



Rep. Lisa Davis

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10400HB5434ham002

LRB104 16800 WRO 36377 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 5434

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 5434, AS AMENDED,
3 by replacing everything after the enacting clause with the
4 following:

5 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
6 Emerging Adult Criminal Justice Task Force Act.

7 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds that:

8 (1) Emerging adults are disproportionately involved in
9 the criminal justice system. National data consistently
10 show that individuals in this age group have the highest
11 rates of arrest, jail admissions, prison admissions, and
12 rearrest.

13 (2) Developmental psychology and neuroscience studies
14 have shown that judgment, impulse control, and
15 psychosocial maturity may continue developing into the
16 mid-20s. Emerging adults may differ significantly from

1 older adults in risk assessment, susceptibility to peer
2 influence, emotional regulation, and decision-making under
3 stress.

4 (3) Emerging adults may also face elevated rates of
5 mental health disorders, trauma exposure, substance use
6 disorders, unemployment, and housing instability. These
7 vulnerabilities are closely linked to system involvement.

8 (4) Despite these challenges, emerging adults possess
9 strong capacity for change. Their brains retain high
10 neuroplasticity, and appropriate interventions during this
11 developmental period produce greater long-term benefits
12 than comparable interventions for older adults.

13 (5) Traditional adult criminal justice responses can
14 be counterproductive for emerging adults. Adult jails and
15 prisons can be associated with higher rates of
16 victimization, self-harm, long-term disability, and
17 recidivism among this population.

18 (6) States and jurisdictions across the U.S. have
19 created special laws or practices for emerging adults,
20 including extended juvenile jurisdiction, youthful
21 offender statutes, specialized probation units, young
22 adult courts, and correctional units tailored to this age
23 group.

24 (7) Illinois has taken several important steps,
25 including youthful offender parole, the First Time Weapon
26 Offender Program, and the Cook County SEED Program, but it

1 has not comprehensively examined the full spectrum of
2 policies affecting emerging adults.

3 (8) After decades of program based intervention
4 alternatives for juveniles, it is appropriate for the task
5 force to evaluate the efficiency of each of these programs
6 to ensure only those that are reducing criminal behavior
7 and providing for public safety and continues while those
8 that are not providing the expected benefits are phased
9 out.

10 (9) Illinois would benefit from a comprehensive,
11 bipartisan, data-driven review of approaches to emerging
12 adults across the criminal justice system.

13 Section 10. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to create a
14 bipartisan, bicameral Task Force to study and recommend
15 strategies for developmentally appropriate, cost-effective,
16 and equitable approaches to emerging adults in Illinois that
17 provides opportunities for emerging adults to divert from the
18 criminal justice system.

19 Section 15. Definitions. In this Act:

20 "Department" means the Department of Corrections.

21 "Emerging adult" means an individual who is 18 to 25 years
22 of age.

23 "Task Force" means the Task Force on Emerging Adults in
24 the Criminal Justice System established under this Act.

1 Section 20. Establishment of Task Force. The Task Force on
2 Emerging Adults in the Criminal Justice System is established
3 within the Department and shall be provided staffing,
4 research, and administrative support by the Department.

5 Section 25. Membership.

6 (a) The Task Force shall be bipartisan, bicameral, and
7 include representation from stakeholders in the criminal
8 justice system, organizations that work extensively with young
9 adults, and those with lived experience in the criminal
10 justice system as emerging adults.

11 (b) The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

12 (1) two members of the Senate appointed by the
13 President of the Senate, one of whom shall be designated
14 as co-chair of the Task Force;

15 (2) two members of the Senate appointed by the
16 Minority Leader of the Senate;

17 (3) two members of the House appointed by the Speaker
18 of the House, one of whom shall be designated as co-chair
19 of the Task Force;

20 (4) two members of the House appointed by the Minority
21 Leader of the House; and

22 (5) the following members appointed by the Governor:

23 (A) the Director of the Department or the
24 Director's designee;

1 (B) the Director of Juvenile Justice or the
2 Director's designee;

3 (C) the Director of the Administrative Office of
4 the Illinois Courts or the Director's designee;

5 (D) one circuit court judge with criminal or
6 problem-solving court experience;

7 (E) three State's Attorneys representing counties
8 of varying size;

9 (F) three Public Defenders representing counties
10 of varying size;

11 (G) one representative of a statewide or regional
12 victims' rights organization;

13 (H) two representatives of a municipal police
14 department;

15 (I) two representatives of a sheriff's office that
16 operates a county jail;

17 (J) two representatives of a community-based legal
18 services or holistic defense organization serving
19 emerging adults;

20 (K) one representative of a community-based
21 organization that provides reentry services to
22 returning citizens, including emerging adults;

23 (L) one representative of a community-based
24 organization providing education, workforce
25 development, housing, or behavioral health services to
26 emerging adults;

1 (M) one representative of an employer association,
2 trade group, or major employer who regularly hires and
3 supervises young adults who are ages 18 to 25;

4 (N) one administrator or faculty member from an
5 Illinois community college or public university with
6 expertise in student development or the behavior of
7 emerging adults;

8 (O) one licensed mental health professional or
9 developmental psychologist with expertise in late
10 adolescence and emerging adulthood;

11 (P) two individuals with lived experience of
12 justice involvement for offenses committed between
13 ages 18 and 25, including at least one formerly
14 incarcerated in an adult facility;

15 (Q) the Director of the Sentencing Policy Advisory
16 Committee;

17 (R) a representative of an association that
18 represents attorneys statewide; and

19 (S) a representative of a philanthropic
20 organization with expertise and experience in funding
21 services and policies for justice-involved emerging
22 adults.

23 (c) Members shall serve without compensation but may be
24 reimbursed for reasonable expenses subject to appropriation.

25 (d) Vacancies shall be filled in the manner of original
26 appointment.

1 (e) Membership shall reflect, to the extent practicable,
2 the demographic and geographic diversity of the State.

3 Section 30. Meetings; quorum; public input. The first
4 meeting of the Task Force shall be held within 60 days after
5 the appointment of a majority of its members. Meetings of the
6 Task Force shall be called by the co-chairs. A majority of the
7 members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum. All
8 meetings of the Task Force shall be subject to the Open
9 Meetings Act. At least 3 public hearings of the Task Force
10 shall be held in different regions of Illinois.

11 Section 35. Duties. The Task Force shall:

12 (1) review Illinois law and practice affecting
13 emerging adults across pretrial, sentencing, corrections,
14 supervision, and reentry;

15 (2) examine emerging adult models in other states and
16 jurisdictions, including the United Nations Standard
17 Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures and the United
18 Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of
19 Juvenile Justice;

20 (3) integrate and summarize current developmental
21 research on emerging adults;

22 (4) analyze racial, ethnic, gender, and geographic
23 disparities affecting emerging adults;

24 (5) conduct benefit-cost and fiscal analyses of

1 current practices versus developmentally tailored
2 alternatives;

3 (6) engage stakeholders, including crime survivors,
4 law enforcement organizations, employers, higher education
5 institutions, community organizations, and individuals
6 with lived experience with the criminal justice system;

7 (7) develop recommendations for statutory, policy, and
8 programmatic improvements; and

9 (8) allow any Task Force member to prepare a written
10 dissent or statement of concern regarding any finding or
11 recommendation, which shall be included verbatim in all
12 interim and final reports.

13 Section 40. Reports.

14 (a) No later than January 31, 2027, the Task Force shall
15 submit an interim report to the Governor and the General
16 Assembly summarizing its preliminary findings, analyses, and
17 recommendations. The interim report shall include any written
18 dissents or statements of concern submitted by Task Force
19 members.

20 (b) No later than December 1, 2027, the Task Force shall
21 submit a final report to the Governor and the General
22 Assembly, and the Department shall publish the report on its
23 website. The final report shall include:

24 (1) all final findings and recommendations;

25 (2) draft statutory language, where appropriate;

1 (3) estimated fiscal impacts and benefit-cost
2 analyses; and

3 (4) all written dissents or statements of concern
4 submitted by any member, which shall be included in full
5 and published in the public version of the report.

6 (c) Any member may submit a dissent or statement of
7 concern up to 14 days following the adoption of any
8 recommendation. The Department shall publish all dissenting
9 statements alongside majority recommendations.

10 Section 45. Support; cooperation.

11 (a) The Department shall provide staff support, research,
12 data analysis, and administrative assistance to the Task
13 Force.

14 (b) State and local agencies shall cooperate with
15 reasonable requests for data and information, consistent with
16 all confidentiality laws.

17 Section 50. Repeal. This Act is repealed on June 30, 2028.

18 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
19 becoming law.".