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FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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Ford Passes Bill Creating Task Force to Study Elected School Board in Chicago

SPRINGFIELD, IL – State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, passed legislation Tuesday to create a task force charged with studying whether the school board for Chicago Public Schools should be elected, or continue to be appointed by the mayor of Chicago.

“This legislation will help us make informed decisions on the future of Chicago students,” Ford said. “After talking with many parents, students and teachers across our state, I believe the time has come to study whether an elected school board would be better for our students by creating more accountability. There are over 860 school boards in Illinois, and all are elected by the people except for Chicago; elected school boards are the rule across the country. Education is about best practices, and that's what this task force will seek to find for the students of District 299 of Chicago. This task force can help us see if an elected school board would once again be a good fit for Chicago Public Schools.”

House Bill 1152 aims to research the need of an elected school board in Chicago. It proposes that the board include members from the General Assembly, Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Board of Education, Chicago Teacher's Union, a principal's association and a student representative. The legislation passed the House with bipartisan support on a 108-5 margin.

“My intention is to get a wide range of information from people on all sides of this issue before a recommendation is made,” Ford said. “This bill passed overwhelmingly in the House with bipartisan support, and I urge my colleagues in the Senate to put our children first and pass this legislation to allow an open and objective discussion regarding an elected school board in Chicago.”

For more information, please contact one of Ford's constituent service offices: 4800 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at 773-378-5902 or 239-E Stratton Office Building in Springfield at 217-782-5962.

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