



Support Illinois House Bill 2933

- Illinois spends \$1.2 billion in corrections costs annually.
- Illinois state prisons are currently operating at over 158% capacity.
- According to recent numbers reported by the Illinois Department of Corrections, approximately 37.9% (17,267) of the prison population were convicted of nonviolent, potentially probationable offenses.
- Research shows that diverting people into alternative programs in lieu of incarceration, based on risks and needs assessment, can cut recidivism rates up to 20%.

HB 2933 implements a “smart on crime” strategy that can decrease recidivism rates, get people the individualized treatment and/or training and education that they need, while saving Illinois millions of dollars in corrections costs.

What does HB 2933 do?

HB 2933 provides that whenever any person not previously convicted of a felony pleads or is found guilty of a probationable felony offense, the court- with the consent of both the defendant and the State’s attorney- may without entering a judgment, sentence the defendant to conditional probation.

Applicable charges include theft, retail theft, forgery, burglary, possession of cannabis, and possession of a controlled substance or methamphetamine. This bill only applies to non-violent convictions.

Terms of probation are to be for no less than 24 months, and defer the final ruling until the conclusion of the probation period at which time the court determines whether the individual has successfully fulfilled their conditions of probation. **Conditions of probation include but are not limited to: no further criminal activity; full restitution pursuant to the nature of the crime; community service; attending educational and/or vocational courses; periodic drug testing; and medical, mental or substance abuse treatment (as needed).**

HB 2933 is a common-sense approach that encourages accountability while working towards rehabilitation and addressing the components that led to the encounter with the criminal justice system. In doing so, it also increases public safety by giving people facing a first-time conviction a second chance to be law-abiding, employed, tax-paying citizens. It will also lead to a significant reduction in corrections costs which can be routed into essential human services and community support programs.

This legislation is smart on public safety and provides a model for other states to adopt.

For information or referrals, contact:

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