**Chicago Coalition for the Homeless**

**2015 Illinois Legislative Report**

*Legislation supported in the spring 2015 session*

**ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

**Senate Bill 1847: Public Aid - SNAP Gross Income**

Expands Eligibility for SNAP/food stamps

* Sponsors: Sen. Biss/Rep. Gabel
* CCH partners: Shriver Center, Heartland Alliance
* Status: Signed into law on 7/28/15 - Public Act [009-170](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=099-0170)

**HEALTHCARE**

**House Bill 2731: Medicaid Managed Care Transparency**

Requires monthly reports published by the Department of Family and Health Services regarding enrollment of people on the State’s Medical Assistance program and enrollment in of recipients into a Medicaid Managed Care entity.

* Sponsors: Sen. Steans/Rep. Hernandez
* CCH partners: Heartland Alliance, Ounce of Prevention Fund, SEIU Healthcare, Citizen Action Illinois
* Status: Signed into law 7/21/15 - Public Act [99-0086](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=099-0086)

**House Bill 2812: Medicaid Sensitive Services**

Provides information about sensitive health services to people enrolled in Managed Care upon their request.

* Sponsors: Rep. Mitchell/Sen Biss
* CCH partners: Illinois Collaboration on Youth, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, SEIU Healthcare Illinois and Indiana, Ounce of Prevention Fund
* Status: Signed into law on 7/29/15 - Public Act [099-0181](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=099-0181)

**EDUCATION**

**House Bill 397:** **Charter Schools - Restore Local Control**

This legislation would restore local control of charter schools by preventing the Charter School Commission from making the final decision for a new school.

* Sponsors: Rep. Welch/Sen. Bush
* CCH partner: Illinois Federation of Teachers
* Status: Did not pass

**House Bill 306: School Code-Assessments Excused**

Allows student to be excused from state tests if a parent/guardian provides written request.

* Sponsor: Rep. Guzzardi
* CCH partner: Illinois Federation of Teachers
* Status: Did not pass

**House Bill 1360: School Code-Charter School-Health**

Requires charter schools to comply with all non-curricular health and safety requirements required of public schools.

* Sponsors: Rep. Gabel/Sen. Biss
* CCH partners: Ounce of Prevention, EverThrive Illinois, Shriver Center, Citizen Action Illinois, SEIU
* Status: Passed both chambers, awaiting governor’s signature.

**House Bill 3197: Absenteeism**

Creates a commission on student absenteeism in the Illinois State Board of Education.

* Sponsors: Rep. Chapa-Lavia/Sen. Collins
* CCH partner: Illinois Collaboration on Youth
* Status: Passed both chambers, awaiting governor’s signature.

**House Resolution 135: Homeless Student Housing**

This resolution urges funding for housing scholarships for homeless students.

* Sponsor: Rep. Ford
* CCH partner: Illinois Collaboration on Youth
* Status: Resolution adopted on 6/1/15

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**House Bill 494: Eliminating Absolute Bars - School Code**

Reentry jobs access bill that amends the school code. Ends lifetime bars to employment for people with a criminal conviction, imposes a seven-year wait after probation or parole.

* Sponsors: Rep. Cassidy/Sen. Van Pelt
* CCH partners: Community Renewal Society, Heartland Alliance, Cabrini Green Legal Aid, Shriver Center
* Status: Passed both chambers, awaiting governor’s signature

**Senate Bill 42: Eliminating Absolute Bars – Health Care**

Reentry jobs access bill that would end bars to employment for people with cannabis possession record. Removes bars to health care licensing for people with forcible felony convictions after five years, under discretion of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

* Sponsors: Sen. Martine/Rep. Lily
* CCH partners: Community Renewal Society, Heartland Alliance, Cabrini Green Legal Aid, Shriver Center
* Status: Did not pass

**House Bill 2549: Best Candidate for the Job Act**

Prohibits discrimination against people with criminal offenses as it relates to employment unless there is a direct relationship between the offense and the employment being sought.

* Sponsor: Rep. Golar
* CCH partner: Shriver Center
* Status: Did not pass

**Senate Bill 1547: Tenant Contact Police**

Prohibits enforcing laws that penalize people for contacting the police in emergencies.

* Sponsors: Sen. Hutchinson/Rep. DeLuca
* CCH partners: Shriver Center, Open Communities, Housing Action Illinois, Thresholds, Project IRENE, ACLU of Illinois, Heartland Alliance
* Status: Passed both chambers, awaiting governor’s signature.

**House Bill 172: Juvenile Court Adult Pros Hearing**

Eliminates provisions that require automatic prosecution of minors as adults.

* Sponsor: Rep. Nekritz
* CCH partners: ACLU of Illinois, Cabrini Green Legal Aid, Juvenile Justice Initiative
* Status: Did not pass

**House Bill 3149: Record Sealing**

Allows people who have earned a high school diploma, vocational training, bachelor’s degree, associates degree, career certificate, or have passed the high school Test of General Educational Development (GED) to petition for sealing eligible convictions prior to the statutorily required four-year waiting period.

* Sponsors: Rep. Cabello/Sen. Link
* CCH partners: Shriver Center, Illinois Collaboration on Youth, Safer Foundation, Chicago Jobs Council
* Status: Passed both chambers, awaiting governor’s signature.

**House Bill 3322: Fair Sentencing Act**

Allows those convicted of a crime to petition the courts to be re-sentenced if the penalty for the offense is modified by the General Assembly, so that the sentence complies with current law.

* Sponsor: Rep. Cassidy
* CCH partner: Shriver Center
* Status: Did not pass

**House Bill 3475: Certificate of Good Conduct**

Expands the eligibility for Certificates of Good Conduct to include people who have committed non-sex-related forcible felonies.

* Sponsors: Rep. Mayfield/Sen. Biss
* CCH partners: Shriver Center, Safer Foundation, Chicago Jobs Council, Community Renewal Society, SEIU Healthcare
* Status: Passed both chambers, awaiting governor’s signature.

**House Bill 4021: Record Sealing**

Allows adults to petition the courts to limit who can look at their non-violent or misdemeanor convictions three years after they complete their sentence.

* Sponsors: Rep. Golar
* CCH partners: Shriver Center, SEIU Healthcare, Safer Foundation, Community Renewal Society
* Status: Did not pass

**House Bill 218: Drug Possession**

This legislation amends the criminal identification act by changing the penalty for possession of cannabis (30 grams or less) from a misdemeanor to a ticket fine of $100.

* Sponsors: Rep. Cassidy/Sen. Steans
* CCH partners: ACLU of Illinois, Illinois Collaboration on Youth, Aids Foundation of Chicago
* Status: Passed both chambers, awaiting governor’s signature.

**House Bill 2569: Criminal Procedure**

This updates admonishment instructions given to defendants so that they are properly educated about the consequences of pleading guilty to a crime. This includes information about how a conviction will impact their ability to obtain housing, employment, and loans.

* Sponsors: Rep. Cabello/Sen. Link
* CCH partners: Shriver Center, Safer Foundation, ACLU of Illinois
* Status: Placed on Calendar for 3rd reading

**Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)**

**House Bill 3507/HCA1: DCFS**

Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to provide services aimed at achieving sustainable self-sufficiency to youth who are in foster care between ages from ages 18 to 21.

* Sponsors: Rep. Robyn Gabel/Sen. Trotter
* CCH partner: Loyola University Civitas ChildLaw Center
* Status: Passed both chambers, awaiting governor’s signature.

**TRAFFICKING**

**Senate Bill 1588: Affirmative Defense**

This legislation creates an affirmative defense that allows people facing prostitution charges to refute charges caused by human trafficking. It provides an in-camera hearing for defendants who are concerned about their safety in an open court.

* Sponsors: Sen. Mulroe/Rep. Sims
* CCH partners: Heartland Alliance, Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, Cabrini Green Legal Aid, Project IRENE
* Status: Signed into law on 7/23/15 - Public Act [099-0109](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=099-0109)

**MENTAL HEALTH PROTECTION**

**House Bill 217: Youth Mental Health Protection**

Bans LGBT conversion therapy for minors by licensed mental health providers.

* Sponsors: Rep. Cassidy
* CCH partners: Illinois Collaboration on Youth, Night Ministry, Citizen Action Illinois
* Status: Passed both chambers, awaiting governor’s signature.

***CCH opposed the following legislation:***

**House Bill 255: Reduce Transportation to School**

Lengthens from 1.5 miles to 2 miles the closest a pupil's residence can be from public or private school and still ride the school bus. Sponsor Sosnowski is employed by a private school system.

* Sponsor: Rep. Sosnowski
* CCH partners in opposition: Illinois Federation of Teachers, Citizens Action Illinois, Chicago Teachers Union, Shriver Center, Civitas Child Law Clinic, Loyola University School of Law, Family Defense Center, Equip for Equality, Parents 4 Teachers, Federation for Community Schools
* Status: Did not pass

**House Bill 216: School Expulsion**

Allows schools to suspend a student for 10 days or expel a student for two years if the student has been convicted of a felony or if school deems student has a detrimental impact on school.

* Sponsor: Rep. Hoffman
* CCH partners in opposition: Illinois Collaboration on Youth, Illinois African American Family Coalition
* Status: Did not pass

**House Bill 160: Eviction**

Creates a fast track eviction process any time a landlord alleges a willful violation of a use and occupancy order within seven days of the alleged violation.

* Sponsor: Rep. Thapedi
* CCH partners in opposition: Shriver Center, Housing Action Illinois, Lawyers Committee for Better housing, Open Communities
* Status: Did not pass

**House Bill 3966: Foreclosure**

Creates a path for evictions for squatters, which is in conflict with a law passed in 2009 that provides protections for renters in foreclosed properties.

* Sponsor: Rep. Sosnowski
* CCH partners in opposition: Cabrini Green Legal Aid, Lawyers Committee for Better Housing, Open Communities, Shriver Center, Housing Action Illinois
* Status: Did not pass