



Rep. Lisa Davis

**Filed: 3/5/2026**

10400HB5434ham001

LRB104 16800 WRO 35119 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 5434

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 5434 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

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,

1 and decision-making under stress.

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

6 (4) Despite these challenges, emerging adults possess  
7 strong capacity for change. Their brains retain high  
8 neuroplasticity, and appropriate interventions during this  
9 developmental period produce greater long-term benefits  
10 than comparable interventions for older adults.

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

16 (6) States and jurisdictions across the U.S. have  
17 created special laws or practices for emerging adults,  
18 including extended juvenile jurisdiction, youthful  
19 offender statutes, specialized probation units, young  
20 adult courts, and correctional units tailored to this age  
21 group.

22 (7) Illinois has taken several important steps,  
23 including youthful offender parole, the First Time Weapon  
24 Offender Program, and the Cook County SEED Program, but it  
25 has not comprehensively examined the full spectrum of  
26 policies affecting emerging adults.

1           (8) Cost-benefit analyses of diversion and  
2           developmentally tailored interventions consistently find  
3           significant taxpayer savings, due to reduced  
4           incarceration, lower recidivism, and improved education  
5           and employment outcomes.

6           (9) Illinois would benefit from a comprehensive,  
7           bipartisan, data-driven review of approaches to emerging  
8           adults across the criminal justice system.

9  
10          Section 10. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to create a  
11          bipartisan, bicameral Task Force to study and recommend  
12          strategies for developmentally appropriate, cost-effective,  
13          and equitable approaches to emerging adults in Illinois.

14          Section 15. Definitions. In this Act:

15          "Department" means the Department of Corrections.

16          "Emerging adult" means an individual who is 18 to 25 years  
17          of age.

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

20          Section 20. Establishment of Task Force. The Task Force on  
21          Emerging Adults in the Criminal Justice System is established  
22          within the Department and shall be provided staffing,  
23          research, and administrative support by the Department.

1 Section 25. Membership.

2 (a) The Task Force shall be bipartisan, bicameral, and  
3 include representation from stakeholders in the criminal  
4 justice system, organizations that work extensively with young  
5 adults, and those with lived experience in the criminal  
6 justice system as emerging adults.

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

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

11 (2) two members of the Senate appointed by the  
12 Minority Leader of the Senate;

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

16 (4) two members of the House appointed by the Minority  
17 Leader of the House; and

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

19 (A) the Director of the Department or the  
20 Director's designee;

21 (B) the Director of Juvenile Justice or the  
22 Director's designee;

23 (C) the Director of the Administrative Office of  
24 the Illinois Courts or the Director's designee;

25 (D) one circuit court judge with criminal or

1 problem-solving court experience;

2 (E) three State's Attorneys representing counties  
3 of varying size;

4 (F) three Public Defenders representing counties  
5 of varying size;

6 (G) one representative of a statewide or regional  
7 victims' rights organization;

8 (H) one representative of a municipal police  
9 department;

10 (I) one representative of a sheriff's office that  
11 operates a county jail;

12 (J) one representative of a community-based legal  
13 services or holistic defense organization serving  
14 emerging adults;

15 (K) one representative of a community-based  
16 organization that provides reentry services to  
17 returning citizens, including emerging adults;

18 (L) one representative of a community-based  
19 organization providing education, workforce  
20 development, housing, or behavioral health services to  
21 emerging adults;

22 (M) one representative of an employer association,  
23 trade group, or major employer who regularly hires and  
24 supervises young adults who are ages 18 to 25;

25 (N) one administrator or faculty member from an  
26 Illinois community college or public university with

1 expertise in student development or the behavior of  
2 emerging adults;

3 (O) one licensed mental health professional or  
4 developmental psychologist with expertise in late  
5 adolescence and emerging adulthood;

6 (P) two individuals with lived experience of  
7 justice involvement for offenses committed between  
8 ages 18 and 25, including at least one formerly  
9 incarcerated in an adult facility;

10 (Q) the Director of the Sentencing Policy Advisory  
11 Committee;

12 (R) a representative of an association that  
13 represents attorneys statewide; and

14 (S) a representative of a philanthropic  
15 organization with expertise and experience in funding  
16 services and policies for justice-involved emerging  
17 adults.

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

20 (d) Vacancies shall be filled in the manner of original  
21 appointment.

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

24 Section 30. Meetings; quorum; public input. The first  
25 meeting of the Task Force shall be held within 60 days after

1 the appointment of a majority of its members. Meetings of the  
2 Task Force shall be called by the co-chairs. A majority of the  
3 members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum. All  
4 meetings of the Task Force shall be subject to the Open  
5 Meetings Act. At least 3 public hearings of the Task Force  
6 shall be held in different regions of Illinois.

7 Section 35. Duties. The Task Force shall:

8 (1) review Illinois law and practice affecting  
9 emerging adults across pretrial, sentencing, corrections,  
10 supervision, and reentry;

11 (2) examine emerging adult models in other states and  
12 jurisdictions, including the United Nations Standard  
13 Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures and the United  
14 Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of  
15 Juvenile Justice;

16 (3) integrate and summarize current developmental  
17 research on emerging adults;

18 (4) analyze racial, ethnic, gender, and geographic  
19 disparities affecting emerging adults;

20 (5) conduct benefit-cost and fiscal analyses of  
21 current practices versus developmentally tailored  
22 alternatives;

23 (6) engage stakeholders, including crime survivors,  
24 law enforcement organizations, employers, higher education  
25 institutions, community organizations, and individuals

1 with lived experience with the criminal justice system;

2 (7) develop recommendations for statutory, policy, and  
3 programmatic improvements; and

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

8 Section 40. Reports.

9 (a) No later than January 31, 2027, the Task Force shall  
10 submit an interim report to the Governor and the General  
11 Assembly summarizing its preliminary findings, analyses, and  
12 recommendations. The interim report shall include any written  
13 dissents or statements of concern submitted by Task Force  
14 members.

15 (b) No later than December 1, 2027, the Task Force shall  
16 submit a final report to the Governor and the General  
17 Assembly, and the Department shall publish the report on its  
18 website. The final report shall include:

19 (1) all final findings and recommendations;

20 (2) draft statutory language, where appropriate;

21 (3) estimated fiscal impacts and benefit-cost  
22 analyses; and

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

1           (c) Any member may submit a dissent or statement of  
2 concern up to 14 days following the adoption of any  
3 recommendation. The Department shall publish all dissenting  
4 statements alongside majority recommendations.

5           Section 45. Support; cooperation.

6           (a) The Department shall provide staff support, research,  
7 data analysis, and administrative assistance to the Task  
8 Force.

9           (b) State and local agencies shall cooperate with  
10 reasonable requests for data and information, consistent with  
11 all confidentiality laws.

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

13           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
14 becoming law."