

**Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH)  
2016 Illinois Legislative Report**

Submitted by Policy Specialist Jonathan Holmes

**CCH advocated the following legislation in spring 2016:**

**HB 4360: 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: Cabrini Green Legal Aid, Community Renewal Society, Heartland Alliance
- Status: Signed into law 7/29/16 - Public Act [99-0667](#)

**HB 4515: Health Care Worker Registry**

This legislation increases job opportunities for people with records to work in health care facilities. It also creates a health care workgroup where advocates, legislators, and health care professionals can discuss further improvements in employment opportunities for people with records.

- Sponsors: Rep. Lily/Sen. Harmon
- CCH partners: Cabrini Green Legal Aid, Community Renewal Society, Heartland Alliance
- Status: Signed into law 8/22/16 - Public Act [99-0872](#)

**SB 42: Eliminating Absolute Bars - Health Care Licensing**

Removes bars to health care licensing for people with forcible felony convictions after three years from the end of release, or five years from the date of conviction, whichever is longer, under the discretion of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

- Sponsors: Rep. Lily/Sen. Martinez
- CCH partners: Heartland Alliance, Community Renewal Society, Cabrini Green Legal Aid
- Status: Signed into law on 8/25/16 - Public Act [099-0886](#)

**SB 3005: Eliminating Absolute Bars - Park District Code**

Reentry jobs access bill that amends the state's park district code. Ends lifetime bars to employment for people with a criminal conviction, imposing a seven-year wait after probation or parole.

- Sponsors: Sen. Collins/Rep. Cassidy
- CCH partners: Cabrini Green Legal Aid, Heartland Alliance, Community Renewal Society

- Status: Signed into law on 8/22/16 - Public Act [099-0884](#)

### **HB 4955/SB 2603: Appropriations to create affordable housing and end homelessness**

This bill would release dedicated funds for homeless services, including homeless prevention grants to households, emergency and transitional housing, and homeless youth programs.

- Sponsor: Rep Welch/Sen. Hunter
- CCH partners: Housing Action Illinois
- Status: Did not pass

### **SB 2047: Appropriations for Human Services**

Stop-gap funding to keep homeless and human service programs open for part of FY 2017.

- Sponsor: Sen. Trotter/Rep. Currie
- CCH partners: Responsible Budget Coalition
- Status: Signed into law on 6/30/16 - Public Act [099-0524](#)

### **CCH signed in support of the following legislation:**

#### *CRIMINAL JUSTICE*

### **SB 2228: Drug Possession**

This legislation amends the criminal identification act by changing the penalty for possession of cannabis (10 grams or less) from a misdemeanor to a ticket fine of \$100.

- Sponsors: Senator Steans/Rep. Cassidy
- CCH partners: ACLU
- Status: Signed into law on 7/29/16 - Public Act [099-0697](#)

### **HB 5973: Occupational licensing opportunities for people with records**

This legislation expands employment opportunities for people with records by simplifying procedures to get licensed in occupational licensing fields, such as barbers, roofers, and cosmetologists.

- Sponsors: Rep. Evans/Sen. Raoul
- CCH partners: Safer Foundation
- Status: Signed into law on 8/22/16 - Public Act [099-0876](#)

### **HB 4446: Ban the box for college admission**

This measure would have barred colleges and universities from inquiring about a criminal conviction or arrest during the admissions process. It would only allow an inquiry after a person was admitted.

- Sponsors: Rep. B. Wheeler/Sen. McGuire
- CCH partners: Heartland Alliance

- Status: Did not pass

### **HB 5551: An Act Regarding the Rights of Parents Who Are Incarcerated Whose Children Are in DCFS Custody or Guardianship**

This legislation improves services and court processes for incarcerated parents with children in the care of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

- Sponsors: Rep. Williams/Sen. Raoul
- CCH partners: Cabrini Green Legal Aid, Safer Foundation
- Status: Signed into law on 8/19/16 - Public Act [099-0836](#)

### **SB 2465: Repeal incarceration cost**

This measure would repeal provisions that require incarcerated people to pay for their costs of being imprisoned.

- Sponsors: Sen. Biss/Rep. Cassidy
- CCH partners: Heartland Alliance, Community Renewal Society, Chicago Jobs Council
- Status: Governor's amendatory veto on 8/23/16

### **HB 5017: Juvenile Court Expungement**

This legislation allows a youth arrested or adjudicated for an offense before his/her 18th birthday to petition the court to expunge his/her law enforcement records at any time.

- Sponsors: Rep. B. Wheeler/Sen. Raoul
- CCH partners: Illinois Collaboration on Youth, Voices for Illinois Children, Community Renewal Society
- Status: Signed into law 8/19/16 - Public Act [099-0876](#)

#### *HEALTH CARE*

### **HB 5559: Medicaid Secret Shopper bill**

This legislation would have required the Illinois Department of Health and Family Services to test Managed Care Organizations to measure how effective and accessible they are at serving prospective Medicaid patients.

- Sponsors: Rep. Wallace/Sen. Biss
- CCH partners: AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Ounce of Prevention Fund, EverThrive Illinois, Heartland Alliance
- Status: Re-referred to Rules Committee (7/27/2016)

#### *HOUSING*

### **Senate Bill 2271: Comprehensive Housing Planning Act Extension**

Led by the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA), the state must produce an annual statewide housing plan, including coordination of state spending to better address affordable housing goals and prioritizing resources for people with the lowest incomes.

- Sponsors: Rep. Guzzardi/Sen. Martinez
- CCH partners: Housing Action Illinois
- Status: Signed into law on 7/15/2016- Public Act [99-0564](#)

### **House Bill 4595: Making Home Affordable Program**

This extends the sunset date of a provision in Illinois mortgage foreclosure law. That provision allows judges to set aside a judicial sale when, upon the appeal of a homeowner, a judge finds that the lender violated the federal Making Home Affordable (MHA) program.

- Sponsors: Reps. Riley and Evans/Sen. Collins
- CCH partners: Shriver Center, Housing Action Illinois
- Status: Signed into law on 7/28/2016- Public Act [99-0640](#)

### *YOUTH*

#### **HB 6073: Sex Change Birth Certificate**

This measure would allow a person to make gender changes on her/his birth certificate after declaration from a mental health provider.

- Sponsor: Rep. Greg Harris
- CCH partners: ACLU of Illinois
- Status: Did not pass

### *TRAFFICKING*

#### **SB 3007: Public Aid for Trafficking Victims**

This legislation provides public assistance for foreign-born victims of human trafficking.

- Sponsor: Sen. Collins/Rep. Hernandez
- CCH partners: Heartland Alliance, Shriver Center
- Status: Signed into law on 8/22/16 Public Act - [099-0870](#)

### *WAGE PROTECTION*

#### **SB 2804: Wage Assignment and Consumer Protection**

This legislation addresses debt collection practices by ensuring borrowers know their rights to stop wage assignment at any time, per federal law.

- Sponsors: Sen. Biss/Rep. Welch
- CCH partners: Heartland Alliance, Shriver Center
- Status: Signed into law on 8/26/16 Public Act - [099-0903](#)

### ***CCH signed in to oppose the following legislation:***

### *HOUSING*

#### **SB 2333: Social Security Deposit**

This bill would allow landlords to deduct money from the security deposit for damage “beyond repair” that they have no intention of replacing.

- Sponsor: Rep Syverson

- CCH partners in opposition: Shriver Center
- Status: Did not pass

#### *YOUTH*

#### **HB 4474: School Code-Pupil Physical Privacy**

This bill would require schools to designate pupil restrooms, changing rooms, and overnight facilities for a single-sex, which is the sex that a person was born with.

- Sponsor: Rep Morrison
- CCH partners in opposition: AIDS Foundation of Illinois, Citizen Action Illinois
- Did not pass