



HJ0066

LRB099 11900 GRL 34058 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Rising tuition costs in Illinois make it
3 increasingly difficult for students to pursue secondary
4 education; and

5 WHEREAS, The Illinois Student Assistance Commission has
6 reported that college costs have risen faster in recent years
7 than any other sector of the economy - even faster than
8 healthcare; and

9 WHEREAS, Illinois' public universities rank as the fifth
10 highest average tuition costs of any state in the United
11 States; and

12 WHEREAS, Average tuition costs for Illinois public
13 universities have risen from \$6,494 in 2004 to \$12,770 in 2014;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, There has been a 73% increase in average public
16 university total cost of attendance from 2002 to 2014; and

17 WHEREAS, Increased costs have driven student enrollment
18 downwards in Illinois public universities; and

19 WHEREAS, A study conducted by the State Higher Education

1 Executive Officers Association found that there had been a 10%
2 increase in public university enrollment nationwide from 2008
3 to 2013; in that same time however, there has been a 4.1%
4 decrease in enrollment at public universities in Illinois, one
5 of only 2 states to have a decrease during that time; and

6 WHEREAS, Illinois has been hurt with an increasing
7 occurrence of "brain drain" in recent years; and

8 WHEREAS, According to a 2012 study conducted by the
9 National Center for Education Statistics, Illinois was the 2nd
10 highest exporter of college freshmen in the country; as these
11 students leave, they are not likely to return to Illinois; and

12 WHEREAS, By 2018, experts predict that 64% of all jobs in
13 Illinois will require post-secondary education, yet currently
14 only 42% of working-age adults ages 25 to 64 in Illinois hold a
15 2 or 4-year college degree; and

16 WHEREAS, It has been shown that State assistance does not
17 reflect the true cost of higher education in Illinois; the
18 Illinois Student Assistance Commission has reported that the
19 Monetary Award Program currently serves about half the
20 applicants who are eligible and covers about 35% of tuitions
21 and fees at a public university in this State; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2002, the State was able to meet the needs of
2 all eligible applications and fully covered average public
3 university or community college tuition and fees; and

4 WHEREAS, The average Monetary Award Program grant award
5 covers only \$2,700 of tuition and fees; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
8 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Higher Education
9 Affordability Task Force is created to study and make
10 recommendations on higher education affordability and student
11 retention, and to determine whether Illinois is doing an
12 adequate job at capturing sufficient available federal grants
13 for higher education; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Higher Education Affordability Task
15 Force shall consist of the following members:

16 (1) one member appointed by the Speaker of the Illinois
17 House of Representatives;

18 (2) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
19 Illinois House of Representatives;

20 (3) one member appointed by the President of the
21 Illinois Senate;

22 (4) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
23 Illinois Senate;

1 (5) one member appointed by each President of every
2 public university in the State of Illinois;

3 (6) one member appointed by the Executive Director of
4 the Illinois Student Assistance Commission; and

5 (7) one member appointed by the Illinois Board of
6 Higher Education; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Board of Higher Education shall
8 provide administrative and other support to the Task Force; and
9 be it further

10 RESOLVED, That That the Task Force shall report its
11 findings and recommendations to the General Assembly on or
12 before January 1, 2016.