



Rep. Maurice A. West, II

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10400HB0624ham002

LRB104 04511 KTG 36529 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 624

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 624 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

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

1 prison as well.

2 (3) Returning residents often struggle to access
3 housing and stable jobs because of State laws and policies
4 that permit housing discrimination against people with
5 records. For example, the Illinois Human Rights Act only
6 protects people with arrest records from housing-related
7 discrimination, but offers no such protections to persons
8 with conviction records.

9 (4) The current U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
10 Development policy on homelessness also creates barriers
11 that prevent formerly incarcerated individuals from
12 accessing permanent housing programs through the homeless
13 system.

14 (5) A 2023 study of the Illinois Criminal Justice
15 Information Authority found that formerly incarcerated
16 people have an average unemployment rate of 45% and lower
17 annual wages, with Black individuals who are formerly
18 incarcerated having the highest rates of unemployment.

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

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

26 (8) According to a Spring 2025 Illinois Sentencing

1 Policy Advisory Council report, Illinois taxpayers already
2 pay \$89,408 annually for each person incarcerated in State
3 prisons.

4 (9) When a person returns to prison, the total cost
5 rises to \$200,000, including direct and indirect costs,
6 resulting in unnecessary and expensive costs for all
7 Illinoisans.

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

12 (11) Affordable, safe, and stable housing is a
13 fundamental necessity for successful reentry and family
14 stability.

15 (12) Affordable, safe, and stable housing for
16 returning residents also improves and promotes public
17 safety.

18 (13) Without a dedicated commitment of affordable,
19 safe, and stable housing providing a mix of transitional
20 and permanent affordable housing that is informed by the
21 housing needs and policy perspectives of returning
22 residents, the State is failing to meet the needs of its
23 residents and communities.

24 (b) The General Assembly also recognizes that there are
25 several independent strategies in place now that increase
26 access to safe, affordable housing for returning residents and

1 improve and promote public safety, including:

2 (1) The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA),
3 as administrator of the Rental Housing Support Program,
4 created the Re-Entry Program, providing 81 Reentry Rental
5 Housing Support Program subsidies across the State with
6 the support of housing navigators who build relationships
7 with landlords and connect returning residents to
8 resources to support their success.

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

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

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

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

8 (c) It is the intent of the General Assembly to codify into
9 law a comprehensive and unified statewide reentry program
10 incorporating the existing reentry programs of the Illinois
11 Housing Development Authority and the Illinois Criminal
12 Justice Information Authority that:

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

15 (2) includes ongoing active involvement by formerly
16 incarcerated persons;

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

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

22 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

23 "Advisory Committee" means the Home for Good Advisory
24 Committee.

25 "Community-based organizations" means non-profit

1 organizations delivering housing and other services to those
2 reentering from incarceration and who are eligible to receive
3 grants from Illinois state agencies.

4 "ICJIA" means the Illinois Criminal Justice Information
5 Authority.

6 "IDOC" means the Illinois Department of Corrections.

7 "IHDA" means the Illinois Housing Development Authority.

8 "Institute" means the Home for Good Institute.

9 "Program" means the Home for Good Program.

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

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

18 (1) Beginning January 1, 2027, IHDA shall be
19 responsible for providing appropriate resources to
20 potential applicants to acquire, develop, and rehabilitate
21 permanent affordable housing units and transitional
22 housing units that are designated exclusively for the
23 targeted population. The granting and application process
24 shall follow the existing program model of the Housing for
25 Justice Involved Individuals Program. IHDA shall also be

1 responsible for providing site-based rental housing
2 subsidies to community-based organizations that work with
3 the targeted population which may be used to enter into
4 lease agreements and master lease agreements for the
5 purpose of providing housing for program participants and
6 tenant-based rental subsidies.

7 (2) Beginning January 1, 2027, ICJIA shall provide
8 appropriate resources to community-based organizations who
9 work with the targeted population. These resources shall
10 be used to provide case management and reentry navigation
11 services to Program participants. In addition, these
12 resources shall be used to make supportive services
13 available to Program participants. Services may include
14 housing and related services, physical and behavioral
15 health, education, family reunification and relationship
16 building, transportation, job training, acquiring vital
17 documents, and meeting basic needs.

18 (3) Beginning January 1, 2027, the Executive Director
19 of ICJIA shall ensure that regional networks of
20 participating community-based organizations and housing
21 providers are established for the Program to collaborate
22 and provide services and housing to the targeted
23 population.

24 (4) Beginning January 1, 2027, the Program shall
25 require that a housing needs assessment tool designed to
26 determine housing and support services needs is

1 administered to all individuals who are exiting IDOC
2 custody within the next 12 to 18 months. At least 18 months
3 prior to their release date, individuals must be informed
4 of the housing needs assessment tool and their right to
5 opt out of participation. IDOC shall make all reasonable
6 efforts to ensure that all individuals who do not opt out
7 of participation are able to complete the housing needs
8 assessment. The assessment shall be administered by a
9 community-based organization with demonstrable expertise
10 in reentry services, behavioral health, and permanent and
11 transitional affordable housing which shall be given no
12 less than monthly access to IDOC facilities for the
13 purposes of administering the housing needs assessment
14 tool and conducting prerelease reentry planning and
15 service delivery. For individuals exiting IDOC prior to
16 the completion of the housing needs assessment tool, IDOC
17 shall provide the contact information for the
18 community-based organizations administering the housing
19 needs assessment tool. Community-based organizations
20 administering the housing needs assessment tool shall make
21 all reasonable efforts to complete the tool for
22 individuals who have already exited IDOC. The housing
23 needs assessment shall determine an individual's
24 vulnerability to housing instability or homelessness, and
25 the assessment shall identify the individual's behavioral
26 health needs. The purpose of the behavioral health element

1 of the assessment is to help potential participants
2 successfully secure housing and shall not be used as a
3 reason to exclude potential participants from the Program.

4 (5) The Interagency Reentry Workgroup shall be created
5 and designed to serve the housing and support services
6 needs of the targeted population by implementing and
7 coordinating the activities of the Program among the State
8 agencies involved. The Workgroup's activities shall be
9 informed by people who have experienced reentry. The
10 Workgroup shall be chaired by the Executive Director of
11 ICJIA or his or her designee. Members of the Workgroup
12 shall include the Director of IDOC, or his or her
13 designee, and the Executive Director of IHDA, or his or
14 her designee. The chair may add other agency leaders or
15 their designees to the Workgroup as needed.

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

1 (7) The Home for Good Advisory Committee is created
2 for the purposes of identifying program priorities and
3 making recommendations for approval to ICJIA's and IHDA's
4 governing boards to foster collaboration between ICJIA and
5 IHDA and between these State agencies and community-based
6 organizations, and to ensure the equitable provision of
7 resources for affordable housing and support services
8 throughout the State based upon the geographic
9 distribution of incarcerated people exiting IDOC. The
10 Advisory Committee shall be housed at ICJIA. The Executive
11 Director of ICJIA shall appoint Advisory Committee
12 members, not to exceed 25. Members of the Advisory
13 Committee shall include:

14 (A) the Executive Director of ICJIA or his or her
15 designee;

16 (B) the Executive Director of IHDA or his or her
17 designee;

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

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

21 (E) the Director of Reentry for the City of
22 Chicago or his or her designee;

23 (F) the Executive Director of the Illinois
24 Sentencing Policy Advisory Council or his or her
25 designee;

26 (G) the Chief Homelessness Officer or his or her

1 designee;

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

7 (I) one representative of an affordable housing
8 development organization;

9 (J) one representative of an affordable housing
10 advocacy organization;

11 (K) one reentry researcher;

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

15 (M) one person each appointed by:

16 (i) the President of the Senate;

17 (ii) the Minority Leader of the Senate;

18 (iii) the Speaker of the House of
19 Representatives; and

20 (iv) the Minority Leader of the House of
21 Representatives.

22 At least 5 of the up to 25 members appointed to the
23 Advisory Committee by the Executive Director of ICJIA
24 shall have personally experienced incarceration and
25 reentry.

26 (8) No later than January 31, 2028, and every January

1 31 thereafter, the Home for Good Advisory Committee,
2 subject to approval by ICJIA's and IHDA's governing
3 boards, shall annually submit to the General Assembly and
4 the Governor a public report containing data for the prior
5 State fiscal year on the number of persons served, the
6 effectiveness of the Program as measured by criteria
7 established by the Advisory Committee, the amount and type
8 of housing made available through the Program, metrics on
9 the Program's waitlist such as demographics, size and
10 average waiting time, metrics on the number and percentage
11 of individuals who completed a housing needs assessment
12 compared to the number and percentage of individuals
13 eligible to receive that housing needs assessment, data
14 and information about why individuals chose to opt out of
15 the housing needs assessment, the return on investment
16 generated through savings and economic activity resulting
17 from the implementation of the Program, a forecast of the
18 number of people exiting State prisons who are at risk of
19 experiencing housing instability and homelessness each
20 fiscal year, any recommended improvements to the Program's
21 design, and a forecast of the number of affordable homes
22 needed to meet the needs of Program participants.

23 Section 20. Rules. IHDA, ICJIA, and IDOC shall jointly
24 adopt rules to implement this Act. The rules must describe how
25 a housing needs assessment will be administered by

1 community-based organizations with expertise in providing
2 reentry services and permanent and transitional housing to
3 persons incarcerated in IDOC no later than 12 months prior to
4 their release date.

5 The rules must describe how a housing needs assessment
6 will make the determinations described in paragraph (3) of
7 Section 15.

8 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
9 becoming law.".