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1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 774

2 WHEREAS, All students thrive when they are taught by
3 educators who are well prepared to support their academic,
4 social, and emotional needs; and

5 WHEREAS, Research shows that teacher quality is the number
6 one school-based factor impacting student achievement and that
7 all teachers benefit from regular performance feedback they
8 can use to improve their teaching methods; and

9 WHEREAS, The Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA),
10 which put Illinois' teacher evaluation system in place, is now
11 over ten years old; and

12 WHEREAS, Practice and available Illinois-based research
13 indicate that teacher evaluations have significantly improved
14 since the passage of PERA, facilitated more productive
15 conversations between educators and evaluators, and
16 strengthened feedback loops relating to instructional practice
17 and student learning; and

18 WHEREAS, The value of joint committees to problem-solve
19 and negotiate elements relating to teacher evaluation is
20 clear; and

1 WHEREAS, The value of thoughtful evaluations also comes
2 with concerns that these more substantive evaluations may be
3 time-consuming; and

4 WHEREAS, The lack of state-level research and
5 disaggregated data make it challenging to fully understand the
6 impact and opportunities of evaluation elements, such as
7 measuring professional practice or student growth; and

8 WHEREAS, Any change to PERA and our State's system of
9 teacher evaluation are best addressed comprehensively, rather
10 than through piecemeal legislation or changes; and

11 WHEREAS, PERA called for the creation of the Performance
12 Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC) to oversee implementation
13 and training relating to PERA, which uniquely represents a
14 variety of important stakeholders involved in PK-12 education,
15 and is convened and staffed by the State Board of Education;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, A comprehensive review of the implementation of
18 PERA and the opportunity to consider whether and how
19 evaluation policies might be improved would be timely and
20 beneficial; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we call upon the
2 Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC) to initiate and
3 complete a research study performed by an educational research
4 organization that is not a state agency to examine the
5 implementation of teacher evaluation in Illinois, gather
6 feedback from stakeholders state-wide, and review best
7 practice from other states; PEAC is urged to use that research
8 to inform a set of policy recommendations that would address
9 any identified challenges while preserving the core benefits
10 of PERA's robust evaluation system with an interim report that
11 is urged to be delivered to the legislature by January 16,
12 2023, which includes a full timeline for report creation,
13 including a plan for gathering stakeholder feedback, with a
14 final report that is urged to be delivered to the legislature
15 by June 30, 2024; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That we urge the Chair of the Illinois State
17 Board of Education to work with the PEAC Chair to lead this
18 work; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That we urge PEAC to convene and initiate
20 discussion on this charge by April 30, 2022; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 delivered to the PEAC.