



HJ0051

LRB096 12504 KXB 25579 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Gun violence and illegal interstate firearms  
3 trafficking have become growing problems in all portions of the  
4 State of Illinois, other areas of the Midwest, and throughout  
5 the nation; and

6 WHEREAS, Children and students are too often the victims of  
7 gun crimes, in their homes, on our streets and before, after,  
8 and during school hours; and

9 WHEREAS, Since the current school year started in September  
10 2008, twentynine Chicago Public School students have been shot  
11 and killed; and

12 WHEREAS, In *Gun Violence: The Real Costs*, a book written by  
13 Philip J. Cook and Jens Ludwig, the data collected by the  
14 authors show the cost of security in Chicago public high  
15 schools to be \$41 million a year, and the costs of security in  
16 suburban and downstate Illinois schools are similarly rising  
17 rapidly; and

18 WHEREAS, Since the federal ban on assault weapons was  
19 lifted in 2004, the Chicago Police Department has seized 1,547  
20 such weapons; and

1           WHEREAS, According to a five-year study conducted by the  
2 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, 43% of  
3 all guns seized within five police districts in the City of  
4 Chicago originated in Mississippi; and

5           WHEREAS, The total cost of gun violence in Chicago is  
6 estimated to be \$2.5 billion each year, according to the report  
7 Gun Violence among School Age Youth in Chicago, prepared by The  
8 University of Chicago Crime Lab, representing a cost to every  
9 household in Chicago of about \$2,500 each year; and

10           WHEREAS, There is an enormous number of illegal guns in  
11 Chicago, other areas of Illinois, and throughout the Midwest,  
12 and 80% of murder victims in Chicago are killed by guns;  
13 therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
15 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
16 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Interstate  
17 Gun Trafficking Task Force within the Illinois State Police, to  
18 consist of the following: (1) the Director of State Police or  
19 his designee; (2) the Illinois Attorney General or her  
20 designee; (3) the Cook County States Attorney or her designee;  
21 (4) the Sheriff of Cook County or his designee; (5) the  
22 Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department or his  
23 designee; (6) three appointees of the Governor who are

1 representatives of federal, suburban or downstate law  
2 enforcement officials; and (7) three appointees of the Mayor of  
3 the City of Chicago who are representatives of law enforcement  
4 officials, foundations, or institutions of higher education;  
5 and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That all appointments shall be made no later than  
7 45 days following adoption of this resolution; and be it  
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall study measures that  
10 help reduce illegal interstate gun trafficking in Illinois and  
11 the harmful effects of such activity; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall choose its chair and  
13 other officers and meet at the call of the chair; and be it  
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That the members of the Task Force shall serve  
16 without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for their  
17 reasonable and necessary expenses from funds appropriated for  
18 that purpose; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall report its findings and  
20 recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on or  
21 before December 31, 2010; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That legislatures of other states in the Midwest  
2 are encouraged to create interstate gun trafficking task forces  
3 in their respective states, which task forces may cooperate  
4 with the Task Force created by this resolution and with each  
5 other; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be presented to  
7 the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, the  
8 President of the Illinois Senate, the Minority Leader of the  
9 Illinois House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the  
10 Illinois Senate, the Governor of the State of Illinois, and the  
11 Director of the Illinois State Police.