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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The public has the right to have access to an open and transparent court system; and

WHEREAS, Some court documents should be protected from disclosure, such as personal financial records and health records; and

WHEREAS, The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts has adopted an electronic access policy for circuit court records; and

WHEREAS, The policy excludes public access in electronic form to complaints, pleadings, and orders, unless the access is provided at the office of the clerk of the court; and

WHEREAS, A Task Force should be created to study such exclusion of public access and whether such exclusion is warranted; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that public access to court records, while protecting personal records of individuals, is in the public interest; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the Task Force on Electronic Access to  
2           Circuit Court Records (hereinafter referred to as the Task  
3           Force) is created; and be it further

4           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall consist of 12 members  
5           appointed as follows:

6                   (1) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
7                   Representatives;

8                   (2) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
9                   House of Representatives;

10                   (3) two members appointed by the Director of the  
11                   Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts;

12                   (4) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
13                   Representatives from a Statewide bar association;

14                   (5) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
15                   House of Representatives from a Statewide bar association;

16                   (6) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
17                   Representatives from a consumer protection group;

18                   (7) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
19                   House of Representatives from a consumer protection group;

20                   (8) one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
21                   Representatives from the Illinois Press Association;

22                   (9) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
23                   House of Representatives from the Illinois Press  
24                   Association; and

1           (10) two members appointed by the Illinois Association  
2           of Court Clerks who represent different technologies  
3           currently in use by the individual counties throughout  
4           Illinois; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall choose its chairperson  
6           and such other officers as it deems necessary, and seek the  
7           assistance of legislative staff and such other experts as it  
8           deems necessary; and be it further

9           RESOLVED, That the members of the Task Force shall receive  
10          no compensation as members of the Task Force but may be  
11          reimbursed for actual expenses incurred by the members in  
12          performance of their duties as members of the Task Force from  
13          appropriations made for such purpose; and be it further

14          RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall study laws and  
15          procedures relating to electronic access by the public to  
16          circuit court records and the exemptions from such disclosure;  
17          and be it further

18          RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall make its  
19          recommendations concerning electronic access to circuit court  
20          records and shall submit a report of its findings to the  
21          Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2009; and be  
22          it further

1           RESOLVED, That upon submission of its report to the  
2 Governor and the General Assembly, the Task Force shall be  
3 dissolved.