



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB2434

Introduced 2/4/2025, by Rep. Kam Buckner

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act
30 ILCS 105/5.1030 new

Creates the Compassionate Support for Bereaved Mothers Act. Provides that the Act may be referred to as the Heal Your Heart Act. Defines a bereaved mother as a mother whose child was, more likely than not, knowingly killed by an unknown or other person. Provides that the Act applies to any bereaved mother whose child was, more likely than not, knowingly killed within the State and whose child was a resident of the State at the time of death. Provides that a bereaved mother shall be entitled to free mental health counseling and psychiatric services for a period of up to one year following the death of the bereaved mother's child. Provides that a bereaved mother is entitled to take paid leave after the death of the bereaved mother's child. Provides that, as federal law permits, a bereaved mother living in subsidized housing, scatter site housing, or public housing units shall be eligible for relocation to another unit if the bereaved mother feels threatened or unsafe. Provides that the Act is repealed 5 years after becoming law. Makes conforming changes to the State Finance Act. Effective January 1, 2026.

LRB104 10805 SPS 20886 b

1 AN ACT concerning employment.

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

4 Section 1. Short title; references to Act.

5 (a) Short title. This Act may be cited as the
6 Compassionate Support for Bereaved Mothers Act.

7 (b) References to Act. This Act may be referred to as the
8 Heal Your Heart Act.

9 Section 5. Purpose. It is the purpose of this Act to
10 provide comprehensive support for mothers who have lost their
11 children due to murder by ensuring they receive the necessary
12 mental health care, leave from work, financial assistance, and
13 safe housing options during their period of mourning.

14 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

15 "Bereaved mother" means a mother whose child was, more
16 likely than not, knowingly killed by an unknown or other
17 person.

18 "Child" includes a dependent adult as defined under
19 Illinois law.

20 "Disability leave" means paid leave granted to an employee
21 for a specified period due to mental health issues stemming
22 from the traumatic loss of a child.

1 "Employee" means eligible employee, as defined by Section
2 101(2) of the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29
3 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.).

4 "Housing Choice Voucher" means a voucher issued by a
5 housing authority under Section 8 of the United States Housing
6 Act of 1937 as part of the federal assistance program
7 administered by the Department of Housing and Urban
8 Development to help low-income families, the elderly, and the
9 disabled afford safe and sanitary housing in the private
10 market.

11 "Mental health support" means counseling and psychiatric
12 services provided to bereaved mothers.

13 Section 15. Eligibility. This Act applies to any bereaved
14 mother whose child was, more likely than not, knowingly killed
15 within this State and whose child was a resident of this State
16 at the time of death.

17 Section 20. Mental health support.

18 (a) A bereaved mother shall be entitled to free mental
19 health counseling and psychiatric services for a period of up
20 to one year following the death of the bereaved mother's
21 child. The Department of Human Services shall coordinate with
22 licensed mental health professionals and facilities to provide
23 these services. Services may include individual therapy, group
24 therapy, medication management, and any other necessary mental

1 health treatment.

2 (b) The Department of Human Services shall adopt rules to
3 administer and enforce this Section.

4 Section 25. Paid leave and financial assistance.

5 (a) A bereaved mother who is an employee shall be entitled
6 to a minimum of 12 weeks of paid disability leave from any
7 employer. During this leave, bereaved mothers shall receive
8 compensation equivalent to their full salary.

9 (b) Upon a determination of medical necessity and approval
10 by the Department of Labor in coordination with the Department
11 of Human Services and mental health care providers, disability
12 benefits under subsection (a) may be extended for a maximum of
13 one year.

14 (c) A bereaved mother shall be entitled to an additional
15 10 days of paid leave immediately following the death of the
16 bereaved mother's child.

17 (1) This leave is in addition to the disability leave
18 under subsections (a) and (b).

19 (2) Paid leave taken under this subsection (c) may be
20 taken consecutively or intermittently within the first
21 year of the death of the bereaved mother's child.

22 (d) An employer may require reasonable documentation.
23 Documentation may include a death certificate, a published
24 obituary, or written verification of death, burial, or
25 memorial services from a mortuary, funeral home, burial

1 society, crematorium, religious institution, or government
2 agency. An employer may require that the documentation include
3 the cause of death.

4 (e) Leave taken under this Act is mutually exclusive with
5 leave taken under the Child Extended Bereavement Leave Act.
6 The bereaved mother may decide which Act she takes leave
7 under.

8 (f) An employer shall not terminate, demote, or otherwise
9 penalize a bereaved mother taking disability leave under this
10 Act.

11 (g) An employer shall not retaliate against a bereaved
12 mother for taking leave under this Act.

13 (h) The Department of Labor shall adopt rules to
14 administer and enforce this Section.

15 Section 30. Relocation support.

16 (a) As permitted by federal law, a bereaved mother living
17 in subsidized housing, scattered site housing, or public
18 housing units shall be eligible for relocation to another unit
19 if the bereaved mother feels threatened or unsafe.

20 (b) As permitted by federal law, eligible bereaved mothers
21 may receive a Housing Choice Voucher to relocate to a safer
22 location.

23 (c) Temporary housing and relocation costs shall be paid
24 by the Bereaved Mothers Fund, a special fund that is created in
25 the State treasury. The fund shall be used to cover the costs

1 associated with this Act and shall be funded through federal
2 grants, private donations, and other sources.

3 (d) The Department of Human Services, after consulting
4 with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, shall
5 adopt rules to administer and enforce this Section.

6 Section 35. Annual report. Before December 31, 2026, and
7 each year thereafter, the Department of Human Services and the
8 Department of Labor shall jointly submit an annual report to
9 the Governor and the General Assembly detailing the
10 implementation, usage, and effectiveness of this Act.

11 Section 90. Repealer. This Act is repealed 5 years after
12 becoming law.

13 Section 900. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
14 Section 5.1030 as follows:

15 (30 ILCS 105/5.1030 new)

16 Sec. 5.1030. The Bereaved Mothers Fund.

17 Section 999. Effective date. This Act takes effect January
18 1, 2026.