

## 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Poverty and welfare dependence are widespread  
3 throughout the State of Illinois, with almost 1,500,000 of  
4 its citizens being dependent on the State's public assistance  
5 programs for their most basic needs, and over 200,000  
6 families, including 500,000 children, relying on cash  
7 assistance from the State for all or part of their  
8 subsistence needs; and

9 WHEREAS, Poverty and unemployment diminish individual  
10 self-esteem, can undermine family stability, and affect  
11 family formation, community security, and cohesion; and

12 WHEREAS, Under the new federal welfare law, the Personal  
13 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of  
14 1996, cash assistance benefits will be limited to 60 months,  
15 and over 100,000 adult heads of households in the Illinois  
16 welfare caseload must be employed by the year 2002 or the and  
17 their children will be destitute; and

18 WHEREAS, Voluntary efforts by the private sector to  
19 employ welfare recipients are laudable and to be commended,  
20 but the State must also take direct responsibility to ensure  
21 that welfare recipients are hired in jobs that will allow  
22 them to leave the welfare rolls altogether; and

23 WHEREAS, The State spends billions of dollars each year  
24 to improve its economy and infrastructure and to deliver  
25 services to the people of the State, all of which also serves  
26 to provide jobs for its citizens; and

27 WHEREAS, The State can accomplish the objectives of  
28 relieving welfare dependency and ensuring economic  
29 self-sufficiency as well as the objectives related to  
30 carrying out necessary governmental operations at the same  
31 time, and with significant savings in State outlays in cash

1 assistance and supportive service dollars; and

2 WHEREAS, Poverty and welfare dependency can be alleviated  
3 by targeting some of the resources of the State and making  
4 jobs available to the welfare poor, specifically by bringing  
5 qualified poor persons into the State workforce and into  
6 workforces that are generated through State contracts,  
7 without causing the displacement of existing workers; and

8 WHEREAS, Some State jobs that are newly created or that  
9 are open through attrition and some jobs created under State  
10 contracts, can be filled by qualified welfare recipients  
11 without compromising the integrity of the hiring process,  
12 contractor profits, collective bargaining agreements, timely  
13 completion of projects, or the health and safety of Illinois  
14 workers; and

15 WHEREAS, To the extent that these jobs are filled by  
16 welfare recipients, the State accomplishes 4 important  
17 governmental objectives simultaneously: (1) the alleviation  
18 of welfare dependency, ensuring of economic self-sufficiency,  
19 and lifting of individuals and families out of poverty, (2)  
20 the stabilization of families and communities that are  
21 hardest hit by persistent poverty and unemployment, (3) the  
22 accomplishment of the essential work of the State which must  
23 be performed through these jobs, and (4) the reduction of  
24 State outlays for cash assistance and services for the poor;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS, The State's immediate, direct, and significant  
27 interest in relieving welfare dependency and the employment  
28 of the poor in jobs generated through the expenditure of  
29 State funds are important issues that must be addressed;  
30 therefore be it

31 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
32 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 there is created the Welfare to Work Task Force consisting of  
2 5 members appointed as follows: 3 members of the House of  
3 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
4 Representatives, one of whom shall be designated the  
5 chairperson by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
6 and 2 members of the House of Representatives appointed by  
7 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, all of  
8 whom shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed  
9 for their reasonable and necessary expenses from funds  
10 appropriated for that purpose; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall study various issues  
12 relating to the placement of qualified welfare recipients in  
13 State jobs or jobs contracted out by the State; the Task  
14 Force shall examine, among any other issues it chooses to  
15 investigate, the following issues: (1) the feasibility of  
16 requiring State agencies to provide the Department of Human  
17 Services with a job announcement simultaneously with the  
18 posting of its positions, except for those positions subject  
19 to recall by laid-off employees, or those otherwise exempt,  
20 (2) the ability of the Department of Human Services to review  
21 positions, make eligibility determinations, recruit and  
22 screen potential employees, and refer aid recipients to fill  
23 those positions, and (3) the feasibility of requiring  
24 employers to employ qualified aid recipients for not less  
25 than 5% of the hours worked on a State contract; and be it  
26 further

27 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall receive the  
28 assistance of legislative staff, may employ skilled experts  
29 with the approval of the Speaker of the House of  
30 Representatives, and shall report its findings to the General  
31 Assembly on or before March 31, 2002.