



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 36

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) 3 educators
16 who hold a professional educator license endorsed for bilingual
17 education or English as a second language from 3 different
18 school districts in the northern, central, and southern region
19 of the State appointed by the State Superintendent of
20 Education; (6) 3 educators who hold a professional educator
21 license endorsed for bilingual education or English as a second
22 language from 3 different school districts in the northern,
23 central, and southern region of the State appointed by the
24 State Superintendent of Education; (7) one administrator of a
25 school district with an English Learner student population of

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

18 RESOLVED, That the Bilingual Advisory Task Force shall
19 first meet at the call of the State Superintendent of Education
20 and following meetings shall meet at the call of the Co-Chairs;
21 and be it further

22 RESOLVED, A quorum of the Bilingual Advisory Task Force
23 shall consist of a majority of the members of the Bilingual
24 Advisory Task Force; and be it further

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

4 RESOLVED, That the Bilingual Advisory Task Force shall
5 evaluate whether the framework for existing bilingual
6 education, including Transitional Bilingual Education programs
7 and the Transitional Program of Instruction, is appropriate for
8 learning today; and be it further

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

14 RESOLVED, That the Bilingual Advisory Task Force shall
15 examine the competencies, experience, and coursework necessary
16 to teach in a setting in which English Learners are involved;
17 and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Bilingual Advisory Task Force shall make
19 recommendations that will ensure that all bilingual programs
20 focus on the parallel goals of achieving academic parity for
21 English Learners while, at the same time, accelerating English

1 proficiency so that bilingual students are prepared to perform
2 well in the mainstream classroom; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Bilingual Advisory Task Force shall make
4 recommendations regarding whether the existing requirement and
5 supporting regulations for bilingual education lead to
6 deployment of all necessary educational, technological, and
7 human resources to support the academic success of bilingual
8 students; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Bilingual Advisory Task Force shall seek
10 input from stakeholders and members of the public on issues and
11 possible improvements to bilingual education in Illinois; and
12 be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education shall provide
14 administrative support for the Bilingual Task Force; and be it
15 further

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

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 delivered to the General Assembly, the Governor, the
21 Chairperson of the State Board of Education, and the State

1 Superintendent of Education; and be it further

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