

**SB2308**



**104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**State of Illinois**

**2025 and 2026**

**SB2308**

Introduced 2/7/2025, by Sen. Terri Bryant

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

730 ILCS 5/3-2.5-15

Amends the Unified Code of Corrections. Provides that, notwithstanding other provisions of law to the contrary, any person serving as a guard of youth at a Department of Juvenile Justice Youth Center must: (1) be over the age of 21 and (2) have a high school diploma or equivalent. Provides that no social work experience or college education is required to serve as a guard of youth at a Department of Juvenile Justice Youth Center.

LRB104 09694 RLC 19760 b

**A BILL FOR**

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 5. The Unified Code of Corrections is amended by  
5 changing Section 3-2.5-15 as follows:

6 (730 ILCS 5/3-2.5-15)

7 Sec. 3-2.5-15. Department of Juvenile Justice; assumption  
8 of duties of the Juvenile Division.

9 (a) The Department of Juvenile Justice shall assume the  
10 rights, powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Juvenile  
11 Division of the Department of Corrections. Personnel, books,  
12 records, property, and unencumbered appropriations pertaining  
13 to the Juvenile Division of the Department of Corrections  
14 shall be transferred to the Department of Juvenile Justice on  
15 the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 94th General  
16 Assembly. Any rights of employees or the State under the  
17 Personnel Code or any other contract or plan shall be  
18 unaffected by this transfer.

19 (b) Department of Juvenile Justice personnel who are hired  
20 by the Department on or after the effective date of this  
21 amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly and who  
22 participate or assist in the rehabilitative and vocational  
23 training of delinquent youths, supervise the daily activities

1 involving direct and continuing responsibility for the youth's  
2 security, welfare and development, or participate in the  
3 personal rehabilitation of delinquent youth by training,  
4 supervising, and assisting lower level personnel who perform  
5 these duties must: (1) be over the age of 21 and (2) have a  
6 high school diploma or equivalent and either (A) a bachelor's  
7 or advanced degree from an accredited college or university or  
8 (B) 2 or more years of experience providing direct care to  
9 youth in the form of residential care, coaching, case  
10 management, or mentoring. This requirement shall not apply to  
11 security, clerical, food service, and maintenance staff that  
12 do not have direct and regular contact with youth. The degree  
13 requirements specified in this subsection (b) are not required  
14 of persons who provide vocational training and who have  
15 adequate knowledge in the skill for which they are providing  
16 the vocational training.

17 (c) Subsection (b) of this Section does not apply to  
18 personnel transferred to the Department of Juvenile Justice on  
19 the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 94th General  
20 Assembly.

21 (c-1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) or  
22 any other law to the contrary, any person serving as a guard of  
23 youth at a Department of Juvenile Justice Youth Center must:  
24 (1) be over the age of 21 and (2) have a high school diploma or  
25 equivalent. No social work experience or college education is  
26 required to serve as a guard of youth at a Department of

1 Juvenile Justice Youth Center.

2 (d) The Department shall be under the direction of the  
3 Director of Juvenile Justice as provided in this Code.

4 (e) The Director shall organize divisions within the  
5 Department and shall assign functions, powers, duties, and  
6 personnel as required by law. The Director may create other  
7 divisions and may assign other functions, powers, duties, and  
8 personnel as may be necessary or desirable to carry out the  
9 functions and responsibilities vested by law in the  
10 Department. The Director may, with the approval of the Office  
11 of the Governor, assign to and share functions, powers,  
12 duties, and personnel with other State agencies such that  
13 administrative services and administrative facilities are  
14 provided by a shared administrative service center. Where  
15 possible, shared services which impact youth should be done  
16 with child-serving agencies. These administrative services may  
17 include, but are not limited to, all of the following  
18 functions: budgeting, accounting related functions, auditing,  
19 human resources, legal, procurement, training, data collection  
20 and analysis, information technology, internal investigations,  
21 intelligence, legislative services, emergency response  
22 capability, statewide transportation services, and general  
23 office support.

24 (f) The Department of Juvenile Justice may enter into  
25 intergovernmental cooperation agreements under which minors  
26 adjudicated delinquent and committed to the Department of

1 Juvenile Justice may participate in county juvenile impact  
2 incarceration programs established under Section 3-6039 of the  
3 Counties Code.

4 (g) The Department of Juvenile Justice must comply with  
5 the ethnic and racial background data collection procedures  
6 provided in Section 4.5 of the Criminal Identification Act.

7 (h) The Department of Juvenile Justice shall implement a  
8 wellness program to support health and wellbeing among staff  
9 and service providers within the Department of Juvenile  
10 Justice environment. The Department of Juvenile Justice shall  
11 establish response teams to provide support to employees and  
12 staff affected by events that are both duty-related and not  
13 duty-related and provide training to response team members.  
14 The Department's wellness program shall be accessible to any  
15 Department employee or service provider, including contractual  
16 employees and approved volunteers. The wellness program may  
17 include information sharing, education and activities designed  
18 to support health and well-being within the Department's  
19 environment. Access to wellness response team support shall be  
20 voluntary and remain confidential.

21 (Source: P.A. 102-616, eff. 1-1-22; 103-290, eff. 7-28-23.)