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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Illinois citizens who have been convicted of Class  
3 X felonies and other felony offenses are unfairly denied  
4 opportunities to obtain jobs even after complying with all  
5 sentencing and post-sentencing requirements; and

6           WHEREAS, African-American men are disproportionately  
7 affected by policies because too many of them are disqualified  
8 from job opportunities and other opportunities; and

9           WHEREAS, Under the current system, being a formerly  
10 incarcerated person essentially amounts to a life sentence of  
11 being a second class citizen; and

12           WHEREAS, Formerly incarcerated citizens depend on the  
13 benevolence of school administrators, employers, landlords,  
14 and more individuals in order to properly participate in  
15 society; and

16           WHEREAS, There is no current means to rid oneself of the  
17 stigma associated with being an ex-felon; and

18           WHEREAS, Formerly incarcerated citizens should be  
19 empowered to determine their own destinies; and

1           WHEREAS, Formerly incarcerated citizens should be given  
2 the same opportunities as other Illinois Citizens to choose  
3 where they live, work, and attend school; and

4           WHEREAS, Formerly incarcerated citizens should be provided  
5 with the incentive to conform their behavior to society's  
6 standard, which will increase public safety; and

7           WHEREAS, A person should not have to continue to pay for  
8 something he or she may have done years ago after complying  
9 with all sentencing requirements; and

10           WHEREAS, Having job opportunities and having one's record  
11 sealed will reduce recidivism; and

12           WHEREAS, Innocent individuals are also hurt by current  
13 policies because sometimes the innocent get convicted or plead  
14 guilty to felonies; and

15           WHEREAS, Discriminatory policies created by  
16 administrators, employers, and legislators amount to  
17 post-incarceration sentencing equating to double jeopardy; and

18           WHEREAS, If a person is no longer incarcerated, he or she  
19 is not serving a de jure life sentence, so it is immoral to be  
20 serving a de facto life sentence (void of sufficient job

1 opportunities); and

2 WHEREAS, The lack of sufficient criminal sealing  
3 protections entails the creation of a permanently dependent  
4 class of individuals; and

5 WHEREAS, Many of those individuals cannot earn a living and  
6 are forced to prey upon those who do or to earn a living by  
7 obtaining entitlements or sponging off law-abiding citizens;  
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
10 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
11 urge the Governor's Commission on Criminal Justice and  
12 Sentencing Reform (Executive Order 15-14) to study issues and  
13 permit, to the extent that such a determination is appropriate,  
14 the mentioned members of the vulnerable population to have a  
15 chance to relieve themselves of the stigma of being convicted  
16 felons and to have a chance to obtain jobs by having their  
17 records sealed (and through any other means) so long as they  
18 comply with the following steps:

19 1) Complete parole/probation;

20 2) Complete any required drug treatment program, anger  
21 management program, psychological testing, and anything

1           else required;

2           3) Obtain a G.E.D., high school diploma, or something  
3           equivalent to the mentioned;

4           4) Employed, actively seeking employment, enrolled in  
5           vocational training, or enrolled in a college program;

6           5) Does not have any felony conviction for a period of time  
7           commensurate with the severity of their convictions (e.g.,  
8           for 1, 3, 5, or 7 years, etc.)

9           6) So long as a formerly incarcerated Illinois citizen  
10          successfully complies with the above steps, unless he or  
11          she is a registered sex offender, then his or her record  
12          must forever be sealed unless he or she commits another  
13          felony; and

14          7) A person who is a registered sex offender must have his  
15          or her situation reviewed by a review board to determine  
16          whether the person may have his or her record sealed; and  
17          be it further

18          RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
19          presented to the Governor's Commission on Criminal Justice and  
20          Sentencing Reform.