



HR0009

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois serves over 2,000,000 students in 862 school districts statewide; and

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WHEREAS, State funding for pre-kindergarten through grade 12 education in Illinois has been reduced by \$636,640,000 since fiscal year 2009; and

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WHEREAS, The State is currently not meeting its statutory obligations of funding general State aid at the Foundation Level of support of \$6,119; instead, the State is underfunding it by close to \$560 million, resulting in an 89% proration rate; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois ranks 50th in terms of the state proportion of kindergarten through grade 12 funding, providing for just 32.5% of all funds spent on kindergarten through grade 12 public education, despite the plain language of Article X of the Illinois Constitution, which states: "The State has the primary responsibility for financing the system of public education."; and

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WHEREAS, In 2007, 23% of Illinois school districts reported deficit spending; today, more than 67% of Illinois school districts report deficit spending; and

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1 WHEREAS, Reductions in State spending have increased
2 school districts' reliance on local resources, impacting
3 classroom services and financial stability, at a time when
4 school districts are required to undertake more necessary
5 improvements and initiatives, such as teacher and principal
6 evaluations, new and higher learning standards, and
7 assessments; and

8 WHEREAS, To address this important issue, the Illinois
9 Senate passed Senate Resolution 431 in the spring of 2013,
10 which created the Advisory Committee on Education Funding; and

11 WHEREAS, The Senate Advisory Committee on Education
12 Funding sought input from stakeholders and members of the
13 public on issues and possible improvements to the existing
14 funding system and eventually made recommendations on
15 education funding reform; and

16 WHEREAS, Some, but not all, of the final recommendations of
17 the Senate Advisory Committee on Education Funding can be found
18 in Senate Bill 16 (Chief Sponsors Sen. Manar and Rep. Chapa
19 LaVia) of the 98th General Assembly; and

20 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 16 was an important first step in
21 moving forward on the topic of education funding reform; and

1 WHEREAS, The Illinois House of Representatives should
2 continue its discussion and give full consideration to any and
3 all recommendations on how to adequately address funding and,
4 more importantly, underfunding of Illinois education; and

5 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives must stay engaged in
6 public education issues and be prepared to make legislative and
7 administrative recommendations, but to do so it is important
8 that our members have an in-depth understanding of how the
9 State funds education, what changes have been made over recent
10 history, where there is room for improvement, and what
11 implications come as result of any reform; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
13 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 there is created the House Education Funding Advisory
15 Committee, consisting of members appointed as follows: 4
16 members of the House majority caucus appointed by the Speaker
17 of the House, one of whom shall be designated as a co-chair,
18 and 4 members of the House minority caucus appointed by the
19 House Minority Leader, one of whom shall be designated as a
20 co-chair; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the House Education Funding Advisory
22 Committee shall do the following:

1 (1) conduct a thorough review of the existing
2 distribution methods and expenditures of all
3 pre-kindergarten through grade 12 education funding, with
4 a focus on general State aid as provided in Section 18-8.05
5 of the School Code;

6 (2) make recommendations to implement an education
7 funding system that:

8 (A) is adequate;

9 (B) is equitable;

10 (C) prepares students for achievement and success
11 after high school; and

12 (D) supports teachers and school leaders; and

13 (3) consider the following when making its
14 recommendations:

15 (A) the number of students in a school and school
16 district and the level of need of those students,
17 including special needs populations;

18 (B) a school district's ability to provide local
19 resources to pay for basic educational needs;

20 (C) transparency and accountability;

21 (D) revenue predictability to support sound
22 planning and budgeting by school boards and
23 administrations; and

24 (E) the long-term implications and outcomes of the
25 funding system, along with provisions that require the
26 system to be monitored, publicly reported, assessed,

1 and improved over time; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the House Education Funding Advisory
3 Committee shall seek input from stakeholders and members of the
4 public on issues and possible improvements to the existing
5 funding system; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the House Education Funding Advisory
7 Committee shall utilize the findings and reports of the Senate
8 Advisory Committee on Education Funding in the preparation of
9 its report to the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the House
10 of Representatives; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That we encourage the House Education Funding
12 Advisory Committee and Senate Advisory Committee on Education
13 Funding to hold joint meetings to discuss the recommendations
14 and proposed policies created by both committees; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That members of the House Education Funding
17 Advisory Committee shall serve without compensation, and the
18 State Board of Education shall provide administrative and other
19 support to the House Education Funding Advisory Committee; and
20 be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the House Education Funding Advisory

1 Committee shall meet at the call of the co-chairs, but shall
2 meet a minimum of 4 times per year; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the House Education Funding Advisory
4 Committee shall share its legislative and administrative
5 recommendations with the Speaker and Minority Leader of the
6 House of Representatives no later than December 31, 2015; and
7 be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 delivered to the Chairperson of the State Board of Education
10 and the State Superintendent of Education; and be it further

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