WHEREAS, The Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) Tax Credit Program is an economic development tool operated by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity; and

WHEREAS, The EDGE Tax Credit Program is a targeted incentive program that provides tax credits for businesses that create new full-time jobs, retain existing full-time jobs, and make capital investments in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, The EDGE Tax Credit Program is designed to help areas of Illinois that are in direct competition with other states for jobs and development; and

WHEREAS, According to the 2017 EDGE Annual Report, since 1999 nearly $1.7 billion in tax credits have been issued, 41,238 jobs were reported to have been created, and 46,160 jobs were reported to have been retained; and

WHEREAS, According to the FY17 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, the State of Illinois abated income taxes totaling approximately $179.1 million through the EDGE program for FY17; and
WHEREAS, Public Act 100-511 made significant changes to and extended the EDGE Tax Credit Program; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Auditor General is directed to conduct a performance audit of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) Tax Credit Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the performance audit shall include, but not be limited to, the following determinations:

(1) Whether the Department is administering the EDGE program in accordance with applicable laws, rules, policies, and procedures;

(2) Whether the Department is adequately monitoring EDGE recipients;

(3) Whether the Department has implemented the changes required under Public Act 100-511;

(4) Whether the Department is regularly assessing the effectiveness of the EDGE program; and

(5) Whether the EDGE tax incentives in Illinois are similar to programs in surrounding states; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the audit include an analysis of the amount
of tax credits approved and the number of jobs created or retained; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity cooperate fully and promptly with the Auditor General in the conduct of this audit; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Auditor General commence this audit as soon as possible and submit his report, including his findings and recommendations, upon completion in accordance with the provisions of Section 3-14 of the Illinois State Auditing Act; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be delivered to the Auditor General and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.