



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB4162

Introduced 2/25/2026, by Sen. Adriane Johnson

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Home for Good Act. Provides that the Home for Good Program is created as a statewide coordinated program designed to provide housing and services to persons with arrest and conviction records and persons who are currently or formerly incarcerated (targeted population). Provides that the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) shall be responsible for providing appropriate resources to potential applicants to acquire, develop, and rehabilitate permanent affordable housing units and transitional housing units that are designated exclusively for the targeted population. Provides that the granting and application process shall follow the existing program model of the Housing for Justice Involved Individuals Program. Requires IHDA to be responsible for providing site-based rental housing subsidies to community organizations who work with the targeted population which may be used to enter into lease agreements and master lease agreements for the purpose of providing housing for program participants, and tenant-based rental subsidies. Requires the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) to provide appropriate resources to community organizations who work with the targeted population. Provides that such resources shall be used to provide case management and reentry navigation services to Program participants; and to make supportive services available to Program participants, which may include housing and related services, physical and behavioral health, education, family reunification and relationship building, transportation, job training, acquiring vital documents, and meeting basic needs. Contains provisions concerning a requirement that a housing needs assessment tool be administered to all individuals exiting the Illinois Department of Corrections; a requirement that the Executive Director of IHDA create a Home for Good Institute to provide training and technical assistance to community organizations who intend to acquire, develop, rehabilitate, or operate permanent and transitional housing units for the targeted population; the establishment of the Home for Good Oversight Board; and rulemaking authority to implement the Act. Effective immediately.

LRB104 21001 KTG 34884 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning housing.

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

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Home
5 for Good Act.

6 Section 5. Findings.

7 (a) The General Assembly recognizes the following:

8 (1) The Illinois prison system releases 15,000 people
9 each year, but without a cogent and unified statewide
10 system to support housing security and reduce the risk of
11 recidivism.

12 (2) A 2025 Loyola University Chicago Study found that
13 between 66% and 80% of individuals incarcerated in the
14 Illinois Department of Corrections experienced housing
15 instability or homelessness within 3 years prior to their
16 incarceration, making them at risk of homelessness after
17 prison as well.

18 (3) Returning residents often struggle to access
19 housing and stable jobs because of State laws and policies
20 that permit housing discrimination against people with
21 records. For example, the Illinois Human Rights Act only
22 protects people with arrest records from housing-related
23 discrimination, but offers no such protections to persons

1 with conviction records.

2 (4) The current U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
3 Development policy on homelessness also creates barriers
4 that prevent formerly incarcerated individuals from
5 accessing permanent housing programs through the homeless
6 system.

7 (5) A 2023 study of the Illinois Criminal Justice
8 Information Authority found that formerly incarcerated
9 people have an average unemployment rate of 45% and lower
10 annual wages, with Black individuals who are formerly
11 incarcerated having the highest rates of unemployment.

12 (6) As a result, many people cannot comply with the
13 conditions of release, or they turn to the underground
14 economy to support themselves and their families.

15 (7) Research shows that housing instability,
16 homelessness, unemployment, and low wages are among the
17 factors that contribute to the nearly 40% of previously
18 incarcerated people returning to prison within 3 years.

19 (8) According to a Spring 2025 Illinois Sentencing
20 Policy Advisory Council report, Illinois taxpayers already
21 pay \$89,408 annually for each person incarcerated in State
22 prisons.

23 (9) When a person returns to prison, the total cost
24 rises to \$200,000, including direct and indirect costs,
25 resulting in unnecessary and expensive costs for all
26 Illinoisans.

1 (10) The State government has a responsibility to
2 increase community safety and individual and family
3 well-being by addressing the housing needs of persons
4 leaving incarceration.

5 (11) Affordable, safe, and stable housing is a
6 fundamental necessity for successful reentry and family
7 stability.

8 (12) Affordable, safe, and stable housing for
9 returning residents also improves and promotes public
10 safety.

11 (13) Without a dedicated commitment of affordable,
12 safe, and stable housing providing a mix of transitional
13 and permanent affordable housing that is informed by the
14 housing needs and policy perspectives of returning
15 residents, the State is failing to meet the needs of its
16 residents and communities.

17 (b) The General Assembly also recognizes that there are
18 several independent strategies in place now that increase
19 access to safe, affordable housing for returning residents and
20 improve and promote public safety, including:

21 (1) The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA),
22 as administrator of the Rental Housing Support Program,
23 created the Re-Entry Program, providing 81 Reentry Rental
24 Housing Support Program subsidies across the State with
25 the support of housing navigators who build relationships
26 with landlords and connect returning residents to

1 resources to support their success.

2 (2) IHDA's Housing for Justice Involved Individuals
3 Program provides grants to community organizations to
4 acquire, build, or rehabilitate housing for the purpose of
5 creating transitional reentry housing beds across the
6 State, resulting in over 500 beds statewide.

7 (3) IHDA's Housing Task Force added "justice-involved
8 individuals" as a priority population for IHDA's 2026
9 Annual Comprehensive Housing Plan.

10 (4) The Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act created the
11 Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) program, which reinvests
12 a portion of cannabis tax revenue into communities in
13 order to reduce gun violence through intervention and
14 prevention, improve reentry and diversion services for
15 people involved with the criminal justice system, provide
16 access to legal representation and advice, encourage
17 investment and economic growth, enhance youth development,
18 and support programs that improve the social determinants
19 of health.

20 (5) Through the 2026 R3 Notice of Funding Opportunity
21 (CSFA Number 546-00-2378), the Illinois Criminal Justice
22 Information Authority and the R3 Board have committed up
23 to \$35,000,000 as a set aside for reentry services, civil
24 legal aid services, and economic development in order to
25 provide returning residents with support and economic
26 opportunities.

1 (c) It is the intent of the General Assembly to codify into
2 law a comprehensive and unified statewide reentry program
3 incorporating the existing reentry programs of the Illinois
4 Housing Development Authority and the Illinois Criminal
5 Justice Information Authority that:

6 (1) will meet a returning resident's housing needs and
7 is community-based;

8 (2) includes ongoing active involvement by formerly
9 incarcerated persons;

10 (3) provides a mix of transitional and permanent
11 affordable housing units, rental subsidies, and reentry
12 services supported by sustained and adequate funding; and

13 (4) will have a positive long-term return on
14 investment for this State.

15 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

16 "Board" means the Home for Good Oversight Board.

17 "ICJIA" means the Illinois Criminal Justice Information
18 Authority.

19 "IDOC" means the Illinois Department of Corrections.

20 "IHDA" means the Illinois Housing Development Authority.

21 "Institute" means the Home for Good Institute.

22 "Program" means the Home for Good Program.

23 "Targeted population" means persons with arrest and
24 conviction records and persons who are currently or formerly
25 incarcerated.

1 Section 15. Home for Good Program. The Home for Good
2 Program is created as a statewide coordinated program designed
3 to provide housing and services to the targeted population.
4 The Program shall contain the following elements:

5 (1) IHDA shall be responsible for providing
6 appropriate resources to potential applicants to acquire,
7 develop, and rehabilitate permanent affordable housing
8 units and transitional housing units that are designated
9 exclusively for the targeted population. The granting and
10 application process shall follow the existing program
11 model of the Housing for Justice Involved Individuals
12 Program. IHDA shall also be responsible for providing
13 site-based rental housing subsidies to community
14 organizations that work with the targeted population which
15 may be used to enter into lease agreements and master
16 lease agreements for the purpose of providing housing for
17 program participants and tenant-based rental subsidies.

18 (2) ICJIA shall provide appropriate resources to
19 community organizations who work with the targeted
20 population. These resources shall be used to provide case
21 management and reentry navigation services to Program
22 participants. In addition, these resources shall be used
23 to make supportive services available to Program
24 participants. Services may include housing and related
25 services, physical and behavioral health, education,

1 family reunification and relationship building,
2 transportation, job training, acquiring vital documents,
3 and meeting basic needs.

4 (3) The Program shall require that a housing needs
5 assessment tool is administered to all individuals exiting
6 IDOC custody no later than 12 months prior to their
7 release date. The assessment shall be administered by a
8 community-based organization with demonstrable expertise
9 in reentry services, behavioral health, and permanent and
10 transitional affordable housing. The housing needs
11 assessment shall determine an individual's vulnerability
12 to housing instability or homelessness, and the assessment
13 shall identify the individual's behavioral health needs.
14 The purpose of the behavioral health element of the
15 assessment is to help potential participants successfully
16 secure housing and shall not be used as a reason to exclude
17 potential participants from the Program.

18 (4) The Executive Directors of IHDA and ICJIA and the
19 Director of IDOC shall jointly create the Interagency Home
20 for Good Division. The Interagency Home for Good Division
21 shall be responsible for coordinating the activities of
22 the Program and designed to serve the housing and support
23 service needs of the targeted population.

24 (5) The Executive Director of IHDA shall create the
25 Home for Good Institute. The Home for Good Institute shall
26 provide training and technical assistance to community

1 organizations who intend to acquire, develop,
2 rehabilitate, or operate permanent and transitional
3 housing units for the targeted population. Community
4 organizations that successfully complete the training from
5 the Institute shall be awarded additional points on any
6 applications for funding from IHDA, including the Home for
7 Good Program.

8 (6) The Home for Good Oversight Board is created for
9 the purposes of fostering collaboration between ICJIA,
10 IHDA, and IDOC and between these State agencies and
11 community-based organizations, and to ensure the equitable
12 provision of resources for affordable housing and support
13 services throughout the State based upon the geographic
14 distribution of incarcerated people exiting IDOC. The
15 Governor shall appoint members, unless otherwise
16 specified, not to exceed 25, to the Home for Good
17 Oversight Board. The Board shall be chaired by the chair
18 of the R3 Board, or his or her designee, and staffed by
19 ICJIA and IHDA personnel. Members of this Board shall
20 include:

21 (A) the Executive Director of ICJIA or his or her
22 designee;

23 (B) the Executive Director of IHDA or his or her
24 designee;

25 (C) the Director of IDOC or his or her designee;

26 (D) the Reentry Director at the Department of

1 Human Services or his or her designee;

2 (E) the Director of Reentry for the City of
3 Chicago or his or her designee;

4 (F) the Executive Director of the Illinois
5 Sentencing Policy Advisory Council or his or her
6 designee;

7 (G) the Chief Homelessness Officer or his or her
8 designee;

9 (H) 5 reentry advocates, at least 3 of whom must be
10 previously incarcerated; however, advocates who are
11 officers, members, or employees of entities that
12 receive money through the Program are not eligible for
13 appointment to the Board;

14 (I) one representative of an affordable housing
15 development organization;

16 (J) one representative of an affordable housing
17 advocacy organization;

18 (K) one reentry researcher;

19 (L) 5 community members with proportional
20 representation from urban, suburban, and rural areas
21 throughout the State; and

22 (M) one person each appointed by:

23 (i) the President of the Senate;

24 (ii) the Minority Leader of the Senate;

25 (iii) the Speaker of the House of
26 Representatives; and

1 (iv) the Minority Leader of the House of
2 Representatives.

3 At least 5 of the up to 25 members appointed to the
4 Board by the Governor shall have personally experienced
5 incarceration and reentry.

6 (7) The Home for Good Oversight Board shall monitor
7 the operation of the Interagency Home for Good Division
8 and the Home for Good Institute and ensure that the
9 Program fosters collaboration among State agencies and
10 community organizations, and establish a network of
11 housing providers and service providers for the Program.

12 (8) The Home for Good Oversight Board shall annually
13 submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a public
14 report containing data on the number of persons served,
15 the effectiveness of the Program as measured by criteria
16 established by the Home for Good Oversight Board, the
17 amount and type of housing made available through the
18 Program, the return on investment generated through
19 savings and economic activity resulting from the
20 implementation of the Program, a forecast of the number of
21 people exiting State prisons who are at risk of
22 experiencing housing instability and homelessness each
23 fiscal year, and a forecast of the number of affordable
24 homes needed to meet the needs of Program participants.

25 Section 20. Rules. IHDA, ICJIA, and IDOC shall jointly

1 adopt rules to implement this Act. The rules must describe how
2 a housing needs assessment will be administered by
3 community-based organizations with expertise in providing
4 reentry services and permanent and transitional housing to
5 persons incarcerated in IDOC no later than 12 months prior to
6 their release date.

7 The rules must describe how a housing needs assessment
8 will make the determinations described in paragraph (3) of
9 Section 15.

10 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
11 becoming law.