SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, In Illinois, more than 1.2 million adults do not have a high school diploma or equivalency certificate and approximately 2.73 million immigrants speak a language other than English in their homes; and

WHEREAS, In Illinois, adult learners have access to basic education and literacy activities, high quality career pathways, postsecondary education, and training programs in high demand occupations; and

WHEREAS, With the passage and implementation of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, adult education has a greater emphasis on employability and technical skills training; and

WHEREAS, Illinois now has three exams approved for determining high school equivalency, giving adult education students more options for testing, including both computer-based and paper-based testing formats; and

WHEREAS, Eighty-three adult education providers across Illinois offer programs funded through the Illinois Community College Board that provide comprehensive instruction to more than 82,000 learners each year; and
WHEREAS, "Creating Pathways for Adult Learners: A Visioning Document for the Illinois Adult Education and Family Literacy Program" was written in November of 2009 and intended to guide operations for a five year period; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois Community College Board has the statutory authority over adult education and high school equivalency testing; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Statewide Task Force on the Future of Adult Education and Literacy within the Illinois Community College Board; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall consist of the following members:

(1) the Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Board or his or her designee, who is to serve as Chair of the Task Force;

(2) the Chair of the Illinois Community College Board or his or her designee;
(3) the Secretary of Education or his or her designee;

(4) the Secretary of State or his or her designee;

(5) the State Superintendent of the Illinois Board of Education or his or her designee;

(6) the Executive Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education or his or her designee;

(7) the Executive Director of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission or his or her designee;

(8) the Executive Director of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity or his or her designee;

(9) the Executive Director of the Department of Employment Security or his or her designee;

(10) the Executive Director of the Department of Human Services or his or her designee;

(11) one member of the General Assembly, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(12) one member of the General Assembly, appointed by
the Minority Leader of the Senate;

(13) one member of the General Assembly, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(14) one member of the General Assembly, appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;

(15) a representative of a statewide association representing regional superintendents of schools, appointed by the Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Board;

(16) a representative of a statewide association representing adult and continuing educators, appointed by the Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Board;

(17) a president or chief executive officer of a community college, appointed by the Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Board;

(18) a member of the philanthropic community, appointed by the Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Board;
a representative of a nonprofit, community-based organization that provides adult education programs, appointed by the Executive Director of the Illinois Community College;

(20) a representative of a community college that provides adult education programs, appointed by the Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Board;

(21) a representative of a local education agency that provides adult education programs, appointed by the Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Board; and

(22) a representative of a postsecondary Career and Technical Education program; appointed by the Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Board; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall create a statewide strategic plan for adult education and literacy that shall consider, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(1) demographics of the State's population;
(2) the State's economic and educational conditions;

(3) current and projected needs of the State's adult residents with low literacy skills, without a high school diploma and those who have limited English speaking skills;

(4) options for adults without a high school diploma;

(5) the federal Adult Education funding guidelines;

(6) student pipeline issues, including college and career readiness, transitions to college or training programs, and postsecondary retention, transfer, and graduation rates;

(7) curriculum and instruction, professional development, assessment, and program design;

(8) productivity and accountability;

(9) innovation in approaches to teaching and learning for adult learners;

(10) workforce readiness; and

(11) partnerships involving, Workforce Innovation and
Opportunity Act partner agencies, higher education, nonprofits, and business; and be it further

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

RESOLVED, That members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation and the Illinois Community College Board shall provide administrative and other support to the Task Force; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall report to the General Assembly and the Governor on or before January 31, 2018 with a strategic plan for adult education that includes a series of recommendations and priority actions to guide the State agency responsible for adult education and literacy services over the next five years; and be it further

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