



SR0897

LRB103 40137 ECR 71834 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, After being released from a state or federal
3 penal system, 95% of justice-involved persons will reenter
4 society at a crossroads, with one path leading to recidivism
5 and the other leading to an opportunity for a second chance;
6 and

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WHEREAS, Prison-based education and vocational programs
8 yield favorable dividends; for every \$1 invested in
9 prison-based education, up to \$5 of taxpayer savings are
10 produced from reduced incarceration costs as well as a 43%
11 decrease in recidivism by individuals who participate in
12 prison education programs, a 13% increase in employment among
13 those who participate in either academic or vocational
14 programs, and a 28% increase in employment among those who
15 participate in vocational programs alone; and

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WHEREAS, A study, conducted by the Illinois Criminal
17 Justice Information Authority involving a segment of
18 justice-involved persons who exited a prison facility in
19 Illinois in 2018 and had their employment tracked through
20 2021, found that participants had an unemployment rate of 46%,
21 their average income was lower than the federal poverty level,
22 and their hourly wages were lower than the state minimum wage;
23 this study also noted that African American persons who were

1 convicted of a crime had a higher unemployment rate and lower
2 wages than other races after release; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge support for the
5 development and execution of rehabilitation, job and career
6 assessment, and job training programming, all of which is
7 essential in training persons released from a state
8 correctional facility to promote the individual's successful
9 rehabilitation, reentry, and reintegration into the community
10 as productive, self-sufficient members of society; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That we express our commitment to learning more
13 about how the State of Illinois can help support
14 justice-involved individuals reentering society address
15 barriers to employment and attain good paying jobs to enable
16 their ability to become contributing taxpayers in the future.