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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The prescription of psychotropic drugs to treat
3 psychiatric disorders has greatly increased in recent years;
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WHEREAS, The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has, since
6 2004, required manufacturers of selective serotonin reuptake
7 inhibitor antidepressant medications (SSRIs) to add black box
8 warnings to their product labeling, advising that studies have
9 shown an increase in suicidal thinking and behavior among
10 children and adolescents suffering from psychiatric disorders;
11 and

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WHEREAS, Health authorities in Canada, the European Union,
13 Australia, and Great Britain have issued warnings regarding the
14 increased risk of self-harm or harm to others associated with
15 SSRIs; and

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WHEREAS, In recent years there have been numerous
17 documented instances of suicides and acts of violence against
18 others by persons reported to have been taking antidepressants
19 and/or other psychotropic medications; therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
21 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

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1 the Psychotropic Substances Suicide Risk Task Force be created
2 within the Department of Public Health to (1) study and report
3 upon the available research relevant to the reputed causal link
4 between prescription of psychotropic substances and acts of
5 suicide or violence against others; (2) to evaluate whether the
6 State of Illinois' current policies with regard to psychotropic
7 substances are adequate to protect the public; and (3) to make
8 recommendations as to whether Illinois should consider
9 adopting additional policies with regard to psychotropic
10 substances, including but not limited to requiring county
11 coroners to test for psychotropic substances in cases of
12 suspected suicide; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall consist of the
14 following members: 3 members appointed by the Speaker of the
15 House of Representatives, one of whom shall be appointed
16 co-chairperson, and 3 members appointed by the Minority Leader
17 of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be appointed
18 co-chairperson; and 2 members appointed by the Director of the
19 Department of Public Health; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall take voluntary
21 assistance and testimony from individuals and/or professional
22 organizations and institutions; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the members of the Task Force shall serve

1 without compensation, but may be reimbursed for actual expenses
2 while serving on the Task Force from funds appropriated to the
3 Department of Public Health for that purpose; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall submit its final report
5 to the Governor and the General Assembly no later than December
6 31, 2011.