



HR0233

LRB099 10638 MST 32038 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Tamms Correctional Center opened in 1995 in Tamms, Alexander County as a 200-bed minimum-security prison; in 1998, it expanded, adding a 500-bed super-maximum-security facility, designed to hold the most dangerous and violent male prisoners in the State; and

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WHEREAS, The Tamms Correctional Center was in operation as a super-maximum-security prison from 1998 until its closure in January of 2013; and

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WHEREAS, Prior to the opening of the Tamms Correctional Center, dangerous and violent inmates could strengthen their power and still run criminal organizations from prison through prison gangs and networks across the State correctional system; and

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WHEREAS, Some of the most violent and disruptive inmates would commit transgressions against correctional staff until it became severe enough for the inmate to be transferred to a new correctional facility; once at the new facility these transgressions would continue forcing the new correctional facility to again transfer the inmate; and

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WHEREAS, The continued disruptive actions by an inmate in

1 order to be repeatedly transferred to new facilities became
2 known as "riding the correctional circuit"; inmates would do
3 this in an attempt to eventually be transferred to the facility
4 that they desired in order to strengthen their power within
5 prison gangs and increase their network; and

6 WHEREAS, The opening of the Tamms Correctional Center
7 helped put an end to prisoners riding the correctional circuit;
8 after the opening, when inmates would continue to lash out
9 against correctional officers and other inmates after being
10 transferred, they would then be sent to Tamms until the violent
11 behavior ceased; and

12 WHEREAS, The opening of the Tamms Correctional Center also
13 helped increase safety at all correctional centers across the
14 State because the most violent and disruptive inmates were
15 isolated; this helped to reduce major incidents at prisons,
16 reduce the number of lockdowns, and greatly improve the safety
17 of the staff working at the correctional centers; and

18 WHEREAS, Following the closure of the Tamms Correctional
19 Center in January of 2013, the inmates were transferred to
20 maximum security prisons; this put a strain on the already
21 overly crowded State correctional system; with the
22 maximum-security prisons taking in more inmates, many of their
23 existing inmates were then transferred to lower-security

1 facilities; this trend rippled through the State system; and

2 WHEREAS, Currently, the State correctional system holds
3 around 49,000 inmates, however the facilities that are open are
4 designed to hold around 32,000 inmates; with the State's
5 prisons being so drastically over crowded, staff and inmate
6 safety has again become a major cause of concern; and

7 WHEREAS, The current levels of inmates in the overly
8 crowded State correctional system has caused major concern for
9 the safety of staff working in the prisons; at Pickneyville
10 Correctional Center on September 25, 2013, inmate Rodolfo Rosas
11 attacked 3 male guards and one female guard; they were taken to
12 an area hospital and treated for various injuries, including a
13 broken nose; and

14 WHEREAS, Overcrowded correctional facilities are not just
15 a safety problem for staff but also create a dangerous
16 atmosphere for other inmates; since the closure of the Tamms
17 Correctional Center, other facilities having to deal with the
18 over-population issue have resorted to moving hundreds of
19 inmates into a gymnasium as cells have become too crowded; and

20 WHEREAS, Incidents of violent fights between inmates have
21 increased since the closure of the Tamms Correctional Center
22 because the current correctional system is having difficulty

1 handling the over-populated prisons; and

2 WHEREAS, If the State of Illinois would reopen the Tamms
3 Correctional Center it could help increase safety inside the
4 State's correctional centers for both the staff and inmates;
5 the reopening of Tamms would also greatly help to reduce the
6 strain over the State's over-populated correctional centers;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The Tamms Correctional Center should be reopened
9 in order to ensure the best outcomes for inmates and staff in
10 helping to keep people safe and in helping aid in
11 rehabilitation; and

12 WHEREAS, An adult administrative segregation unit can help
13 to separate gang activity and gang leaders and help to deter
14 future violent and dangerous behavior from inmates; therefore,
15 be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
18 urge Governor Rauner to reopen the Tamms Correctional Center as
19 a new adult administrative segregation unit, to help control
20 the over-crowding in the State's correction system and to
21 ensure the safety of correctional staff and inmates; and be it
22 further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 delivered to Governor Rauner and the Director of the Illinois
3 Department of Corrections.