



1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 175

2 WHEREAS, Grand juries have always had the responsibility of  
3 investigating, indicting, and prosecuting persons who violate  
4 the criminal laws of the State of Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, In light of recent events around the country,  
6 members of the public have lost confidence in the criminal  
7 justice system and the grand jury process; and

8 WHEREAS, The General Assembly finds that the grand jury  
9 process utilized in this State should be reviewed to ensure the  
10 impartiality and effectiveness of the process; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Grand Jury Review  
13 Task Force is created to review the current grand jury process  
14 and suggest reforms to the General Assembly; and be it further

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

17 (1) One member appointed by the President of the  
18 Senate, who shall serve as co-chairperson;

19 (2) One member appointed by the Senate Minority Leader,  
20 who shall serve as co-chairperson;

21 (3) The Director of the Illinois Criminal Justice

1 Information Authority, or his or her designee;

2 (4) The Director of the Illinois Office of the State's  
3 Attorney Appellate Prosecutor, or his or her designee;

4 (5) The State Appellate Defender, or his or her  
5 designee;

6 (6) The Executive Director of the Illinois State Bar  
7 Association, or his or her designee;

8 (7) The President of the Chicago Bar Association, or  
9 his or her designee;

10 (8) The President of the American Civil Liberties Union  
11 of Illinois, or his or her designee;

12 (9) The President of the Chicago Innocence Project, or  
13 his or her designee;

14 (10) The President of the Illinois Press Association,  
15 or his or her designee;

16 (11) One law professor, appointed by the Senate  
17 Minority Leader;

18 (12) One retired judge, appointed by the President of  
19 the Senate;

20 (13) Four members representing advocacy groups  
21 involved in criminal justice, two of which are to be  
22 appointed by the President of the Senate and two to be  
23 appointed by the Senate Minority Leader;

24 (14) Four members of the public, two of which are to be  
25 appointed by the President of the Senate and two to be  
26 appointed by the Senate Minority Leader; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall meet regularly and hold  
2 public hearings at the call of the co-chairpersons to receive  
3 testimony regarding the grand jury process and any suggested  
4 reforms; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That the Illinois Criminal Justice Information  
6 Authority shall provide administrative support and technical  
7 assistance, as well as meeting space, to the Task Force; and be  
8 it further

9           RESOLVED, That the Grand Jury Review Task Force shall  
10 submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the  
11 General Assembly and the Governor on or before December 31,  
12 2015; the report shall, at a minimum, include:

- 13           (1) A summary of the current grand jury process;
- 14           (2) Any and all deficiencies discovered within the  
15 current grand jury process;
- 16           (3) Recommendations to improve the grand jury process;
- 17           (4) A recommendation advising whether grand jury  
18 proceedings shall remain closed to the public;
- 19           (5) A recommendation advising whether certain portions  
20 of grand jury proceedings should be subject to the Freedom  
21 of Information Act; and
- 22           (6) A recommendation regarding whether an expanded use  
23 of preliminary hearings would advance the same goals as the

1 grand jury process; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall also work with the  
3 Legislative Reference Bureau to draft any legislation needed to  
4 implement its recommendations.