

104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**State of Illinois****2025 and 2026****HB5737**

Introduced 4/7/2026, by Rep. Maurice A. West, II

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Home for Good Act. Provides that the Home for Good Program is created as a statewide coordinated program designed to provide housing and services to persons released from an Illinois Department of Corrections facility on or after January 1, 2027 (targeted population). Provides that, beginning January 1, 2027, the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) shall be responsible for providing appropriate resources to potential applicants to acquire, develop, and rehabilitate permanent affordable housing units and transitional housing units that are designated exclusively for the targeted population. Provides that the granting and application process shall follow the existing program model of the Housing for Justice Involved Individuals Program. Requires IHDA to be responsible for providing site-based rental housing subsidies to community-based organizations who work with the targeted population. Requires the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA), beginning January 1, 2027, to provide appropriate resources to community-based organizations who work with the targeted population. Provides that such resources shall be used to provide case management and reentry navigation services to Program participants; and to make supportive services available to Program participants. Provides that, beginning January 1, 2027, the Executive Director of ICJIA shall ensure that regional networks of participating community-based organizations and housing providers are established to collaborate and provide services and housing to the targeted population. Contains provisions requiring a housing needs assessment tool be administered to all individuals who are exiting Illinois Department of Corrections custody; that on January 1, 2027, or as soon thereafter as reasonably possible, the Executive Director of IHDA create a Home for Good Institute to provide training and technical assistance to community-based organizations who intend to acquire, develop, rehabilitate, or operate permanent and transitional housing units for the targeted population; the establishment of the Interagency Reentry Workgroup; the establishment of the Home for Good Advisory Committee; reporting requirements; rulemaking authority to implement the Act; and other matters. Effective immediately.

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1 AN ACT concerning housing.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Home
5 for Good Act.

6 Section 5. Findings.

7 (a) The General Assembly recognizes the following:

8 (1) The Illinois prison system releases 15,000 people
9 each year, but without a cogent and unified statewide
10 system to support housing security and reduce the risk of
11 recidivism.

12 (2) A 2025 Loyola University Chicago Study found that
13 between 66% and 80% of individuals incarcerated in the
14 Illinois Department of Corrections experienced housing
15 instability or homelessness within 3 years prior to their
16 incarceration, making them at risk of homelessness after
17 prison as well.

18 (3) Returning residents often struggle to access
19 housing and stable jobs because of State laws and policies
20 that permit housing discrimination against people with
21 records. For example, the Illinois Human Rights Act only
22 protects people with arrest records from housing-related
23 discrimination, but offers no such protections to persons

1 with conviction records.

2 (4) The current U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
3 Development policy on homelessness also creates barriers
4 that prevent formerly incarcerated individuals from
5 accessing permanent housing programs through the homeless
6 system.

7 (5) A 2023 study of the Illinois Criminal Justice
8 Information Authority found that formerly incarcerated
9 people have an average unemployment rate of 45% and lower
10 annual wages, with Black individuals who are formerly
11 incarcerated having the highest rates of unemployment.

12 (6) As a result, many people cannot comply with the
13 conditions of release, or they turn to the underground
14 economy to support themselves and their families.

15 (7) Research shows that housing instability,
16 homelessness, unemployment, and low wages are among the
17 factors that contribute to the nearly 40% of previously
18 incarcerated people returning to prison within 3 years.

19 (8) According to a Spring 2025 Illinois Sentencing
20 Policy Advisory Council report, Illinois taxpayers already
21 pay \$89,408 annually for each person incarcerated in State
22 prisons.

23 (9) When a person returns to prison, the total cost
24 rises to \$200,000, including direct and indirect costs,
25 resulting in unnecessary and expensive costs for all
26 Illinoisans.

1 (10) The State government has a responsibility to
2 increase community safety and individual and family
3 well-being by addressing the housing needs of persons
4 leaving incarceration.

5 (11) Affordable, safe, and stable housing is a
6 fundamental necessity for successful reentry and family
7 stability.

8 (12) Affordable, safe, and stable housing for
9 returning residents also improves and promotes public
10 safety.

11 (13) Without a dedicated commitment of affordable,
12 safe, and stable housing providing a mix of transitional
13 and permanent affordable housing that is informed by the
14 housing needs and policy perspectives of returning
15 residents, the State is failing to meet the needs of its
16 residents and communities.

17 (b) The General Assembly also recognizes that there are
18 several independent strategies in place now that increase
19 access to safe, affordable housing for returning residents and
20 improve and promote public safety, including:

21 (1) The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA),
22 as administrator of the Rental Housing Support Program,
23 created the Re-Entry Program, providing 81 Reentry Rental
24 Housing Support Program subsidies across the State with
25 the support of housing navigators who build relationships
26 with landlords and connect returning residents to

1 resources to support their success.

2 (2) IHDA's Housing for Justice Involved Individuals
3 Program provides grants to community-based organizations
4 to acquire, build, or rehabilitate housing for the purpose
5 of creating transitional reentry housing beds across the
6 State, resulting in over 500 beds statewide.

7 (3) IHDA's Housing Task Force added "justice-involved
8 individuals" as a priority population for IHDA's 2026
9 Annual Comprehensive Housing Plan.

10 (4) The Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act created the
11 Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) program, which reinvests
12 a portion of cannabis tax revenue into communities in
13 order to reduce gun violence through intervention and
14 prevention, improve reentry and diversion services for
15 people involved with the criminal justice system, provide
16 access to legal representation and advice, encourage
17 investment and economic growth, enhance youth development,
18 and support programs that improve the social determinants
19 of health.

20 (5) Through the 2026 R3 Notice of Funding Opportunity
21 (CSFA Number 546-00-2378), the Illinois Criminal Justice
22 Information Authority and the R3 Board have committed up
23 to \$35,000,000 as a set aside for reentry services, civil
24 legal aid services, and economic development in order to
25 provide returning residents with support and economic
26 opportunities.

1 (c) It is the intent of the General Assembly to codify into
2 law a comprehensive and unified statewide reentry program
3 incorporating the existing reentry programs of the Illinois
4 Housing Development Authority and the Illinois Criminal
5 Justice Information Authority that:

6 (1) will meet a returning resident's housing needs and
7 is community-based;

8 (2) includes ongoing active involvement by formerly
9 incarcerated persons;

10 (3) provides a mix of transitional and permanent
11 affordable housing units, rental subsidies, and reentry
12 services supported by sustained and adequate funding; and

13 (4) will have a positive long-term return on
14 investment for this State.

15 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

16 "Advisory Committee" means the Home for Good Advisory
17 Committee.

18 "Community-based organizations" means non-profit
19 organizations delivering housing and other services to those
20 reentering from incarceration and who are eligible to receive
21 grants from Illinois state agencies.

22 "ICJIA" means the Illinois Criminal Justice Information
23 Authority.

24 "IDOC" means the Illinois Department of Corrections.

25 "IHDA" means the Illinois Housing Development Authority.

1 "Institute" means the Home for Good Institute.

2 "Program" means the Home for Good Program.

3 "Targeted population" means persons released from an IDOC
4 facility on or after January 1, 2027 who shall be eligible to
5 enroll in the Program for up to 5 years from their release
6 date.

7 Section 15. Home for Good Program. The Home for Good
8 Program is created as a statewide coordinated program designed
9 to provide housing and services to the targeted population.
10 The Program shall contain the following elements:

11 (1) Beginning January 1, 2027, IHDA shall be
12 responsible for providing appropriate resources to
13 potential applicants to acquire, develop, and rehabilitate
14 permanent affordable housing units and transitional
15 housing units that are designated exclusively for the
16 targeted population. The granting and application process
17 shall follow the existing program model of the Housing for
18 Justice Involved Individuals Program. IHDA shall also be
19 responsible for providing site-based rental housing
20 subsidies to community-based organizations that work with
21 the targeted population which may be used to enter into
22 lease agreements and master lease agreements for the
23 purpose of providing housing for program participants and
24 tenant-based rental subsidies.

25 (2) Beginning January 1, 2027, ICJIA shall provide

1 appropriate resources to community-based organizations who
2 work with the targeted population. These resources shall
3 be used to provide case management and reentry navigation
4 services to Program participants. In addition, these
5 resources shall be used to make supportive services
6 available to Program participants. Services may include
7 housing and related services, physical and behavioral
8 health, education, family reunification and relationship
9 building, transportation, job training, acquiring vital
10 documents, and meeting basic needs.

11 (3) Beginning January 1, 2027, the Executive Director
12 of ICJIA shall ensure that regional networks of
13 participating community-based organizations and housing
14 providers are established for the Program to collaborate
15 and provide services and housing to the targeted
16 population.

17 (4) Beginning January 1, 2027, the Program shall
18 require that a housing needs assessment tool designed to
19 determine housing and support services needs is
20 administered to all individuals who are exiting IDOC
21 custody within the next 12 to 18 months. At least 18 months
22 prior to their release date, individuals must be informed
23 of the housing needs assessment tool and their right to
24 opt out of participation. IDOC shall make all reasonable
25 efforts to ensure that all individuals who do not opt out
26 of participation are able to complete the housing needs

1 assessment. The assessment shall be administered by a
2 community-based organization with demonstrable expertise
3 in reentry services, behavioral health, and permanent and
4 transitional affordable housing which shall be given no
5 less than monthly access to IDOC facilities for the
6 purposes of administering the housing needs assessment
7 tool and conducting prerelease reentry planning and
8 service delivery. For individuals exiting IDOC prior to
9 the completion of the housing needs assessment tool, IDOC
10 shall provide the contact information for the
11 community-based organizations administering the housing
12 needs assessment tool. Community-based organizations
13 administering the housing needs assessment tool shall make
14 all reasonable efforts to complete the tool for
15 individuals who have already exited IDOC. The housing
16 needs assessment shall determine an individual's
17 vulnerability to housing instability or homelessness, and
18 the assessment shall identify the individual's behavioral
19 health needs. The purpose of the behavioral health element
20 of the assessment is to help potential participants
21 successfully secure housing and shall not be used as a
22 reason to exclude potential participants from the Program.

23 (5) The Interagency Reentry Workgroup shall be created
24 and designed to serve the housing and support services
25 needs of the targeted population by implementing and
26 coordinating the activities of the Program among the State

1 agencies involved. The Workgroup's activities shall be
2 informed by people who have experienced reentry. The
3 Workgroup shall be chaired by the Executive Director of
4 ICJIA or his or her designee. Members of the Workgroup
5 shall include the Director of IDOC, or his or her
6 designee, and the Executive Director of IHDA, or his or
7 her designee. The chair may add other agency leaders or
8 their designees to the Workgroup as needed.

9 (6) On January 1, 2027, or as soon thereafter as
10 reasonably possible, the Executive Director of IHDA shall
11 create the Home for Good Institute. The Home for Good
12 Institute shall provide training and technical assistance
13 to community-based organizations who intend to acquire,
14 develop, rehabilitate, or operate permanent and
15 transitional housing units for the targeted population.
16 Community-based organizations that successfully complete
17 the training from the Institute shall be awarded
18 additional points on any applications for funding from
19 IHDA, including the Home for Good Program.

20 (7) The Home for Good Advisory Committee is created
21 for the purposes of identifying program priorities and
22 making recommendations for approval to ICJIA's and IHDA's
23 governing boards to foster collaboration between ICJIA and
24 IHDA and between these State agencies and community-based
25 organizations, and to ensure the equitable provision of
26 resources for affordable housing and support services

1 throughout the State based upon the geographic
2 distribution of incarcerated people exiting IDOC. The
3 Advisory Committee shall be housed at ICJIA. The Executive
4 Director of ICJIA shall appoint Advisory Committee
5 members, not to exceed 25. Members of the Advisory
6 Committee shall include:

7 (A) the Executive Director of ICJIA or his or her
8 designee;

9 (B) the Executive Director of IHDA or his or her
10 designee;

11 (C) the Director of IDOC or his or her designee;

12 (D) the Reentry Director at the Department of
13 Human Services or his or her designee;

14 (E) the Director of Reentry for the City of
15 Chicago or his or her designee;

16 (F) the Executive Director of the Illinois
17 Sentencing Policy Advisory Council or his or her
18 designee;

19 (G) the Chief Homelessness Officer or his or her
20 designee;

21 (H) 5 reentry advocates, at least 3 of whom must be
22 previously incarcerated; however, advocates who are
23 officers, members, or employees of entities that
24 receive money through the Program are not eligible for
25 appointment to the Advisory Committee;

26 (I) one representative of an affordable housing

1 development organization;

2 (J) one representative of an affordable housing
3 advocacy organization;

4 (K) one reentry researcher;

5 (L) 5 community members with proportional
6 representation from urban, suburban, and rural areas
7 throughout the State; and

8 (M) one person each appointed by:

9 (i) the President of the Senate;

10 (ii) the Minority Leader of the Senate;

11 (iii) the Speaker of the House of
12 Representatives; and

13 (iv) the Minority Leader of the House of
14 Representatives.

15 At least 5 of the up to 25 members appointed to the
16 Advisory Committee by the Governor shall have personally
17 experienced incarceration and reentry.

18 (8) No later than January 31, 2028, and every January
19 31 thereafter, the Home for Good Advisory Committee,
20 subject to approval by ICJIA's and IHDA's governing
21 boards, shall annually submit to the General Assembly and
22 the Governor a public report containing data for the prior
23 State fiscal year on the number of persons served, the
24 effectiveness of the Program as measured by criteria
25 established by the Advisory Committee, the amount and type
26 of housing made available through the Program, metrics on

1 the Program's waitlist such as demographics, size and
2 average waiting time, metrics on the number and percentage
3 of individuals who completed a housing needs assessment
4 compared to the number and percentage of individuals
5 eligible to receive that housing needs assessment, data
6 and information about why individuals chose to opt out of
7 the housing needs assessment, the return on investment
8 generated through savings and economic activity resulting
9 from the implementation of the Program, a forecast of the
10 number of people exiting State prisons who are at risk of
11 experiencing housing instability and homelessness each
12 fiscal year, any recommended improvements to the Program's
13 design, and a forecast of the number of affordable homes
14 needed to meet the needs of Program participants.

15 Section 20. Rules. IHDA, ICJIA, and IDOC shall jointly
16 adopt rules to implement this Act. The rules must describe how
17 a housing needs assessment will be administered by
18 community-based organizations with expertise in providing
19 reentry services and permanent and transitional housing to
20 persons incarcerated in IDOC no later than 12 months prior to
21 their release date.

22 The rules must describe how a housing needs assessment
23 will make the determinations described in paragraph (3) of
24 Section 15.

25 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon

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1 becoming law.