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1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 259

2 WHEREAS, Disadvantaged Business Entities (DBEs), Minority
3 Business Enterprises (MBEs), and Women Business Enterprises
4 (WBEs), are an important and growing part of the Illinois
5 economy; and

6 WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly and the Governor
7 recognize the importance of providing opportunity for all in
8 Illinois to contribute to the commerce of our State, regardless
9 of race, religion, culture, or sexual identity; and

10 WHEREAS, DBEs, MBEs, and WBEs are often unable to compete
11 with larger established firms because of capacity issues, lack
12 of access, and available capital resources; and

13 WHEREAS, Mentor-protege programs, such as those with the
14 Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois Capital
15 Development Board, and the Illinois Tollway Authority, have
16 helped some DBEs, MBEs, and WBEs to become pre-qualified to bid
17 on contracts with the State of Illinois; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Diversity Task
20 Force on Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), Minority
21 Business Enterprises (MBEs), and Women Business Enterprises

1 (WBEs) is created to identify major issues, remove impediments,
2 and create a fair opportunity for DBEs, MBEs, and WBEs to do
3 business with the State of Illinois, specifically the Illinois
4 Department of Transportation (IDOT), the Illinois Capital
5 Development Board (CDB), and the Illinois Tollway Authority;
6 and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be comprised of 15
8 members, 8 appointed by the Senate President, of which one
9 shall be selected by the President to serve as chair, and 7
10 appointed by the Senate Minority Leader, of which one shall be
11 selected by the Minority Leader to serve as vice chair; members
12 of the Task Force shall include individuals from firms
13 representing DBEs, MBEs, WBEs, and prime contractors; the
14 members shall serve without compensation; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall meet over the course of
16 2019-2020 and submit a final report to the Senate by July 1,
17 2020, which shall include short-term and long-term solutions,
18 recommendations, and suggestions for future legislation to
19 increase capacity and participation of minority firms pursuing
20 business opportunities in Illinois; the report should also
21 include recommendations to address challenges facing prime
22 contractors and State agencies dealing with minority firms;
23 upon the filing of its final report, the Task Force is
24 dissolved; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Department of Labor Shall provide
2 administrative support; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
4 delivered to the Senate President and the Director of Labor.