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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly recently passed  
3 Senate Bill 1582, which allows students kindergarten through  
4 12th grade with an Individualized Education Plan, a student to  
5 staff ratio of five to one, or are attending Acacia Academy,  
6 Alexander Leigh, Marklund, Helping Hands Center, Connections  
7 Organization, or New Horizon Academy to be transported in a  
8 multi-function school activity bus for any curriculum-related  
9 activity except for transportation on regular bus routes from  
10 home to school or from school to home; and

11 WHEREAS, The use of multi-function school activity buses in  
12 Illinois has been based on the recommendations of the National  
13 Highway Traffic Safety Administration; and

14 WHEREAS, The National Highway Traffic Safety  
15 Administration has reported that its data indicates that  
16 "pre-primary, elementary, and secondary schools should not use  
17 12- or 15-passenger vans for transporting students because they  
18 do not provide the same level of safety as school buses meeting  
19 NHTSA's safety standards"; and

20 WHEREAS, The safe transportation of elementary and  
21 secondary education students is an important public policy  
22 issue; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
3 CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Task Force on  
4 Modes of School Transportation for Elementary and Secondary  
5 Education, consisting of members appointed as follows: the  
6 State Superintendent of Education or his or her designee, who  
7 shall serve as chair; the Secretary of State or his or her  
8 designee; the Secretary of Transportation or his or her  
9 designee; a member of the Illinois Senate appointed by the  
10 President of the Senate; a member of the Illinois Senate  
11 appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; a member of the  
12 Illinois House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of  
13 the House; a member of the Illinois House of Representatives  
14 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House; a representative  
15 of ED-RED; a representative of the Illinois Association of  
16 Private Special Education Centers; a representative of the  
17 Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools; a  
18 representative of the Illinois Education Association; a  
19 representative of the Illinois Federation of Teachers; a  
20 representative of the Illinois School Transportation  
21 Association; a representative of the Large Unit District  
22 Association; a representative of the Legislative Education  
23 Network of DuPage; a representative of the South Cooperative  
24 Organization for Public Education; and a representative of the  
25 Statewide School Management Association; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall conduct a thorough  
2 review of existing State and federal laws regarding the use of  
3 the various modes to transport elementary and secondary  
4 education students and develop concise and consistent  
5 information to be communicated by the State Board of Education,  
6 the Illinois Department of Transportation, and the Secretary of  
7 State to the public about the legal means by which elementary  
8 and secondary education students may be transported, such as  
9 the type of vehicle and the required equipment to transport  
10 elementary and secondary education students, the allowed  
11 purpose of the transportation and any other limits of  
12 transportation of elementary and secondary education students  
13 by vehicle type, the type of driver's license required to  
14 transport elementary and secondary education students, and the  
15 requirements for driver licensing and vehicle licensing and  
16 inspection; and be it further

17           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall seek input from  
18 stakeholders and members of the public on the issues to be  
19 reviewed and reported on by the Task Force; and be it further

20           RESOLVED, That the members of the Task Force shall serve  
21 without compensation; the State Board of Education shall  
22 provide administrative and other support to the Task Force; and  
23 be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall meet at the request of  
2 the Task Force Chair, but shall meet a minimum of four times  
3 prior to September 1, 2017; and be it further

4           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall present its legislative  
5 and administrative recommendations to the President of the  
6 Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the  
7 House, and the Minority Leader of the House no later than  
8 September 1, 2017.