



HJ0127

LRB099 20003 EFG 44406 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, English Learners make up 10.3% of Illinois'
3 student population; and

4 WHEREAS, Over the past two decades, the number of children
5 in the United States living with immigrant parents grew 60% and
6 accounted for 25% of children under the age of 18; and

7 WHEREAS, Immigrant families who speak a home language other
8 than English should be considered to be powerful assets in
9 their children's education and partners with a shared
10 responsibility for student learning and achievement; and

11 WHEREAS, Research consistently demonstrates that family
12 engagement is one of the most significant factors in supporting
13 student academic success; and

14 WHEREAS, The State should help ensure that each school
15 district is able to meet its obligations to provide equitable
16 access for students and families of all linguistic backgrounds;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, There are currently no professional certification
19 standards for foreign language interpreters in public schools;
20 and

1 WHEREAS, Developing a training and certification program
2 and establishing minimum standards for individuals providing
3 foreign language interpretation services in schools will help
4 students reach their full academic potential; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
6 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
7 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Bilingual Advisory Task
8 Force, created by House Joint Resolution 36 of the 99th General
9 Assembly, shall also study the feasibility of professional
10 certification standards for foreign language educational
11 interpreters in public schools; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That should the Task Force deem certification
13 standards feasible, those certification standards shall help
14 ensure that interpreters serving school districts have
15 demonstrated the core competencies of fluency, methodology,
16 and ethics of interpretation and translation; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That if the Task Force determines that
18 certification standards are needed, it shall recommend
19 procedures for school districts pertaining to when and how to
20 access a language interpreter; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Task Force may examine the process for

1 certifying educational interpreters for students and parents
2 who are deaf and may recommend a similar process for foreign
3 language interpreters; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That two additional members shall be added to the
5 Task Force, to be appointed by the State Superintendent of
6 Education, one of whom shall be the president of a community
7 college, and one of whom shall be an assistant principal in the
8 Chicago public schools; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Task Force's deadline for submitting its
10 findings and recommendations to the Governor and General
11 Assembly is changed from December 15, 2015 to December 15,
12 2016, in order to give the Task Force adequate time to complete
13 its work; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution shall be
15 transmitted to the State Superintendent of Education.