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HOUSE RESOLUTION 371

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WHEREAS, Career and Technical Education (CTE) links academic learning directly to workplace competencies through hands-on learning, career exploration, on-site instruction, and credentialing to give students a jump start on their postsecondary education or meaningful career; and

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WHEREAS, Students who take more than two CTE courses in a sequence have a 90% graduation rate and are as likely as non-CTE students to enroll in college, and students with three or more CTE classes in high school are far more likely to persevere in college and obtain a degree; and

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WHEREAS, The federal Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, which amended the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, was signed into law on July 31, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, The Perkins re-authorization provides renewed opportunities to improve CTE and enables more flexibility for states to meet the unique needs of their learners, educators, and employers; and

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WHEREAS, The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) convened a broad

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1 group of stakeholders to provide input as the agency drafts its
2 plan and have continued this feedback loop with stakeholders
3 through committees (Equity and Access, Transitions and
4 Alignment, Data and Accountability, Employer Engagement,
5 Teacher Pipeline and Professional Development, and
6 Innovation); and

7 WHEREAS, CTE funding in Illinois has been largely stagnant
8 since 2004, while surrounding states continue to invest heavily
9 in Career and Technical Education programs that encourage
10 industry partnerships and emphasize credentialing; and

11 WHEREAS, The Department of Commerce and Economic
12 Opportunity's (DCEO) related Workforce Investment Opportunity
13 Act (WIOA) plan is due to the federal government on the same
14 timeline as the Perkins plan, allowing an unprecedented
15 opportunity for alignment between the two plans; and

16 WHEREAS, K-12 CTE coursework teaches skills that are
17 transferable to numerous careers and allows students to explore
18 career options and find a pathway while still in the K-12
19 system; and

20 WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly has established a
21 set of strategies for a robust and coordinated postsecondary
22 education and career readiness system through the enactment of

1 the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act; and

2 WHEREAS, This year presents a unique chance for Illinois to
3 consider its CTE funding methodology, alignment with priority
4 occupational areas, modernization of course catalog codes,
5 development of pathways sequences, alignment to the
6 Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act, and state supports
7 needed to effectively enable high-quality local CTE programs;
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
10 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we encourage ISBE and ICCB to include within the State's
12 Perkins Plan:

13 (1) A funding methodology that incentivizes completion
14 of aligned course sequences, early college credit, and
15 work-based learning as part of college and career pathway
16 systems extending from high school into postsecondary;

17 (2) An expansion of equitable access to high quality
18 career pathway systems to students across Illinois;

19 (3) The inclusion of program quality indicators that
20 address both dual credit and work-based learning;

21 (4) The incentivizing of innovative regional career
22 pathway models incorporating the Postsecondary and
23 Workforce Readiness Act's College and Career Pathways
24 Endorsements through Perkins Reserve funding; and

1 (5) The alignment of definitions and systems between
2 the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act and the
3 State's career pathways definitions; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That ISBE, ICCB, and the Illinois Workforce
5 Innovation Board (IWIB) shall work collaboratively with each
6 other and with school districts, community colleges, business
7 and industry, and other organizations to ensure alignment among
8 the Perkins and WIOA plans and priority occupational areas; and
9 be it further

10 RESOLVED, That as the applicable agencies step back to
11 rethink and improve allocation of Perkins and WIOA funding, the
12 agencies also assess their administrative capacity to
13 effectively support local programs, maintain accurate and
14 accessible data, and modernize course coding frameworks and
15 other administrative structures to better enable local
16 innovation, and propose, within their Perkins and WIOA Plans,
17 funding or structural mechanisms necessary to provide that
18 support; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That ISBE, ICCB, and IWIB shall report to the
20 General Assembly and the P-20 Council on or before December 1,
21 2019 on how the State's draft versions of Perkins and WIOA
22 plans address the foregoing recommendations, and the P-20
23 Council shall subsequently review the draft Perkins and WIOA

1 plans and make recommendations to ISBE, ICCB, IWIB, and the
2 General Assembly on or before February 29, 2020 on how to
3 strengthen the plans and any other aspect of law or policy to
4 better address the foregoing recommendations prior to the April
5 2020 deadline to submit to the U.S. Department of Education.