

1 AN ACT concerning government.

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

4 Section 5. The Unified Code of Corrections is amended by
5 adding Section 3-2.5-105 as follows:

6 (730 ILCS 5/3-2.5-105 new)

7 Sec. 3-2.5-105. Child First Reform Task Force.

8 (a) The Child First Reform Task Force is created. The
9 purpose of the Task Force is to review and study the current
10 state of juvenile detention centers across the State. The Task
11 Force shall consider the conditions and administration of
12 individual juvenile detention centers, identify the resources
13 needed to consistently meet the minimum standards set by the
14 Department of Juvenile Justice and the Administrative Office
15 of the Illinois Courts, evaluate complaints arising out of
16 juvenile detention centers, identify best practices to provide
17 detention center care, propose community-based alternatives to
18 juvenile detention, and advise on the creation of the Youth
19 Advisory Agency with youth justice advisors and district youth
20 advisory offices in each circuit court district. The Task
21 Force shall also make recommendations for policy changes at
22 the Department of Juvenile Justice to support child-first
23 directives aligned with the policies and practices established

1 in the Convention on the Rights of the Child that was adopted
2 by the United Nations General Assembly on November 20, 1989,
3 and became effective as an international treaty on September
4 2, 1990.

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

6 (1) A member of the Senate appointed by the President
7 of the Senate.

8 (2) A member of the Senate appointed by the Minority
9 Leader of the Senate.

10 (3) A member of the House appointed by the Speaker of
11 the House.

12 (4) A member of the House appointed by the Minority
13 Leader of the House.

14 (5) A member appointed by the Director of Juvenile
15 Justice.

16 (6) A member appointed by the Director of Human
17 Rights.

18 (7) A member appointed by the Independent Juvenile
19 Ombudsperson.

20 (8) A member appointed by the Independent Juvenile
21 Ombudsperson who represents an organization that advocates
22 for a community-based rehabilitation or systems impacted
23 individuals.

24 (9) A member appointed by the Independent Juvenile
25 Ombudsperson who represents an organization that advocates
26 for juvenile justice reform.

1 (10) Two members appointed by the Illinois Juvenile
2 Justice Commission.

3 (11) A member appointed by the Director of the
4 Governor's Office of Management and Budget.

5 (12) One member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor
6 who is a member of a county board of a county operating a
7 county detention facility.

8 (13) One member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor
9 who is a juvenile detention officer, probation officer, or
10 other facility employee at a county detention facility who
11 makes the determination on whether to detain a juvenile at
12 the county detention facility.

13 (14) A member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor
14 from the Justice, Equity, and Opportunity Initiative.

15 (15) Two members appointed by the Director of Juvenile
16 Justice who are over the age of 18 and who have served any
17 amount of time in a county juvenile detention facility.

18 (16) A member appointed by the Director of the
19 Illinois State Police.

20 (17) A member appointed by the Secretary of Human
21 Services.

22 The Task Force may include 2 additional members appointed
23 by the Illinois Supreme Court.

24 (c) Appointments to the Task Force shall be made within 90
25 days after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the
26 104th General Assembly. Members shall serve without

1 compensation.

2 (d) The Task Force shall meet at the call of a co-chair at
3 least quarterly to fulfill its duties. The members of the Task
4 Force shall select 2 co-chairs from among themselves at their
5 first meeting.

6 (e) The Task Force shall:

7 (1) engage community organizations, interested groups,
8 and members of the public for the purpose of assessing:

9 (A) community-based alternatives to detention and
10 the adoption and implementation of such alternatives;

11 (B) the needs of juveniles detained in county
12 detention facilities;

13 (C) strategic planning for a transition away from
14 juvenile detention facilities;

15 (D) the establishment of more accountability
16 between county facilities and the Department of
17 Juvenile Justice, or if there would be a benefit for
18 the State in operating detention centers for persons
19 awaiting sentencing or court determination, in lieu of
20 counties providing this service, when in extreme cases
21 the county detention center is unable to pass minimum
22 standards;

23 (E) evidence-based best practices regarding the
24 delivery of services within detention centers,
25 including healthcare and education;

26 (F) the integration of restorative practices into

1 the juvenile detention system, focusing on healing,
2 accountability, and community restoration;

3 (G) the implementation of child-first directives
4 within the Department of Juvenile Justice and
5 throughout the State;

6 (H) strategic planning for creating a Youth
7 Advisory Agency with district youth advisory offices
8 in each circuit court district;

9 (I) the implementation of youth justice advisors
10 within the Youth Advisory Agency to guide juveniles
11 through the juvenile justice process, including
12 through interactions with law enforcement, the courts,
13 and community-based alternatives to detention;

14 (J) how county juvenile detention facilities are
15 currently funded;

16 (K) how to encourage the Illinois Supreme Court
17 and relevant authorities to require, as a consistent
18 part of continuing education, training on child-first
19 directives, child rights, and the unique needs of
20 minors in the justice system; and

21 (L) the establishment of training requirements by
22 the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board
23 for law enforcement on child-first directives, child
24 rights, and the unique needs of minors in the justice
25 system;

26 (2) review available research and data on the benefits

1 of community-based alternatives to detention versus the
2 benefits of juvenile detention;

3 (3) review Administrative Office of the Illinois
4 Courts, Department of Juvenile Justice, and Independent
5 Ombudsperson monitoring reports to identify specific
6 instances of non-compliance arising out of county juvenile
7 detention facilities and patterns of noncompliance
8 Statewide; and

9 (4) make recommendations or suggestions for changes to
10 the County Shelter Care and Detention Home Act and the
11 Unified Code of Corrections, including changes and
12 improvements to the juvenile detention system.

13 (f) On or before January 1, 2026, the Task Force shall
14 publish a final report of its findings and non-binding
15 recommendations. The report shall, at a minimum, detail
16 findings and recommendations related to the duties of the Task
17 Force and the following:

18 (1) the process and standards used to determine
19 whether a juvenile will be detained in a county facility;

20 (2) information and recommendations on detention
21 facility standards, including how to ensure compliance
22 with minimum standards, which facilities are chronically
23 noncompliant and the reasons for noncompliance, including
24 specific instances of noncompliance, and penalties for
25 noncompliance;

26 (3) strategic planning suggestions to transition away

1 from juvenile detention;

2 (4) how county juvenile detention facilities are
3 currently funded;

4 (5) recommendations on whether to establish more
5 accountability between county facilities and the
6 Department of Juvenile Justice, or whether the operation
7 of all detention centers should be transferred to the
8 Department of Juvenile Justice;

9 (6) how to incorporate restorative practices into the
10 juvenile justice system;

11 (7) implementing child-first directives throughout the
12 State;

13 (8) strategic planning suggestions on creating a Youth
14 Advisory Agency with youth justice advisors and district
15 youth advisory offices in each circuit court district;

16 (9) recommendations on the duties of youth justice
17 advisors and the role they will serve in assisting
18 juveniles through the juvenile justice process, including
19 through interactions with law enforcement, the courts, and
20 community-based alternatives to detention, and
21 recommendations on how many youth justice advisors to
22 staff for each circuit court district;

23 (10) strategic planning suggestions to encourage the
24 Illinois Supreme Court and relevant authorities to
25 require, as a consistent part of continuing education,
26 training on child-first directives, child rights, and the

1 unique needs of minors in the justice system; and

2 (11) strategic planning to require the Illinois Law
3 Enforcement Training Standards Board to establish training
4 for law enforcement on child-first directives, child
5 rights, and the unique needs of minors in the justice
6 system.

7 The final report shall be submitted to the General
8 Assembly, the Offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor,
9 the Chief Judge of each circuit court operating a county
10 detention facility, the county board of each county operating
11 a county detention facility, and the Office of the Attorney
12 General.

13 (g) The Department of Juvenile Justice shall provide
14 administrative support for the Task Force.

15 (h) This Section is repealed on January 1, 2028.

16 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
17 becoming law.