

AMERICAN LEGION ILLINOIS BOYS STATE

JOINT RESOLUTION 1

“THE ILLINOIS EDUCATION REFORM ACT (IERA)”

WHEREAS it is a self-evident truth that all people are created equal,

WHEREAS equality of opportunity is a fundamental component of the American Dream,

WHEREAS education is a primary means for democracies to equalize opportunity,

WHEREAS access to educational resources is highly variable across the State of Illinois,

WHEREAS the unequal distribution of educational resources serves to widen the disparity in income distribution in the State,

WHEREAS in order to truly equalize opportunity we must equalize access to educational resources for all residents of the State,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that:

The Illinois State Legislature should enact the Illinois Education Reform Act, as follows:

1. All taxes collected for the purposes of funding primary and secondary education within the State of Illinois (“Illinois Education Taxes”) shall be collected solely by the State and shall not be collected by any city, county, township, municipality, region or other subdivision of the State.
2. All Illinois Education Taxes shall be collected on an annual basis in the form of a personal income tax on all residents of the State of Illinois at a rate prescribed by the State Legislature on an annual basis.
3. All such Illinois Education Taxes shall be held by the State in a centralized pool (the “Illinois Education Funding Pool”) to provide statewide funding for primary and secondary education.
4. Each fiscal year, no less than 85% of, and no more than 90% of, the Illinois Education Taxes received in the Illinois Education Funding Pool during the previous fiscal year shall be distributed to qualifying Illinois public schools as set forth below.

5. From the funds collected, every qualifying public school in Illinois shall receive the exact same amount of funding per pupil enrolled, regardless of region or municipality. The amount each school will receive per enrolled pupil shall be calculated as: Total dollars to be distributed divided by the total number of pupils enrolled statewide.

Illustrative Example: If \$20 billion of Illinois Education Taxes were collected in 2010 and the State elects to distribute 90% of those taxes in 2011, then the total funds available for distribution to public schools would be \$18 billion).

If there are 1 million pupils enrolled in qualifying Illinois public schools, then the amount of funding to be provided to each qualifying public school per pupil enrolled will be \$18,000. (Calculated as: \$18 billion / 1 million students).