



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

SB3457

Introduced 2/14/2020, by Sen. Steve Stadelman

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Local Journalism Task Force Act. The Task Force shall consist of one member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate; one member appointed by the Governor, and one representative of each of the following entities: the Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications at Northwestern University; the Journalism Department of the College of Media at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; the School of Journalism at Southern Illinois University Carbondale; the Illinois Press Association; the Illinois Broadcasters Association; the Illinois Legislative Correspondents Association; and the Illinois Municipal League. Directs the Task Force to study communities underserved by local journalism and review all aspects of journalism. Requires the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to provide administrative support. Provides that the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations of legislation to the Governor and General Assembly.

LRB101 19167 JLS 68630 b

1 AN ACT concerning journalism.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Local
5 Journalism Task Force Act.

6 Section 5. Establishment. The Local Journalism Task Force
7 is established to:

8 (1) conduct a comprehensive, nonbinding study relative
9 to communities underserved by local journalism in
10 Illinois; and

11 (2) review all aspects of local journalism including,
12 but not limited to, the adequacy of press coverage of
13 communities, the ratio of residents to media outlets, the
14 history of local news in Illinois, print and digital
15 business models for media outlets, the impact of social
16 media on local news, strategies to improve local news
17 access, and public policy solutions to improve the
18 sustainability of local press business models and private
19 and nonprofit solutions.

20 Section 10. Membership. The Task Force shall consist of
21 the following 10 members: one member of the House of
22 Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of

1 Representatives; one member of the Senate, to be appointed by
2 the President of the Senate; one member to be appointed by the
3 Governor; one representative of the Medill School of
4 Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications at
5 Northwestern University; one representative of the Journalism
6 Department of the College of Media at the University of
7 Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; one representative of the School
8 of Journalism at Southern Illinois University Carbondale; one
9 member of the Illinois Press Association; one member of the
10 Illinois Broadcasters Association; one member of the Illinois
11 Legislative Correspondents Association; and one member of the
12 Illinois Municipal League. Appointments shall be made no later
13 than 30 days following the effective date of this Act.

14 Section 15. Meetings. The Task Force shall meet a minimum
15 of 5 times to review, study, and analyze existing literature as
16 well as quantitative and qualitative data on the status of
17 journalism in the State of Illinois.

18 Section 20. Support. The Department of Commerce and
19 Economic Opportunity shall provide administrative and other
20 support to the Task Force.

21 Section 25. Findings and recommendations. The Task Force
22 shall submit its findings, along with its recommendations for
23 legislation, to the Governor and the General Assembly no later

1 than one year after the effective date of this Act.

2 Section 30. Repeal. This Act is repealed 2 years after the
3 effective date of this Act.