



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB2116

Introduced 2/26/2021, by Sen. Robert Peters

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

730 ILCS 200/5
730 ILCS 200/10
730 ILCS 200/15
730 ILCS 200/20
730 ILCS 200/21 new
730 ILCS 200/25
730 ILCS 200/30
730 ILCS 200/35

Amends the Re-Entering Citizens Civics Education Act. Expands the program to persons committed to a Department of Juvenile Justice facility. Provides that the workshop held at the Department of Juvenile Justice shall consist of 270 minutes of instruction. Provides that the civil education program in the Department of Juvenile Justice shall be taught by 2 co-facilitators. Provides that one of the co-facilitators shall be a member of an established nonpartisan civil organization and the other a committed person at the Department of Juvenile Justice who is specifically trained in voting rights education and who has been trained by an established nonpartisan civil organization. Effective January 1, 2022.

LRB102 11674 KMF 17008 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 5. The Re-Entering Citizens Civics Education Act
5 is amended by changing Sections 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35
6 and by adding Section 21 as follows:

7 (730 ILCS 200/5)

8 Sec. 5. Definitions. In this Act:

9 "Co-facilitators" means a committed person at the
10 Department of Juvenile Justice who is specifically trained in
11 voting rights education, who shall assist in conducting voting
12 and civics education workshops for committed persons at the
13 Department of Juvenile Justice who are scheduled for discharge
14 within 12 months.

15 "Committed person" means a person committed and confined
16 to and in the physical custody of the Department of
17 Corrections or the Department of Juvenile Justice.

18 "Commitment" means a judicially determined placement in
19 the physical custody of the Department of Corrections or the
20 Department of Juvenile Justice on the basis of conviction or
21 delinquency.

22 "Correctional institution or facility" means a Department
23 of Corrections or Department of Juvenile Justice building or

1 part of a Department of Corrections or Department of Juvenile
2 Justice building where committed persons are detained in a
3 secure manner.

4 ~~"Department" includes the Department of Corrections and~~
5 ~~the Department of Juvenile Justice, unless the text solely~~
6 ~~specifies a particular Department.~~

7 "Detainee" means a committed person in the physical
8 custody of the Department of Corrections or the Department of
9 Juvenile Justice.

10 "Director" includes the Directors ~~Director~~ of the
11 Department of Corrections and the Department of Juvenile
12 Justice unless the text solely specifies a particular
13 Director.

14 "Discharge" means the end of a sentence or the final
15 termination of a committed person's ~~detainee's~~ physical
16 commitment to and confinement in the Department of
17 Corrections. Discharge means the end of a sentence or the
18 final termination of a committed person's physical commitment
19 to and confinement in the ~~or~~ Department of Juvenile Justice.

20 "Peer educator" means an incarcerated citizen at the
21 Department of Corrections who is specifically trained in
22 voting rights education, who shall conduct voting and civics
23 education workshops for committed persons at the Department of
24 Corrections who are ~~detainees~~ scheduled for discharge within
25 12 months.

26 "Program" means the nonpartisan peer education and

1 information instruction established by this Act.

2 "Re-entering citizen" means any United States citizen who
3 is: 17 years of age or older; in the physical custody of the
4 Department of Corrections or Department of Juvenile Justice;
5 and scheduled to be re-entering society within 12 months.

6 (Source: P.A. 101-441, eff. 1-1-20; revised 8-19-20.)

7 (730 ILCS 200/10)

8 Sec. 10. Purpose; program. The Department of Corrections
9 and the Department of Juvenile Justice shall provide a
10 nonpartisan peer-led civics program throughout the
11 correctional institutions of this State to teach civics to
12 soon-to-be released citizens who will be re-entering society.
13 The goal of the program is to promote the successful
14 integration of re-entering citizens, promote democracy, and
15 reduce rates of recidivism within this State. For young people
16 in particular, the study of civics helps people acquire and
17 learn to use the skills, knowledge, and attitudes that will
18 prepare them to be engaged citizens throughout their lives.
19 This program shall coincide with and enhance existing laws to
20 ensure that re-entering citizens understand their civic
21 responsibility and know how to secure or, if applicable,
22 regain their right to vote as part of the exit process.

23 (Source: P.A. 101-441, eff. 1-1-20.)

24 (730 ILCS 200/15)

1 Sec. 15. Curriculum and eligibility. The civics peer
2 education program shall consist of a rigorous curriculum, and
3 participants shall be instructed on subjects including, but
4 not limited to, voting rights, governmental institutions,
5 current affairs, and simulations of voter registration,
6 election, and democratic processes. Each workshop held at the
7 Department of Corrections shall consist of 3 sessions that are
8 90 minutes each and that do not need to be taken consecutively.
9 The workshops held at the Department of Juvenile Justice shall
10 consist of 270 minutes of instruction. The Department of
11 Corrections and the Department of Juvenile Justice ~~The~~
12 ~~Department~~ must offer re-entering citizens scheduled to be
13 discharged within 12 months with the civics peer education
14 program, and each re-entering citizen must enroll in the
15 program one to 12 months prior to his or her expected date of
16 release. This workshop must be included in the standard exit
17 process. The Department of Corrections and the Department of
18 Juvenile Justice ~~The Department~~ should aim to include this
19 workshop in conjunction with other pre-release procedures and
20 movements. Delays in a workshop being provided shall not cause
21 delays in discharge. Committed persons ~~Detainees~~ may not be
22 prevented from attending workshops due to staffing shortages,
23 lockdowns, or to conflicts with family or legal visits, court
24 dates, medical appointments, commissary visits, recreational
25 sessions, dining, work, class, or bathing schedules. In case
26 of conflict or staffing shortages, re-entering citizens must

1 be given full opportunity to attend a workshop at a later time.
2 (Source: P.A. 101-441, eff. 1-1-20.)

3 (730 ILCS 200/20)

4 Sec. 20. Peer educator training. The civics peer
5 education program shall be taught by peer educators who are
6 citizens incarcerated in Department of Corrections ~~and~~
7 ~~Department of Juvenile Justice~~ facilities and specially
8 trained by experienced peer educators and established
9 nonpartisan civic organizations. Established nonpartisan civic
10 organizations may be assisted by area political science or
11 civics educators at colleges, universities, and high schools
12 and by nonpartisan organizations providing re-entry services.
13 The nonpartisan civic organizations shall provide adequate
14 training to peer educators on matters including, but not
15 limited to, voting rights, governmental institutions, current
16 affairs, and simulations of voter registration, election, and
17 democratic processes, and shall provide periodic updates to
18 program content and to peer educators.

19 (Source: P.A. 101-441, eff. 1-1-20.)

20 (730 ILCS 200/21 new)

21 Sec. 21. Co-facilitator training. The civics education
22 program in the Department of Juvenile Justice shall be taught
23 using 2 co-facilitators. One of the co-facilitators shall be a
24 member of an established nonpartisan civic organization and

1 the other co-facilitator shall be a committed person at the
2 Department of Juvenile Justice who is specifically trained in
3 voting rights education and who has been trained by an
4 established nonpartisan civic organization. The organization
5 providing training may be assisted by area political science
6 or civics educators at colleges, universities, and high
7 schools and by nonpartisan organizations providing re-entry
8 services. The nonpartisan civic organizations shall provide
9 adequate training to both co-facilitators on the civics and
10 voting rights curriculum.

11 (730 ILCS 200/25)

12 Sec. 25. Voter and civic education program; content.

13 (a) Program content shall provide the following:

14 (1) nonpartisan information on voting history
15 procedures;

16 (2) nonpartisan definitions of local, State, and
17 federal governmental institutions and offices; and

18 (3) examples and simulations of registration and
19 voting processes, and access to voter registration and
20 voting processes for those individuals who are eligible to
21 vote.

22 (b) Established nonpartisan civic organizations shall
23 provide periodic updates to program content and, if
24 applicable, peer educators and co-facilitators. Updates shall
25 reflect major relevant changes to election laws and processes

1 in Illinois.

2 (c) Program content shall be delivered in the following
3 manners:

4 (1) verbally via peer educators and co-facilitators;

5 (2) broadcasts via Department of Corrections and
6 Department of Juvenile Justice internal television
7 channels; or

8 (3) printed information packets.

9 (d) Peer educators and co-facilitators shall disseminate
10 printed information for voting in the releasee's county,
11 including, but not limited to, election authorities'
12 addresses, all applicable Internet websites, and public
13 contact information for all election authorities. This
14 information shall be compiled into a civics handbook. The
15 handbook shall also include key information condensed into a
16 pocket information card.

17 (e) This information shall also be compiled electronically
18 and posted on Department of Corrections' and Department of
19 Juvenile Justice's website along with the Department of
20 Corrections' Community Support Advisory Councils websites.

21 (f) Department Directors shall ensure that the wardens or
22 superintendents of all correctional institutions and
23 facilities visibly post this information on all common areas
24 of their respective institutions, and shall broadcast the same
25 via in-house institutional information television channels.
26 Directors shall ensure that updated information is distributed

1 in a timely, visible, and accessible manner.

2 (g) The Director of Corrections shall order, in a clearly
3 visible area of each parole office within this State, the
4 posting of a notice stipulating voter eligibility and that
5 contains the current Internet website address and voter
6 registration information provided by State Board of Elections
7 regarding voting rights for citizens released from the
8 physical custody of the Department of Corrections and the
9 Department of Juvenile Justice.

10 (h) All program content and materials shall be distributed
11 annually to the Community Support Advisory Councils of the
12 Department of Corrections for use in re-entry programs across
13 this State.

14 (Source: P.A. 101-441, eff. 1-1-20.)

15 (730 ILCS 200/30)

16 Sec. 30. Power of the Departments ~~Department~~. The
17 Department of Corrections and the Department of Juvenile
18 Justice shall adopt rules to carry out this Act within 6 months
19 after the effective date of this Act.

20 (Source: P.A. 101-441, eff. 1-1-20.)

21 (730 ILCS 200/35)

22 Sec. 35. Funding. The funding for the voting rights and
23 registration peer education program shall be subject to
24 appropriation by the General Assembly. The Department of

1 Corrections and the Department of Juvenile Justice may use
2 private or federal funding to administer the program,
3 including, but not limited to, funds from the United States
4 Department of Justice.

5 (Source: P.A. 101-441, eff. 1-1-20.)

6 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January
7 1, 2022.