

Senate Bill 3233

Earned Discretionary Release

SB3233

SUMMARY

Sponsored by State Senators Celina Villanueva (D) and Robert Peters (D), SB3233 shifts the focus of the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) from warehousing to rehabilitating people by giving every incarcerated Illinoisan the right to regular review by the Prisoner Review Board.

Establishes that a person serving a term of imprisonment is eligible for review by the Prisoner Review Board when they have served the lesser of: at least 20 years; 25% of their sentence; or the minimum term of imprisonment for the most serious offense for which the person was convicted.

In addition, SB3233:

- ✓ Provides people incarcerated in Illinois the right to rehabilitative programming.
- ✓ Requires that a needs assessment instrument be used to set goals and prepare individuals for release.
- ✓ Requires that the source-code of any needs assessment tool be periodically reviewed for bias.
- ✓ Grants the Prisoner Review Board authority to award additional good time credit to individuals.
- ✓ Provides incarcerated Illinoisans incentive to improve their lives and a path to productive return to society.
- ✓ Takes into account the drastic drop in recidivism rates that occurs as people age.
- ✓ Will save the state millions by releasing people who are rehabilitated before they become old and infirm

BACKGROUND

Illinois prisons hold over 5,000 people serving life and de-facto life sentences. Legislation was passed in 1978 eliminating parole, leaving the state with no mechanism to review these people for release. Nearly every other state has a procedure for reviewing and releasing people with long-term sentences who are ready to rejoin society. Illinois does not. If nothing changes, Illinois taxpayers will be billed for geriatric prisons while thousands of Illinoisans will be required to grow old and die behind bars, with no periodic review of whether their continued incarceration is necessary for public safety.

WHO IS PAROLE ILLINOIS?

Parole Illinois is a non-profit organization of people inside and outside of prison working for a more just and humane criminal-legal system. Contact: paroleillinois@gmail.com

SB3233 allows individuals who have aged out of crime and pose little risk to public safety an opportunity to return to productive lives.

SB3233 has been endorsed by over 4,300 individuals and more than 40 organizations including: Chicago Community Bond Fund, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Grassroots Collaborative, Uptown People's Law Center, and Indivisible Illinois.

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Endorsing Organizations

360 57th St. Meeting of Friends
Babes Only
Black and Pink Chicago
Black Students Union, University of Illinois Chicago
BPI Chicago
Campaign Nonviolence, DePaul University, Chicago 400 Alliance
Chicago Books to Women in Prison
Chicago Community Bond Fund (CCBF)
Chicago Torture Justice Center (CTJC)
Chicago Votes
Compound Yellow
Contextos
Engage Miami
Faith In Place Action Fund
FirstFollowers
Flood's Hall
Freedom To Learn Illinois
Good Kids Mad City
Grassroots Collaborative
Herbal Legal
Herbal Notes
Illinois Coalition for Higher Education in Prison (IL-CHEP)
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)
Indivisible Illinois
Jean and Jane 420
John Howard Association
Judicial Accountability PAC
Justice Works, University of Chicago
Social Services Administration
LetUsBreathe
Liberation Library
Mothers Activating Movements for Abolition and Solidarity (MAMAS)
Media Justice
New Community Church (Bronzeville)
Organized Communities Against Deportation (OCAD)
Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation
Project Hardknocks
Restore Justice
Right2Vote Campaign & SawariMedia
Shiller Preyar Jarard and Samuels Law Firm
Shriver Center
Soapbox Productions and Organizing
Students Against Incarceration
Students for Justice in Palestine, DePaul University
Uptown People's Law Center