6 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Bilingual
7 Advisory Task Force, consisting of the following members: (1) 2
8 individuals appointed by the Speaker of the House, one of whom
9 shall be a member of the House of Representatives, and the
10 other whom shall serve as Co-Chair; (2) 2 individuals appointed
11 by the Senate President, one of whom shall be a member of the
12 Senate, and the other whom shall serve as Co-Chair; (3) one
13 member of the House of Representatives appointed by the
14 Minority Leader of the House; (4) one member of the Senate
15 appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; (5) the
16 Lieutenant Governor of the State of Illinois, or his or her
17 designee; (6) 3 educators who hold a professional educator
18 license endorsed for bilingual education or English as a second
19 language from 3 different school districts in the northern,
20 central, and southern region of the State appointed by the
21 Speaker of the House and President of the Senate; (7) 3
22 educators who hold a professional educator licensed endorsed
23 for bilingual education or English as a second language from 3
24 different school districts in the northern, central, and
25 southern region of the State appointed by the Minority Leader

1 of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House; (8) one
2 administrator of a school district with an English Learner
3 student population of at least 20% appointed by the State
4 Superintendent of Education; (9) the Executive Director of a
5 statewide association representing principals, or his or her
6 designee, who is the principal of a school in a school district
7 with an English Learner student population of at least 20%;
8 (10) the President of an association representing principals in
9 a city with a population of more than 500,000, or his or her
10 designee, who is the principal of a school in a school district
11 with an English Learner student population of at least 20%;
12 (11) one school district administrator of bilingual education
13 programs that meet the requirements under 23 Ill. Admin. Code
14 228.35(d) appointed by the State Superintendent of Education;
15 and (12) the State Superintendent of Education or his or her
16 designee; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Co-Chairs of the Bilingual Advisory Task
18 Force may add additional non-voting members to the Task Force;
19 and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Bilingual Advisory Task Force shall
21 evaluate whether the framework for existing bilingual
22 education, including Transitional Bilingual Education programs
23 and the Transitional Program of Instruction, is appropriate for
24 learning today; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Bilingual Advisory Task Force shall
2 evaluate the use of learning technologies in bilingual
3 education to ensure that the same techniques, types of
4 software, and hardware are used to educate English Learners as
5 are provided today for mainstream classrooms; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Bilingual Advisory Task Force shall
7 examine the competencies, experience, and coursework necessary
8 to teach in a setting in which English Learners are involved;
9 and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Bilingual Advisory Task Force shall make
11 recommendations that will ensure that all bilingual programs
12 focus on the parallel goals of achieving academic parity for
13 English Learners while, at the same time, accelerating English
14 proficiency so that bilingual students are prepared to perform
15 well in the mainstream classroom; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Bilingual Advisory Task Force shall make
17 recommendations regarding whether the existing requirement and
18 supporting regulations for bilingual education lead to
19 deployment of all necessary educational, technological, and
20 human resources to support the academic success of bilingual
21 students; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Bilingual Advisory Task Force shall seek
2 input from stakeholders and members of the public on issues and
3 possible improvements to bilingual education in Illinois; and
4 be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education shall provide
6 administrative support for the Bilingual Task Force; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That the Bilingual Task Force submit its findings
9 and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by
10 December 15, 2015; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 delivered to the General Assembly, the Governor, the
13 Chairperson of the State Board of Education, and the State
14 Superintendent of Education; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education shall provide a
16 copy of this resolution to school districts in the State.