

SB3351



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB3351

Introduced 2/4/2026, 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 18778 RLC 32221 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 (i) The Department of Juvenile Justice shall collaborate
22 with the Department of Human Services and other State agencies
23 to develop and implement screening and follow-up protocols for
24 intake and aftercare personnel on identification and response
25 to children and adolescents who show indications of being
26 victims of human trafficking or at risk of human trafficking.

1 Protocols should include assessment and provision of
2 pre-release and post-release housing, legal, medical, mental
3 health, and substance use disorder treatment services and
4 recognize the specialized needs of victims of human
5 trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

6 (j) The Department of Juvenile Justice shall require the
7 juvenile justice system to provide access to specialized
8 services for identified trafficked children and youth. In this
9 subsection, "specialized services" means substance-use
10 disorder, mental health, medical and other support services by
11 Department employees and contractors who have completed
12 victim-centered, trauma-informed training specifically
13 designed to address the complex psychological and physical
14 needs of victims of human trafficking, sexual exploitation,
15 and involvement in the sex trade.

16 (k) The Department of Juvenile Justice shall require
17 statewide training for juvenile justice agencies and their
18 direct service personnel on identification and response to
19 child trafficking.

20 (Source: P.A. 103-290, eff. 7-28-23; 104-159, eff. 1-1-26.)