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LRB096 14957 MJR 29853 r

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The current distressing national, regional, and State economic climates serve as the collective impetus for a re-examination of State appropriations practices; and

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WHEREAS, The wisdom of a renewed focus on best-spending practices throughout all aspects of State appropriations and expenditures is warranted; and

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WHEREAS, The aim of the Monetary Award Program should be to provide the most practical assistance possible in facilitating Illinois students' access and choice in opening realistic vistas of higher education; and

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WHEREAS, Feasible new alternatives must always be judiciously explored by those empowered by the public trust with the responsibility of dispensing the public funds; and

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WHEREAS, On December 9, 2008, the Board of Higher Education unanimously endorsed the "Public Agenda for College and Career Success", which codified the goal, among others, of matching Illinois' educational attainment to the best-performing U.S. states and world countries, as the blueprint to guide education policy in this State for the next decade; and

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1 WHEREAS, The "Public Agenda for College and Career Success"
2 cites, among several other barriers to the stated goal, both
3 the diminished buying power of the Monetary Award Program grant
4 and the denial of Monetary Award Program grant awards to
5 one-fourth of eligible students; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
8 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Board of Higher Education,
9 in consultation with the Illinois Student Assistance
10 Commission, the Illinois Community College Board, and any other
11 appropriate entity, shall undertake a study of the most
12 practical methodology to improve the efficiency and
13 sustainability of the Monetary Award Program that includes all
14 of the following:

15 (1) a review of the success rates of all Monetary Award
16 Program recipients, as defined by either degree completion
17 or skill set attainment;

18 (2) demographics of MAP recipients regarding the
19 disbursement of Monetary Award Program funds between and
20 among public, private, and proprietary institutions;

21 (3) potential steps to maximize efficiencies by the
22 Illinois Student Assistance Commission in the delivery of
23 student financial aid; and

24 (4) the feasibility of re-structuring Monetary Award
25 Program eligibility to only those freshmen and sophomore

1 students, as defined by traditional credit-hour completion
2 criteria, attending Illinois community colleges and those
3 junior and senior students, as defined by traditional
4 credit-hour completion criteria, attending 4-year
5 institutions; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Board of Higher Education shall
7 prepare a report with the findings and recommendations on
8 improving the efficiency and sustainability of the Monetary
9 Award Program and submit that report to the General Assembly no
10 later than January 31, 2010; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
12 presented to the chairpersons of the Illinois Board of Higher
13 Education, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and the
14 Illinois Community College Board.