



SR0993

LRB098 20527 NHT 56611 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, English Learners (ELs) constituted nearly 10% of
3 all students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 statewide in
4 Fiscal Year 2013; and

5 WHEREAS, The number of ELs has grown by 33% since 2005,
6 with an average annual growth of 4.7%; and

7 WHEREAS, Three hundred and ten school districts were
8 receiving State funding to support bilingual education
9 services for more than 200,000 students in Fiscal Year 2012;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The number of school districts that enrolled at
12 least one English Learner student in their classroom has grown
13 more than 50% from 2007 to 2014; and

14 WHEREAS, The number of counties with school districts
15 serving at least one English Learner student in their classroom
16 has increased from 63 in 2005 to 85 in 2012, a 21% increase;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The funding for English Learner education has been
19 reduced by 6.9% from 2010 to 2013, but the English Learner
20 population has grown by 7% in the same period of time; and

1 WHEREAS, The decline in State resources has limited school
2 districts' ability to provide meaningful professional
3 development opportunities for their teachers, administrators,
4 and principals; and

5 WHEREAS, The reduction in funding has restricted the
6 ability of school districts to offer supplemental language
7 instruction before or after school; and

8 WHEREAS, The achievement gap between the English Learner
9 student population and their peers is evident in reading and
10 mathematics on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)
11 from third to eighth grade; and

12 WHEREAS, This State recently raised the proficiency level
13 that ELs must attain in order to transition to a general
14 education curriculum; and

15 WHEREAS, Improving teaching and learning of English
16 Learner students is fundamental to our goal of closing
17 achievement gaps; and

18 WHEREAS, Data from the State Board of Education shows that
19 children who have attained English proficiency after
20 benefitting from State-funded bilingual education services go

1 on to outperform non-English Learner students in reading and
2 mathematics on the ISAT in grades 6 through 8; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the General
5 Assembly to fully fund the State Board of Education's request
6 for bilingual education at \$75,652,000 to support bilingual
7 students in this State.