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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF  
4 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Recruiting &  
5 Retaining Public Employee Firefighters and Paramedics Task  
6 Force is created to identify solutions to the shortage of  
7 eligible applicants for the position of firefighter and/or  
8 paramedic and is charged with examining the following:

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(1) The barriers to the recruitment and retention of  
10 public employee firefighters and paramedics;

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(2) The steps that the State of Illinois can take to  
12 assist local governments to recruit and retain public  
13 employee firefighters and paramedics;

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(3) What community colleges, the Illinois Fire Service  
15 Institute, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and  
16 the Office of the State Fire Marshal can do to assist local  
17 governments to recruit and retain public employee  
18 firefighters and paramedics;

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(4) How Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants can be  
20 utilized to recruit and retain public employee  
21 firefighters and paramedics;

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(5) How paramedic licensure and testing/certification  
23 requirements affect the recruitment and retainment of  
24 public employee firefighters and paramedics;

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(6) The statewide hiring provisions currently in

1 statute as an alternative method of selecting and hiring  
2 firefighters;

3 (7) How apprenticeship Programs (local, regional,  
4 statewide) can be utilized to recruit and retain public  
5 employee firefighters and paramedics;

6 (8) How the minimum requirements to apply to an  
7 Illinois local government fire department affect the  
8 recruitment and retention of public employee firefighters  
9 and paramedics;

10 (9) The requirement for fire department sponsorship in  
11 order to attend an Illinois fire academy;

12 (10) How well the State of Illinois provides a pathway  
13 for qualified individuals to obtain the necessary skills  
14 to seek employment as a firefighter and paramedic as a  
15 public employee in the State of Illinois; and

16 (11) All other areas that the Task Force deems  
17 necessary to examine to assist in the recruitment and  
18 retention of public employee firefighters and paramedics;  
19 and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Task Force will be comprised of the  
21 following 19 members, who shall serve without compensation:

22 (1) 4 members of the Illinois General Assembly, one  
23 each appointed by the Senate President, the Speaker of the  
24 House, the Senate Minority Leader, and the House Minority  
25 Leader; the General Assembly members appointed by the

1 Senate President and Speaker of the House shall serve as  
2 Co-Chairs;

3 (2) 3 members representing the Associated Fire  
4 Fighters of Illinois and 3 members representing the  
5 Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, all appointed by the  
6 Senate President;

7 (3) 3 members representing a statewide organization of  
8 municipalities as authorized by Section 1-8-1 of the  
9 Illinois Municipal Code, all appointed by the Speaker of  
10 the House;

11 (4) 1 member representing the Northern Illinois  
12 Alliance of Fire Protection Districts and 1 member  
13 representing the Illinois Fire Service Institute, both  
14 appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

15 (5) 1 member representing the Illinois Association of  
16 Fire Protection Districts and 1 member representing the  
17 Illinois Community College Systems, both appointed by the  
18 Minority Leader of the House; and

19 (6) 1 member representing the Office of the State Fire  
20 Marshal and 1 member representing the Illinois Department  
21 of Public Health, both appointed by the Governor; and be  
22 it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall convene at the call of  
24 the Co-Chairs and shall hold at least five meetings; and be it  
25 further

1           RESOLVED, That the Office of the State Fire Marshal shall  
2 provide administrative support for the Task Force; and be it  
3 further

4           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall submit its final  
5 report to the General Assembly and the Governor no later than  
6 January 1, 2024, and upon the filing of its final report, the  
7 Task Force is dissolved.