



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

### 2023 and 2024

#### HB5444

Introduced 2/9/2024, by Rep. Suzanne M. Ness

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

55 ILCS 5/3-6043 new  
65 ILCS 5/11-1.5-5  
65 ILCS 5/11-1.5-10  
65 ILCS 5/11-1.5-15  
65 ILCS 5/11-1.5-20

Amends the Co-Responder Pilot Program Division of the Illinois Municipal Code. Adds the McHenry County Sheriff's Office to the offices to which the Division is applicable, including that the Office shall establish, subject to appropriation, a co-responder unit no later than 6 months after the effective date of the amendatory Act, including the hiring of personnel as provided in the Division. Makes conforming changes, including in the Counties Code. Provides that, along with the duties described elsewhere in the Division, the unit's social workers are responsible for following up with victims (rather than conducting follow-up visits for victims) who may benefit from mental or behavioral health services.

LRB103 38907 AWJ 69044 b

1 AN ACT concerning local government.

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

4 Section 5. The Counties Code is amended by adding Section  
5 3-6043 as follows:

6 (55 ILCS 5/3-6043 new)

7 Sec. 3-6043. Co-responder unit of the McHenry County  
8 Sheriff's Office. The McHenry County Sheriff's Office shall  
9 establish, subject to appropriation, a co-responder unit as  
10 provided in Section 11-1.5-5 of the Illinois Municipal Code.

11 Section 10. The Illinois Municipal Code is amended by  
12 changing Sections 11-1.5-5, 11-1.5-10, 11-1.5-15, and  
13 11-1.5-20 as follows:

14 (65 ILCS 5/11-1.5-5)

15 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2029)

16 Sec. 11-1.5-5. Definitions. As used in this Division:

17 "Department" means the East St. Louis Police Department,  
18 the Peoria Police Department, the Springfield Police  
19 Department, ~~or~~ the Waukegan Police Department, or the McHenry  
20 County Sheriff's Office.

21 "Social Worker" means a licensed clinical social worker or

1 licensed social worker, as those terms are defined in the  
2 Clinical Social Work and Social Work Practice Act.

3 "Station adjustment" has the meaning given to that term in  
4 Section 1-3 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987.

5 "Unit" means a co-responder unit created under this  
6 Division.

7 (Source: P.A. 102-756, eff. 5-10-22; 103-154, eff. 6-30-23.)

8 (65 ILCS 5/11-1.5-10)

9 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2029)

10 Sec. 11-1.5-10. Establishment; responsibilities; focus.

11 (a) Each department shall establish, subject to  
12 appropriation, a co-responder unit no later than 6 months  
13 after May 10, 2022 (the effective date of Public Act 102-756)  
14 ~~this amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly~~, including  
15 the hiring of personnel as provided in this Division. The  
16 McHenry County Sheriff's Office shall establish, subject to  
17 appropriation, a co-responder unit no later than 6 months  
18 after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 103rd  
19 General Assembly, including the hiring of personnel as  
20 provided in this Division

21 (b) Along with the duties described in Sections 11-1.5-15  
22 and 11-1.5-20, the unit's social workers are responsible for  
23 following up with ~~conducting follow-up visits for~~ victims who  
24 may benefit from mental or behavioral health services. The  
25 unit shall utilize community resources, including services

1 provided through the Department of Human Services and social  
2 workers in juvenile and adult investigations, to connect  
3 individuals with appropriate services.

4 (c) The unit's primary area of focus shall be victim  
5 assistance.

6 (Source: P.A. 102-756, eff. 5-10-22.)

7 (65 ILCS 5/11-1.5-15)

8 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2029)

9 Sec. 11-1.5-15. Duties. The duties of the unit include,  
10 but are not limited to:

11 (1) Serving as a resource to a department's community  
12 to identify and coordinate the social services available  
13 to residents who are victims of criminal acts.

14 (2) Networking with area social service agencies to  
15 develop a community-mutual resource system and wrap-around  
16 services (a team-based, collaborative case management  
17 approach) for victims in need of social service  
18 assistance; and fostering relationships with community  
19 organizations not limited to area hospitals, school  
20 districts, juvenile justice system, and various community  
21 groups.

22 (3) Employing social workers of the unit who shall:

23 (A) Upon request, provide community presentations  
24 on an array of social service topics.

25 (B) Assist individuals in diversion from the

1 criminal justice system by addressing problems or  
2 concerns through therapeutic intervention.

3 (C) Facilitate follow-up treatment or referral to  
4 the appropriate community resource organization.

5 (D) When requested, assist department employees in  
6 securing services for those in need and provide  
7 educational information to help the employee better  
8 understand the circumstances or the community concern.

9 (E) Meet with walk-ins requesting information or  
10 assistance.

11 (F) Protect the interest, confidentiality, and  
12 civil rights of the client.

13 (G) Train social work interns who may be working  
14 within the unit.

15 (H) Be on-call after regular business hours, as  
16 needed.

17 (I) Inform clients, prior to providing services  
18 under this Division, what communications are  
19 confidential pursuant to applicable provisions of  
20 State or federal law, rule, or regulation and what may  
21 be shared with the social worker's employer.

22 (J) Consult on all cases as needed by the  
23 department.

24 (K) Perform other functions as provided in Section  
25 11-1.5-20 or otherwise needed by a department.

26 (4) Employing social workers who shall work with

1 victims of crimes as follows:

2 (A) Review ~~police~~ reports to identify known  
3 victims and contact them to offer direct and referred  
4 services.

5 (B) Assist victims with filing ~~police~~ reports and  
6 victim compensation forms.

7 (C) Provide safety planning services to victims.

8 (D) Provide crisis counseling services to victims  
9 and their families.

10 (E) Conduct home visits with victims in  
11 conjunction with law enforcement ~~police~~ backup, when  
12 needed.

13 (F) Assist victims in obtaining orders of  
14 protection. A social worker, in the performance of his  
15 or her duties under this subparagraph, is an advocate,  
16 as that term is defined in Section 112A-3 of the Code  
17 of Criminal Procedure of 1963.

18 (G) Facilitate court advocacy services for  
19 victims, including arranging for transportation to and  
20 from court.

21 (H) Maintain confidential case files which include  
22 social history, diagnosis, formulation of treatment,  
23 and documentation of services.

24 (I) Perform miscellaneous personal advocacy tasks  
25 for victims, as needed.

26 (J) Oversee activities to ensure those victims

1 with the most urgent needs are given the highest  
2 priority for services.

3 (K) Provide status updates on the progress of a  
4 victim's case.

5 (5) Adhering to and understanding the applicable  
6 policies, procedures, and orders of a department.

7 (6) Attaining department-established unit goals.

8 (7) Maintaining a positive relationship with  
9 co-workers, as well as the investigators from area law  
10 enforcement agencies ~~police departments~~ and facilitating  
11 the exchange of information and resources pertaining to  
12 investigations that would not violate confidentiality as  
13 protected pursuant to applicable provisions of State or  
14 federal law, rule, or regulation.

15 (8) Keeping informed on crime trends within the  
16 department the unit supports ~~City~~.

17 (9) Remaining obedient and responsive to all lawful  
18 verbal and written orders issued by superiors.

19 (10) Completing ~~police~~ reports and other required  
20 documentation.

21 (11) Performing such other duties as may be required  
22 by State law, city ordinance, and department policy or as  
23 may be assigned by a sworn supervisor.

24 (Source: P.A. 102-756, eff. 5-10-22.)

25 (65 ILCS 5/11-1.5-20)

1 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2029)

2 Sec. 11-1.5-20. Social workers.

3 (a) Unit social workers may be referred to as victim  
4 service specialists. Social workers are responsible for  
5 working as a team to provide trauma-informed crisis  
6 intervention, case management, advocacy, and ongoing emotional  
7 support to the victims of all crimes, with extra attention to  
8 crimes that cause a high level of victim trauma.

9 (b) Unit social workers involved in a case under adult  
10 investigations may perform the following responsibilities:

11 (1) Working with domestic violence investigators.

12 (2) Assisting victims with finding safe housing,  
13 transportation, and legal assistance.

14 (3) Providing other needed resources for victims and  
15 their families, including working with children who  
16 witness or experience domestic violence.

17 (4) Assisting victims and their children in setting up  
18 counseling.

19 (5) Helping reduce victims' chances of reentry into  
20 violent situations.

21 (c) Unit social workers involved in a case under juvenile  
22 investigations may perform the following responsibilities:

23 (1) Working with families that have habitual runaways  
24 and determining why the juveniles keep running away.

25 (2) Providing services to families where there have  
26 been domestic disturbances between the juveniles and their



1 parents.

2 (3) Providing resources for parents to help their  
3 children who are struggling in school or need  
4 transportation to school.

5 (4) Providing guidance and advice to the families of a  
6 juvenile who has been arrested and what the next steps and  
7 options are in the process.

8 (5) Assisting a juvenile with station adjustments and  
9 creating a station adjustment program in a department.

10 (6) Providing services to juvenile victims and  
11 families where the Department of Children and Family  
12 Services either did not get involved or did not provide  
13 services.

14 (7) Assisting with overcoming feuds between groups of  
15 juveniles.

16 (8) Assisting in instances where the families are not  
17 cooperative with law enforcement ~~police~~.

18 (9) Discussing with families and juveniles options and  
19 solutions to prevent future arrest.

20 (10) Maintaining a list of families in need that the  
21 unit or department have had contact with for department or  
22 city special events.

23 (11) Helping facilitate or assist a department in  
24 community-oriented events, such as setting up an event  
25 where officers or unit personnel read books with younger  
26 children, talking about cyber crimes and social media, or

1           having an officer or unit personnel visit a school for  
2           other activities.

3                   (12) Helping reduce juvenile recidivism.

4           (Source: P.A. 102-756, eff. 5-10-22.)