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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Youth and young adults, ages 16 to 24, who fall into two groups need opportunities to become successful adults:

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(1) those who are neither working nor in school, including

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those without a high school diploma, and (2) those who are

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low-attending, jobless high school students; these individuals

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are in need of opportunities to succeed as adults; according to

8

a recent study by the Great Cities Institute at the University

9

of Illinois at Chicago, in 2014, there were 190,945 youth and

10

young adults (16 to 24 years old) who were jobless and

11

out-of-school in Illinois; of those, 46,501 were between 16 and

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19 years of age and 144,444 between the ages of 20 and 24; and

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WHEREAS, Of these 190,945 jobless and out-of-school youth

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and young adults, 73,130 were white, 39,712 Hispanic, and

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78,103 were African American; and

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WHEREAS, The vast majority of these youth and young adults

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who are neither working nor in school, including those without

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a high school diploma and those who are low-attending jobless

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high school students, come from low-income areas in both

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Chicago and downstate; and

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WHEREAS, Many of these youth and young adults need

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opportunities to become successful adults and would benefit

1 from education and employment opportunities if these
2 opportunities are structured using evidence based/best program
3 practices of smaller, more flexible, and more structured
4 comprehensive programming to address their education, work,
5 and social development needs; and

6 WHEREAS, Illinois currently has a shortage of skilled
7 workers; provided with the right opportunities, these youth and
8 young adults, could be trained to fill those vacancies for the
9 benefit of the employers, the Illinois economy, and their own
10 futures; and

11 WHEREAS, According to the Illinois Department of
12 Corrections Fiscal Report for 2014, only 19.7% of inmates in
13 Illinois prisons completed high school, and only 19.2%
14 completed a GED program, leaving 62% of inmates in Illinois
15 without an education higher than 11th grade; and

16 WHEREAS, Youth without a high school diploma earn \$516,000
17 less over their lifetimes than those with high school diplomas
18 and some college education; and

19 WHEREAS, The benefit to Illinois taxpayers is over \$290,000
20 in tax revenue over the lifetime of a youth who earns a high
21 school diploma versus a youth who does not earn a high school
22 diploma; there is also a savings to taxpayers in terms of youth

1 with a high school diploma requiring less expenditures for
2 social services such as welfare, mental health and dependency
3 services, and reduced risk of imprisonment or other criminal
4 justice related costs; and

5 WHEREAS, There is significant research and program
6 experience to draw upon to assist in the development of
7 successful programs to support out-of-school and jobless youth
8 to improve their education and find employment; therefore, be
9 it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
12 CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Statewide Task
13 Force on Developing Opportunities for Youth and Young Adults
14 Who Are Jobless and Out-of-School in order to examine and
15 develop programs to address the growing numbers of
16 out-of-school and jobless youth in Illinois, including those
17 without a high school diploma, who are neither working nor in
18 school, and low-attending jobless high school students; and be
19 it further

20 RESOLVED, That the purpose of the Task Force is to examine
21 policies, programs, and other issues related to developing a
22 variety of successful approaches using best program practices
23 for out-of-school and jobless youth students, with the goal of

1 improving their education, work-related, and social
2 development skills, so that they can successfully enter the
3 workforce and become productive adults; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be composed of the
5 following members:

6 (1) Eight legislators, two appointed by the President
7 of the Senate, two appointed by the Speaker of the House,
8 two appointed by the House Minority Leader, and two
9 appointed by the Senate Minority Leader;

10 (2) One representative from the Governor's office
11 appointed by the Governor;

12 (3) One representative of the State Board of Education
13 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education;

14 (4) One representative of the Department of Human
15 Services appointed by the Secretary of the Department of
16 Human Services;

17 (5) One representative of the Department of Children
18 and Family Services appointed by its Director;

19 (6) One representative of the Illinois Department of

1 Juvenile Justice appointed by its Director;

2 (7) One representative of the Department of Commerce
3 and Economic Opportunity appointed by its Director;

4 (8) One representative of the Illinois Community
5 College Board appointed by its Executive Director; and

6 (9) One representative of the Illinois Board of Higher
7 Education appointed by its Executive Director;

8 (10) One representative of the Illinois Department of
9 Corrections appointed by its Director; and

10 (11) 15 representatives of organizations with
11 successful experience working with jobless youth without a
12 high school diploma and low-attending high school
13 students, three appointed by the President of the Senate,
14 three appointed by the Speaker of the House, three
15 appointed by the House Minority Leader, three appointed by
16 the Senate Minority Leader, and three appointed by the
17 Governor, with one of these public representatives serving
18 as the Chairperson of the Task Force; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the duties of the Task Force shall include
20 conducting a series of public hearings and listening sessions

1 throughout the State to discuss the issues of jobless and
2 out-of-school youth including youth without a high school
3 diploma and low-attending high school students who need
4 opportunities to become successful adults; the Task Force will
5 examine their impact on various regions of the State and
6 complete a review of data regarding out-of-school and jobless
7 youth comparing Illinois with other states in the region and
8 nationally, including a review of various financing and funding
9 mechanisms used by other states, counties, cities,
10 foundations, and other financial funding sources; the Task
11 Force will submit a final report with recommendations to the
12 Governor and the General Assembly on ways to address these
13 challenges; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall issue an interim report
15 of its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly no
16 later than January 31, 2018; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall issue a final report by
18 December 31, 2018; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That upon the filing of the final report the Task
20 Force is dissolved.