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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 57

2 (As Amended by Senate Amendment No. 1)

3 WHEREAS, Postsecondary education is essential in the
4 modern economy; and

5 WHEREAS, The demographics of Illinois' population are
6 changing dramatically and rapidly; and

7 WHEREAS, The demands of employers in every sector of the
8 economy require ever-higher levels of educational attainment;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The National Conference of State Legislatures
11 issued a Blue Ribbon Commission report, "Transforming Higher
12 Education - National Imperative, State Responsibility", in
13 October 2006, calling for the development of a state higher
14 education agenda; and

15 WHEREAS, The Board of Higher Education has the statutory
16 responsibility for higher education master planning;
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
20 CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Board of Higher Education undertake

1 a master plan for Illinois higher education through the
2 creation of a Task Force on Higher Education and the Economy to
3 study the challenges and opportunities facing higher
4 education, the State's workforce needs, demographic trends,
5 and higher education funding and student financial aid; and be
6 it further

7 RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall be chaired by the
8 Chairperson of the Board of Higher Education and be composed of
9 4 members of the General Assembly, one appointed by the Speaker
10 of the House of Representatives, one appointed by the Minority
11 Leader of the House of Representatives, one appointed by the
12 President of the Senate, and one appointed by the Minority
13 Leader of the Senate; and 20 members appointed by the Governor,
14 from nominees recommended by the Board of Higher Education, as
15 follows:

16 (1) a president or senior administrator of a public
17 university;

18 (2) a trustee of a community college;

19 (3) a president or senior administrator of a community
20 college;

21 (4) a representative of the independent,
22 not-for-profit education sector;

23 (5) 3 business leaders from statewide business
24 associations, an Illinois-based corporation, or the
25 Illinois Workforce Investment Board;

1 (6) a leader of a civic or nonprofit organization or
2 foundation;

3 (7) a leader of the healthcare industry;

4 (8) an expert in student financial aid;

5 (9) a school district superintendent;

6 (10) a labor leader representing a statewide labor
7 organization;

8 (11) 2 faculty members or academic professionals from
9 community colleges;

10 (12) 2 faculty members or academic professionals from
11 public universities;

12 (13) one faculty member nominated by the Faculty
13 Advisory Council to the Board of Higher Education;

14 (14) one student nominated by the Student Advisory
15 Committee to the Board of Higher Education;

16 (15) one nationally recognized leader in higher
17 education policy; and

18 (16) a representative of the proprietary education
19 sector; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the master plan shall do the following:

21 (1) define the public needs for higher education,
22 through collection and analysis of data about the State's
23 (i) social conditions, including age, race and ethnicity,
24 family structure, family income, regional differences,
25 educational attainment, population migration, and health

1 characteristics; (ii) economic conditions, including
2 industry mix, importing and exporting, economic strengths,
3 effects of globalization, State gross domestic product,
4 tax collections, new business starts, regional
5 differences, personal income, and healthcare quality and
6 availability; and (iii) educational conditions, including
7 governance and coordination, finance, achievement gaps,
8 student pipeline issues, healthcare and professional
9 education, institutional focus, and regional differences;

10 (2) review existing policies to determine how the
11 Illinois higher education system operates and meets the
12 public needs of this State in such areas as (i) preparation
13 for the workplace and college, including kindergarten
14 through grade 12 student development, teacher and school
15 leader preparation, dual enrollment, curriculum alignment
16 between kindergarten through grade 12 schools and higher
17 education, use of placement examinations, high school
18 graduation standards, and college entrance requirements,
19 the need for remedial coursework in colleges and
20 universities, adult education and adult literacy,
21 mechanisms for feedback on student and graduate
22 performance, data systems, efficiency and productivity,
23 marketing, and financial implications; (ii) postsecondary
24 participation, including institutional and sector
25 capacity, underrepresented groups, distance education,
26 off-campus degree completion opportunities, dual

1 enrollment, counseling, advising, and other student
2 services, adult education, healthcare, graduate and
3 professional training, certificate and workforce training,
4 data systems, efficiency, and productivity, marketing, and
5 financial implications; (iii) affordability, including
6 adequacy of campus funding, tuition and fee policies,
7 financial aid programs and policies (including need-based
8 aid, merit-based aid, institutional aid, waiver programs,
9 savings programs, loan programs, healthcare, and graduate
10 professional training), the relationship between public
11 funding, tuition and fees, and financial aid, data systems,
12 and efficiency and productivity, (iv) degree completion,
13 including counseling, advising, childcare, and other
14 student services, underrepresented groups, off-campus
15 degree completion, transfer agreements, the Illinois
16 Articulation Initiative, the Course Applicability System,
17 stop-out and dropout intervention, student goals less than
18 a degree, and data systems, efficiency, and productivity,
19 (v) research and economic development, focusing on
20 critical workforce needs, workforce development, adult
21 education and retraining, research and development,
22 applied research activities, technology transfer,
23 retention of graduates, health care provision and
24 training, regional cultural resources, data systems,
25 efficiency, and productivity, and financial implications;
26 and (vi) learning, including student assessment, use of

1 placement exams, achievement gaps, remediation, and
2 student performance feedback systems; and

3 (3) provide recommendations for statewide goals for
4 higher education, sector and institutional roles and
5 responsibilities, accountability measures, coordination
6 strategies, and a schedule for implementation; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That the Board of Higher Education may draw on
9 the expertise and research of national educational consultants
10 and State institutional policy centers; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the House and Senate higher education and
12 higher education appropriation committees may hold hearings to
13 explore such issues as college preparation, degree persistence
14 and completion, affordability, the needs of nontraditional
15 students, the effect of demographic trends on enrollments,
16 student services, and degree completion, finance and student
17 aid, deferred maintenance and capital needs, and other topics
18 as determined by these committees; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Board of Higher Education shall present
20 a preliminary report to the Task Force on its findings and
21 conclusions based on the collection and review of data, its
22 audit of existing policies, and public hearings; and be it
23 further

1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Higher Education shall provide
2 quarterly progress reports to the Governor, legislative
3 leaders, the House and Senate Higher Education Committees, the
4 House Appropriations - Higher Education Committee, and the
5 Senate Appropriations III Committee, with the first report to
6 be completed within 3 months after the appointment of the Task
7 Force; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall establish a public
9 comment period and mechanisms, including public hearings and a
10 web-based outlet for written testimony, to gather evidence and
11 viewpoints of the public, institutional administrators,
12 students and families, faculty, employers, local civic and
13 educational leaders, and other interested parties and
14 stakeholders regarding the preliminary report; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall create a master plan
17 and public agenda for higher education that shall consider, but
18 not be limited to, all of the following:

- 19 (1) demographics of the State's population;
- 20 (2) the State's economic and educational conditions;
- 21 (3) educational attainment levels and needs of the
22 State's residents;
- 23 (4) integration of prekindergarten through grade 12

1 schools and postsecondary education in goals, outcomes,
2 and data collection;

3 (5) student pipeline issues, including college
4 readiness, articulation to college, and postsecondary
5 retention, transfer, and graduation rates;

6 (6) adult learners;

7 (7) workforce readiness;

8 (8) college affordability and trends in higher
9 education financing, financial aid, and student debt and
10 alternatives to maximize efficient use of resources;

11 (9) capital needs and deferred maintenance at public
12 colleges and universities;

13 (10) future academic and financial pressures for
14 public higher education, including retention of faculty
15 and staff;

16 (11) innovation in approaches to teaching and
17 learning;

18 (12) the role of higher education in the global
19 competitiveness of the State;

20 (13) the value of academic research;

21 (14) partnerships involving prekindergarten through
22 grade 12 schools, higher education, and business; and

23 (15) productivity and accountability; and be it
24 further

25 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall report to the General

1 Assembly and the Governor on or before August 15, 2008 with a
2 master plan and public agenda for Illinois higher education
3 that includes each of the following:

4 (1) goals for academic preparation, participation
5 in postsecondary education, affordability, degree
6 completion, research and economic development, and
7 learning;

8 (2) responsibilities for educational sectors and
9 financial implications;

10 (3) accountability measures;

11 (4) coordination; and

12 (5) timelines and responsibilities; and be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
15 delivered to the Governor, the Chairperson of the Board of
16 Higher Education, the Chairperson of the Illinois Community
17 College Board, the Chairperson of the State Board of Education,
18 the Chairperson of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission,
19 and the President of each public college and university in this
20 State.