

**104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY****State of Illinois****2025 and 2026****SB0223**

Introduced 1/22/2025, by Sen. Michael W. Halpin

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

730 ILCS 5/3-2-5.1 new

Amends the Unified Code of Corrections. Provides that the Act may be referred to as the Christopher James Act. Amends the Unified Code of Corrections. Provides that the Department of Corrections shall establish a Safety Committee comprised of bargaining unit and non-bargaining unit Department employees. Provides that at least 40% of committee members shall be bargaining unit employees. Provides that the Committee shall assess the Department's compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act and any other applicable workplace health and safety laws and shall make recommendations for improvements to processes and procedures to improve workplace safety. Provides that the Committee shall prepare an annual report on the Department's workplace safety efforts and plans for the future to further promote safety in the workplace. Provides that the Committee shall prepare an annual report on the Department's workplace safety efforts and plans for the future to further promote safety in the workplace. Provides that the Director of Corrections shall appoint the non-bargaining unit members of the Safety Committee. Provides that the Director of Corrections shall appoint 60% of the Safety Committee, including the non-bargaining unit members and up to 2 members of the International Union of Operating Engineers. Provides that the exclusive collective bargaining representative of the majority of the Department of Corrections employees shall appoint the remaining 40% of the Safety Committee. Provides that the Director of Corrections shall appoint the chairperson of the Committee. Provides that the appointed chairperson of the Committee shall have a professional background and training in an environmental health and safety field. Provides that the chairperson of the Safety Committee, or the chairperson's designee, may conduct a workplace safety inspection of any property, equipment, or workplace under the control or supervision of the Department at any time and shall conduct random unannounced inspections as often as deemed necessary. Provides that the jurisdiction of the Safety Committee is strictly limited to the Occupational Safety and Health Act and any other applicable workplace health and safety laws. Provides that these provisions are subject to appropriations.

LRB104 07186 RLC 17223 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. This Act may be referred to as the Christopher  
5 James Act.

6 Section 5. The Unified Code of Corrections is amended by  
7 adding Section 3-2-5.1 as follows:

8 (730 ILCS 5/3-2-5.1 new)

9 Sec. 3-2-5.1. Department to establish a Safety Committee.

10 (a) The Department shall establish a Safety Committee  
11 comprised of bargaining unit and non-bargaining unit  
12 Department employees. At least 40% of committee members shall  
13 be bargaining unit employees. The Committee shall assess the  
14 Department's compliance with the Occupational Safety and  
15 Health Act and any other applicable workplace health and  
16 safety laws and shall make recommendations for improvements to  
17 processes and procedures to improve workplace safety. The  
18 Committee shall prepare an annual report on the Department's  
19 workplace safety efforts and plans for the future to further  
20 promote safety in the workplace.

21 (b) The Director of Corrections shall appoint 60% of the  
22 Safety Committee, including the non-bargaining unit members

1 and up to 2 members of the International Union of Operating  
2 Engineers. The exclusive collective bargaining representative  
3 of the majority of the Department of Corrections employees  
4 shall appoint the remaining 40% of the Safety Committee. The  
5 Director of Corrections shall appoint the chairperson of the  
6 Committee. The appointed chairperson of the Committee shall  
7 have a professional background and training in an  
8 environmental health and safety field. The chairperson of the  
9 Safety Committee, or the chairperson's designee, may conduct a  
10 workplace safety inspection of any property, equipment, or  
11 workplace under the control or supervision of the Department  
12 at any time and shall conduct random unannounced inspections  
13 as often as deemed necessary.

14 (c) The chairperson of the Safety Committee, or the  
15 chairperson's designee, may also investigate training  
16 practices for the use of equipment and may direct that  
17 alternative trainings be used. The Committee chairperson, or  
18 the chairperson's designee, may take any piece of equipment  
19 lacking industry standard safeguards out of service. The  
20 jurisdiction of the Safety Committee is strictly limited to  
21 the Occupational Safety and Health Act and any other  
22 applicable workplace health and safety laws.

23 (d) The provisions of this Section are subject to  
24 appropriations.