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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 53

2 WHEREAS, The unintended or uncontrolled breeding of cats  
3 leads to the births of thousands of kittens annually, many of  
4 whom become feral cats, often referred to as "community cats";  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, There is a need to preserve wildlife, improve cat  
7 welfare, maintain property rights, and enhance public health by  
8 humanely managing and limiting the growth of the number of  
9 feral cats in Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, Feral cats are often impounded and killed, at  
11 great expense to the community; and

12 WHEREAS, Trap, neuter, vaccinate, and return programs  
13 attempt to manage and limit the growth of the number of feral  
14 or community cats; and

15 WHEREAS, Management of feral cats is also affected by local  
16 government ordinances; and

17 WHEREAS, The Illinois Animal Population Control Fund plays  
18 an important role in helping communities pay for community  
19 control efforts; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
3 CONCURRING HEREIN, that a Feral Cat Task Force be appointed to  
4 examine the Animal Control Act, the Humane Care for Animals  
5 Act, the Animal Welfare Act, and any other relevant statutory  
6 provisions, including the Illinois Animal Population Control  
7 Fund, other trap, neuter, and return programs in other states,  
8 trap and adopt programs, or other proposed solutions to this  
9 issue and make comprehensive written recommendations for  
10 change that would result in the effective management of feral  
11 and community cats, preserve wildlife, improve cat welfare,  
12 maintain property rights, and enhance public health; and be it  
13 further

14           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall consist of the  
15 following members:

- 16           (1) the President of the Senate, or his designee;  
17           (2) the Speaker of the House, or his designee;  
18           (3) the Minority Leader of the Senate, or her designee;  
19           (4) the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, or  
20 his designee;  
21           (5) a representative appointed by the Department of Public  
22 Health;  
23           (6) a representative appointed by the Department of  
24 Agriculture;  
25           (7) a representative appointed by the Department of Natural

1 Resources;

2 (8) a representative appointed by the Illinois State  
3 Veterinary Medical Association;

4 (9) a representative appointed by the Illinois  
5 Environmental Council;

6 (10) a representative who is a county animal control  
7 administrator from a county of over 4 million residents;

8 (11) a representative who is on the Board of the Alliance  
9 for Contraception in Cats & Dogs (ACCD) appointed by the  
10 University of Illinois School of Veterinary Medicine;

11 (12) a representative appointed by Best Friends Animal  
12 Society;

13 (13) a representative appointed by the Illinois Farm  
14 Bureau;

15 (14) a representative appointed by the Illinois Humane  
16 Society;

17 (15) a representative appointed by the Illinois Chapter of  
18 the Sierra Club;

19 (16) a representative appointed by the Illinois Audubon  
20 Society;

21 (17) a representative appointed by the Illinois Wildlife  
22 Society who is a certified wildlife biologist;

23 (18) a representative appointed by the County Animal  
24 Controls of Illinois who is currently employed as an Animal  
25 Control Administrator or an Animal Control Warden in a  
26 county with a population of less than 2 million; and

1           (19) a representative from the Tree House Humane Society;  
2           and be it further

3           RESOLVED, That the Task Force members shall select a  
4           Chairperson from among themselves; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That appointments to the Task Force must be made  
6           by December 31, 2016; and be it further

7           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall hold at least two  
8           hearings, which shall be held in geographically separate  
9           regions of the State; and be it further

10          RESOLVED, That the Task Force members shall receive no  
11          compensation, and shall conclude all business by March 1, 2017;  
12          and be it further

13          RESOLVED, That the Department of Public Health shall  
14          provide administrative support to the Task Force; and be it  
15          further

16          RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
17          delivered to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the  
18          House, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority  
19          Leader of the House of Representatives.