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LRB101 16838 MST 66237 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has an interest in ensuring  
3 that students who are eligible for federal, state, or  
4 institutional aid are receiving that aid to help them attain a  
5 degree or credential; and

6 WHEREAS, The award of student financial aid from federal,  
7 state, and institutional sources is subject to federal and  
8 state laws and regulations as well as institutional policies  
9 and procedures; and

10 WHEREAS, The Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
11 conducts compliance reviews of financial aid offices  
12 participating in ISAC-administered financial aid programs; the  
13 agency also offers training for financial aid administrators;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Institutions must act within federal and state  
16 regulations but may also adopt different approaches to  
17 complying with federal and state mandates; and

18 WHEREAS, Compliance with those mandates is meant to ensure  
19 the appropriate delivery of assistance while remaining within  
20 the scope and responsibilities of the institution; and

1           WHEREAS, Federal programs sometimes include constraints,  
2 such as a suspension of federal student aid eligibility for  
3 students convicted of drug crimes that occurred while receiving  
4 federal student aid, that exceed the constraints on state  
5 programs and should not be applied to state programs;  
6 therefore, be it

7           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
8 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
9 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Illinois Student Assistance  
10 Commission is directed to create a working group on financial  
11 aid policies and procedures, whose purpose is the following:

12           (1) To advise ISAC on the development of model policies  
13 and procedures for financial aid, including but not limited  
14 to verification and professional judgment, the purpose of  
15 which is to provide additional guidance for Illinois  
16 institutions on how best to serve Illinois students from a  
17 variety of backgrounds and situations, while complying  
18 with state and federal requirements for the delivery of  
19 state and federal financial aid; and

20           (2) To identify and eliminate procedural barriers at  
21 the state and institutional levels that may result in  
22 students not receiving aid for which they may otherwise be  
23 eligible; and be it further

24           RESOLVED, That the working group shall consist of the

1 following, convened by the Executive Director of the Illinois  
2 Student Assistance Commission or his designee, with staff  
3 support from the Commission:

4 (1) The president of a statewide professional  
5 organization of student financial aid administrators, or  
6 that person's designee;

7 (2) Additional financial aid administrators  
8 representing the diversity of Illinois postsecondary  
9 institutions; and

10 (3) The president of a statewide organization of  
11 professionals involved in college admission counseling, or  
12 that person's designee; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Commission, at the discretion of the  
14 executive director, may include additional experts on college  
15 access, federal student aid, disparities in higher education,  
16 immigration law, tax law, or any other topics relevant to the  
17 tasks outlined above, and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Commission shall use its best efforts in  
19 assuring that the working group is representative of the  
20 geographic, racial, and ethnic diversity of this state, and be  
21 it further

22 RESOLVED, That working group members shall serve without  
23 compensation but may be reimbursed for travel expenses from

1 appropriations made to the Commission and available for this  
2 purpose.