

September 25, 2007

To the Honorable Members of the
Illinois House of Representatives
95th General Assembly

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(e) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby return House Bill 291, entitled "AN ACT concerning courts," with the following specific recommendations for change:

on page 5, below line 10, by inserting "(d-5) The Department shall, no later than January 1, 2008, create a task force to study the best methods to assist local governments in providing services and care to delinquent juveniles between the ages of 13 and 15 with due regard given to the child's health, safety, and best interests. Special consideration will be taken to consider the difficulty that less populous counties face when caring for delinquent minors. The Governor or his designee will be the chairperson of the task force. Other members of the task force shall include the Director, or his or her designee, of the Department of Children and Family Services, the Director, or his or her designee, of the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Director, or his or her designee, of the Department of Human Services, a representative from a non-profit youth services organization and the Principal Sponsors in the Illinois House of Representatives and Illinois Senate of House Bill 291 of the 95th General Assembly. The task force shall submit a report on the results of its study to the Governor and the General Assembly no later than January 1, 2009."; and

on page 11, line 3, by deleting "15" and reinserting "13"; and

on page 27, line 5, by deleting "15" and reinserting "13"; and

on page 40, line 14 through 15, by deleting "15" and reinserting "13"; and

on page 45, line 12, by deleting "15" and reinserting "13"; and

on page 46, line 2, by deleting "15" and reinserting "13".

With these changes, House Bill 291 will have my approval. I respectfully request your concurrence.

Sincerely,

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor