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LRB094 12003 NHT 46790 a

1                   AMENDMENT TO HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 41

2           AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Joint Resolution 41 by  
3 replacing everything after the heading with the following:

4           "WHEREAS, The overarching goal of the federal No Child Left  
5 Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) is to enhance student achievement and  
6 academic success and to make schools and school districts  
7 accountable for their students' academic achievements; and

8           WHEREAS, Individual states are responsible for  
9 interpreting NCLB mandates in their own laws; and

10           WHEREAS, NCLB requires individual states to design and  
11 implement testing systems, set academic standards, hold  
12 schools and school districts accountable for meeting those  
13 standards, define what constitutes a "highly qualified"  
14 teacher and establish their own plans for ensuring that there  
15 is a "highly qualified" teacher in every classroom, and  
16 determine the allocation of millions of federal education funds  
17 to improve student achievement; and

18           WHEREAS, The State Board of Education is currently in the  
19 process of presenting changes in the Illinois Accountability  
20 Workbook to the U.S. Department of Education for approval to  
21 provide more flexibility to schools and school districts under  
22 NCLB and to ensure reliable and valid information for local

1 decision-making; and

2 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education is proposing several  
3 aspects of change regarding subgroup size to ensure that the  
4 State's accountability system is more reliable and valid, which  
5 include considering an increased school and school district  
6 subgroup size and the use of a confidence interval; and

7 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education is also proposing to  
8 change how districts are identified as not making adequate  
9 yearly progress (AYP) so that no district will be determined to  
10 not meet AYP unless one or more of its underlying grade spans  
11 have not made AYP; and

12 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education should include other  
13 areas for maximum flexibility, such as redefining a full  
14 academic year for the purposes of calculating AYP so that  
15 students are enrolled in a school district for the longest  
16 possible period of time prior to the administration of State  
17 assessments, using the same subgroup of students in the  
18 determination of AYP, and taking advantage of the recent  
19 federal policy designed to help states better assist students  
20 with disabilities; and

21 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education should work with the  
22 U.S. Secretary of Education towards her goal of assisting  
23 states to ensure they have the flexibility needed to raise  
24 student achievement with additional alternatives and  
25 flexibility to implement NCLB; therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
27 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
28 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we support the State Board of  
29 Education and the intent of its proposed modifications to the

1 Illinois Accountability Workbook; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That we urge the U.S. Department of Education to  
3 approve these modifications; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented  
5 to the State Board of Education and the U.S. Department of  
6 Education.".