

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, On May 4, 2000, the Governor of the State of
3 Illinois issued Executive Order No. 4 that created the
4 Governor's Commission On Capital Punishment; and

5 WHEREAS, The duties of the Commission were: (1) to study
6 and review the administration of the capital punishment
7 process in Illinois to determine why that process has failed
8 in the past, resulting in the imposition of death sentences
9 upon innocent people; (2) to examine ways of providing
10 safeguards and making improvements in the way law enforcement
11 and the criminal justice system carry out their
12 responsibilities in the death penalty process from
13 investigation through trial, judicial appeal, and executive
14 review; (3) to consider, among other things, the ultimate
15 findings and final recommendations of the House Death Penalty
16 Task Force and the Special Supreme Court Committee on Capital
17 Cases and determine the effect these recommendations may have
18 on the capital punishment process; and (4) to make any
19 recommendations and proposals designed to further ensure that
20 the application and administration of the death penalty in
21 Illinois is just, fair and accurate; and

22 WHEREAS, In April 2002, the Commission issued its
23 recommendations; and

24 WHEREAS, Recommendation No. 55 was among the Commission's
25 recommendations and provided that the trial judge, on a case
26 by case bases, should resolve the issue of whether expert
27 testimony that explains the problems associated with
28 eyewitness testimony should be admitted into evidence; and

29 WHEREAS, Section 16 of Article VI of the Illinois
30 Constitution vests general administrative and supervisory
31 authority over all courts in the Supreme Court of Illinois;
32 and

1 WHEREAS, In accordance with this authority, the Illinois
2 Supreme Court has adopted rules governing trial procedure in
3 criminal cases; and

4 WHEREAS, The adoption of Commission Recommendation No. 55
5 by the Illinois Supreme Court would serve the best interests
6 of the Illinois criminal justice system; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Illinois
9 Supreme Court to adopt Recommendation No. 55 of the
10 Governor's Commission On Capital Punishment; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this Resolution be
13 presented to the Honorable Mary Ann McMorrow, Chief Justice
14 of the Illinois Supreme Court.