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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, According to the 2012 Census of Governments, Illinois taxpayers support 6,963 units of government, more than any other state in the nation by more than 1,800 units; and

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WHEREAS, The State of Florida, with nearly 6 million more residents than Illinois, sustains only 1,650 units of government; and

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WHEREAS, The State of Texas, with 12 million more residents than Illinois, ranks second highest in the nation with 5,147 units, but still maintains 1,816 fewer units of government than Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Many units of government that exist today may no longer be relevant due to the emergence of neighboring units, shifts in population, outdated boundary agreements, and emerging technologies; and

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WHEREAS, The overabundance of local governments, and in particular single-purpose units of local government, can contribute to the inefficient use of tax dollars, create redundancy, foster a lack of transparency and accountability, discourage citizens from fully engaging in the democratic process, and lead to the misallocation of vital resources; and

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1 WHEREAS, Illinois residents, who pay the second highest
2 property taxes in the nation, may be disproportionately
3 burdened as a result of the number of units of local government
4 and the taxes required to support this bureaucracy; and

5 WHEREAS, Through the utilization of greater cooperation,
6 collaboration, partnerships, and shared services, more
7 efficient local service delivery models can be identified; and

8 WHEREAS, It is in the best interests of Illinois citizens
9 to transform our government into a 21st century model of
10 effective governance, removing unnecessary layers that create
11 excessive burdens on taxpayers and lessen accountability; and

12 WHEREAS, Elected officials of this State have a duty to
13 enhance the coordination of services between units of
14 government on behalf of the citizens they represent through
15 constant examination that ensures accountable, effective, and
16 efficient practices; and

17 WHEREAS, The 97th General Assembly adopted the Local
18 Government Consolidation Commission Act and established the
19 Local Government Consolidation Commission to investigate the
20 structure of local governments in Illinois; and

1 WHEREAS, The Local Government Consolidation Commission
2 concluded that there are a number of duplicative units of
3 government in Illinois and that the State should investigate
4 ways to encourage greater intergovernmental cooperation among
5 units and lessen the burden of unfunded mandates; and

6 WHEREAS, In February of 2015, Governor Rauner signed
7 Executive Order 15-15 forming the Local Government
8 Consolidation and Unfunded Mandates Task Force, chaired by
9 Lieutenant Governor Sanguinetti, to study issues of local
10 government and school district consolidation and redundancy
11 and to make recommendations that will ensure accountable and
12 efficient government and education in the State of Illinois by
13 the end of 2015; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
16 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we acknowledge that the current
17 size, scope and cost of local government in Illinois may
18 overburden taxpayers, negatively impact our economy,
19 discourage civic engagement, reduce transparency, and impair
20 the efficient delivery of public services; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That we support efforts to examine the existing
22 landscape of local and State government to determine how more
23 effective and efficient models can be developed; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That we support efforts to improve the quality,
3 cost, and accountability of government services at all levels
4 through cooperation, collaboration, partnerships, shared
5 services, and, if appropriate, through the consolidation or
6 elimination of government agencies; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That we support efforts to eliminate the
8 duplication of services and to enact measures that will
9 streamline government operations across the State.