



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB5434

Introduced 2/13/2026, by Rep. Lisa Davis - Michael Crawford

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Emerging Adult Criminal Justice Task Force Act. Establishes the Emerging Adult Criminal Justice Task Force within the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Provides that the Task Force shall hold public meetings. Requires at least 3 meetings of the Task Force to be held in different regions of Illinois. Provides that the first meeting of the Task Force shall be held within 60 days after the appointment of its members. Provides that the Task Force shall review Illinois law and practices affecting emerging adults across pretrial, sentencing, corrections, supervision, and reentry. Provides that the Task Force shall develop recommendations for statutory, policy, and programmatic improvements to the Illinois criminal justice system. Allows any Task Force member to prepare a written dissent or statement of concern regarding any finding or recommendation. Provides that the Task Force shall submit an interim report summarizing preliminary findings, analyses, and recommendations, to the Governor and the General Assembly, no later than January 31, 2027. Provides that the Task Force shall submit a final report, including all final findings and recommendations, draft statutory language, and estimated fiscal impacts, no later than December 1, 2027. Repeals the Act on June 30, 2028. Effective immediately.

LRB104 16800 WRO 30209 b

1 AN ACT concerning criminal law.

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
5 Emerging Adult Criminal Justice Task Force Act.

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

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

12 (2) Developmental psychology and neuroscience conclude
13 that judgment, impulse control, and psychosocial maturity
14 continue developing into the mid-20s. Emerging adults
15 differ significantly from older adults in risk assessment,
16 susceptibility to peer influence, emotional regulation,
17 and decision-making under stress.

18 (3) Emerging adults also face elevated rates of mental
19 health disorders, trauma exposure, substance use
20 disorders, unemployment, and housing instability. These
21 vulnerabilities are closely linked to system involvement.

22 (4) Despite these challenges, emerging adults possess
23 strong capacity for change. Their brains retain high

1 neuroplasticity, and appropriate interventions during this
2 developmental period produce greater long-term benefits
3 than comparable interventions for older adults.

4 (5) Traditional adult criminal justice responses can
5 be counterproductive for emerging adults. Adult jails and
6 prisons are associated with higher rates of victimization,
7 self-harm, long-term disability, and recidivism among this
8 population.

9 (6) States and jurisdictions across the U.S. have
10 created special laws or practices for emerging adults,
11 including extended juvenile jurisdiction, youthful
12 offender statutes, specialized probation units, young
13 adult courts, and correctional units tailored to this age
14 group.

15 (7) Illinois has taken several important steps,
16 including youthful offender parole, the First Time Weapon
17 Offender Program, and the Cook County SEED Program, but it
18 has not comprehensively examined the full spectrum of
19 policies affecting emerging adults.

20 (8) Cost-benefit analyses of diversion and
21 developmentally tailored interventions consistently find
22 significant taxpayer savings, due to reduced
23 incarceration, lower recidivism, and improved education
24 and employment outcomes.

25 (9) Illinois would benefit from a comprehensive,
26 bipartisan, data-driven review of approaches to emerging

1 adults across the criminal justice system.

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3 Section 10. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to create a
4 bipartisan, bicameral Task Force to study and recommend
5 strategies for developmentally appropriate, cost-effective,
6 and equitable approaches to emerging adults in Illinois.

7 Section 15. Definitions. In this Act:

8 "Authority" means the Illinois Criminal Justice
9 Information Authority.

10 "Emerging adult" means an individual who is 18 to 25 years
11 of age.

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

14 Section 20. Establishment of Task Force. The Task Force on
15 Emerging Adults in the Criminal Justice System is established
16 within the Authority and shall be provided staffing, research,
17 and administrative support by the Authority.

18 Section 25. Membership.

19 (a) The Task Force shall be bipartisan, bicameral, and
20 include representation from stakeholders in the criminal
21 justice system, organizations that work extensively with young
22 adults, and those with lived experience in the criminal

1 justice system as emerging adults.

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

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

6 (2) two members of the Senate appointed by the
7 Minority Leader of the Senate;

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

11 (4) two members of the House appointed by the Minority
12 Leader of the House; and

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

14 (A) the Executive Director of the Authority or the
15 Executive Director's designee;

16 (B) the Director of Corrections or the Director's
17 designee;

18 (C) the Director of Juvenile Justice or the
19 Director's designee;

20 (D) the Director of the Administrative Office of
21 the Illinois Courts or the Director's designee;

22 (E) one circuit court judge with criminal or
23 problem-solving court experience;

24 (F) three State's Attorneys representing counties
25 of varying size;

26 (G) three Public Defenders representing counties

1 of varying size;

2 (H) one representative of a statewide or regional
3 victims' rights organization;

4 (I) one representative of a municipal police
5 department;

6 (J) one representative of a sheriff's office that
7 operates a county jail;

8 (K) one representative of a community-based legal
9 services or holistic defense organization serving
10 emerging adults;

11 (L) one representative of a community-based
12 organization that provides reentry services to
13 returning citizens, including emerging adults;

14 (M) one representative of a community-based
15 organization providing education, workforce
16 development, housing, or behavioral health services to
17 emerging adults;

18 (N) one representative of an employer association,
19 trade group, or major employer who regularly hires and
20 supervises young adults who are ages 18 to 25;

21 (O) one administrator or faculty member from an
22 Illinois community college or public university with
23 expertise in student development or the behavior of
24 emerging adults;

25 (P) one licensed mental health professional or
26 developmental psychologist with expertise in late

1 adolescence and emerging adulthood; and

2 (Q) two individuals with lived experience of
3 justice involvement for offenses committed between
4 ages 18 and 25, including at least one formerly
5 incarcerated in an adult facility.

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

8 (d) Vacancies shall be filled in the manner of original
9 appointment.

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

12 Section 30. Meetings; quorum; public input. The first
13 meeting of the Task Force shall be held within 60 days after
14 the appointment of a majority of its members. Meetings of the
15 Task Force shall be called by the co-chairs. A majority of the
16 members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum. All
17 meetings of the Task Force shall be subject to the Open
18 Meetings Act. At least 3 public hearings of the Task Force
19 shall be held in different regions of Illinois.

20 Section 35. Duties. The Task Force shall:

21 (1) review Illinois law and practice affecting
22 emerging adults across pretrial, sentencing, corrections,
23 supervision, and reentry;

24 (2) examine emerging adult models in other states and

1 jurisdictions, including the United Nations Standard
2 Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures and the United
3 Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of
4 Juvenile Justice;

5 (3) integrate and summarize current developmental
6 research on emerging adults;

7 (4) analyze racial, ethnic, gender, and geographic
8 disparities affecting emerging adults;

9 (5) conduct benefit-cost and fiscal analyses of
10 current practices versus developmentally tailored
11 alternatives;

12 (6) engage stakeholders, including crime survivors,
13 law enforcement organizations, employers, higher education
14 institutions, community organizations, and individuals
15 with lived experience with the criminal justice system;

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

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

22 Section 40. Reports.

23 (a) No later than January 31, 2027, the Task Force shall
24 submit an interim report to the Governor and the General
25 Assembly summarizing its preliminary findings, analyses, and

1 recommendations. The interim report shall include any written
2 dissents or statements of concern submitted by Task Force
3 members.

4 (b) No later than December 1, 2027, the Task Force shall
5 submit a final report to the Governor and the General
6 Assembly, and the Authority shall publish the report on its
7 website. The final report shall include:

8 (1) all final findings and recommendations;

9 (2) draft statutory language, where appropriate;

10 (3) estimated fiscal impacts and benefit-cost
11 analyses; and

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

15 (c) Any member may submit a dissent or statement of
16 concern up to 14 days following the adoption of any
17 recommendation. The Authority shall publish all dissenting
18 statements alongside majority recommendations.

19 Section 45. Support; cooperation.

20 (a) The Authority shall provide staff support, research,
21 data analysis, and administrative assistance to the Task
22 Force.

23 (b) State and local agencies shall cooperate with
24 reasonable requests for data and information, consistent with
25 all confidentiality laws.

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

2 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
3 becoming law.