



## 100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

HB5161

by Rep. Kelly M. Cassidy

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 3930/16 new

Amends the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Act. Creates the Professionalized Street Outreach Workers Task Force under the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Provides the Task Force shall examine best practices for training and professionalizing street outreach staff and hold public hearings for recommendations on how to professionalize street outreach through training and accountability. Provides for Task Force members. Requires the Authority to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly on or before January 1, 2019. Repeals Task Force provision on January 1, 2020. Effective immediately.

LRB100 19785 MRW 35060 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly understands  
3 holistic outreach services in communities experiencing  
4 excessive rates of gun violence are a proven strategy for  
5 reducing gun violence.

6 WHEREAS, Outreach services include: (1) crisis  
7 intervention to pause or end ongoing conflicts between  
8 community members or groups of community members that  
9 frequently have resulted in gun violence; (2) pro-social  
10 activities and events for at-risk youth and young adults that  
11 encourage community members to enjoy public spaces and reclaim  
12 parts of their community that have been overtaken by the fear  
13 of gun violence; (3) case management referral services for  
14 community members with the greatest risk of gun victimization  
15 and perpetration to provide short and long term alternatives to  
16 being at severe risk of being shot; and, (4) individual and  
17 group counseling for community members with the greatest risk  
18 of gun victimization and perpetration to improve personal  
19 decision-making in crisis situations and everyday life.

20 WHEREAS, With the recent increase in gun violence in  
21 Chicago, street outreach services broadly defined are being  
22 increasingly deployed with State, federal, local, and private  
23 foundation resources. Yet, effective, holistic outreach  
24 services demand substantial professional skills from direct  
25 line staff and supervisors. First and foremost, staff must have  
26 cultural competence and credibility within the precise

1 community where they work. Second, staff must have the ability  
2 to navigate the human complexities of trauma in an environment  
3 that can become violent with little or no notice. Finally,  
4 staff must have the ability to establish trusting relationships  
5 with diverse community members while encouraging highest risk  
6 individuals to seek supports based on their unique strengths  
7 and challenges.

8 WHEREAS, The General Assembly acknowledges that best and  
9 promising practices for outreach staff training exists because  
10 professionalized and standardized outreach services have been  
11 provided in other cities as part of a comprehensive strategy to  
12 reduce gun violence. Training should include at a minimum:

13 (1) teaching the core competencies, knowledge, and  
14 skills required of outreach workers and violence  
15 prevention practitioners and provide professional  
16 certification for achieving basic competency;

17 (2) defining consistent professional standards of  
18 conduct and practice for outreach workers including  
19 appropriate partnerships with various public sector  
20 entities engaged in violence reduction efforts such as law  
21 enforcement;

22 (3) creating ongoing professional development of  
23 outreach workers to promote best practices and continuous  
24 learning; and

25 (4) establishing a city-wide network of outreach  
26 workers to ensure the highest probability of success in

1 creating safer communities and a support network that  
2 allows for career development in a stressful occupation.

3 WHEREAS, To ensure high quality, holistic street outreach  
4 services are delivered in this State's highest risk  
5 communities, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information  
6 Authority shall create professional standards for training of  
7 street outreach workers in consultation with the  
8 Professionalized Street Outreach Workers Task Force created by  
9 this Act; therefore

10 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
11 **represented in the General Assembly:**

12 Section 5. The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Act is  
13 amended by adding Section 16 as follows:

14 (20 ILCS 3930/16 new)

15 Sec. 16. Professionalized Street Outreach Workers Task  
16 Force.

17 (a) In this Section, "Authority" means the Illinois  
18 Criminal Justice Information Authority.

19 (b) The Professionalized Street Outreach Workers Task  
20 Force is hereby created.

21 (1) The Task Force shall examine best practices for  
22 training and professionalizing street outreach staff and  
23 their supervisors and create a report of the type of

1 training and accountability, if any, which should be  
2 required for street outreach workers funded with State  
3 appropriated funds.

4 (2) The Task Force shall hold public hearings at the  
5 call of the Chairperson to receive testimony from the  
6 public and make recommendations to the Illinois Criminal  
7 Justice Information Authority on how to ensure that the  
8 role of street outreach is professionalized with the proper  
9 forms of training and accountability.

10 (c) The Task Force shall be an independent Task Force under  
11 the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority for  
12 administrative purposes, and shall consist of the following  
13 members:

14 (1) the Executive Director of the Illinois Criminal  
15 Justice Information Authority or his or her designee shall  
16 be the Chairperson of the Task Force;

17 (2) the Executive Director of the Illinois Community  
18 College Board or his or her designee;

19 (3) one representative of a statewide organization  
20 that works on violence reduction issues appointed by the  
21 Executive Director of the Authority;

22 (4) 2 representatives from academic or research  
23 institutions who have studied issues related to violence  
24 interruption appointed by the Executive Director of the  
25 Authority;

26 (5) 2 representatives from community-based

1 organizations that provide street outreach services to  
2 persons at severe risk of gun victimization or perpetration  
3 appointed by the Executive Director of the Authority;

4 (6) one representative from an organization that  
5 specializes in non-profit training of direct-service staff  
6 appointed by the Executive Director of the Authority; and

7 (7) 2 representatives from national organizations with  
8 more than 7 years of experience in training street outreach  
9 workers in multiple cities.

10 (d) The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority  
11 may consult, contract, work in conjunction with, and obtain any  
12 information from any person, agency, association, or research  
13 institution deemed appropriate by the Authority.

14 (e) The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority  
15 shall allow any training approved by the Professionalized  
16 Street Outreach Workers Task Force to be a reimbursable expense  
17 for any programs that receive funding for outreach services in  
18 at-risk communities.

19 (f) The Task Force shall submit a written report of its  
20 findings and recommendations to the General Assembly on or  
21 before January 1, 2019.

22 (g) On or before January 1, 2019 the Illinois Community  
23 College Board shall issue a request to community colleges  
24 throughout this State to apply for Permanent Approval of Career  
25 and Technical Education Curriculum or Temporary Approval of  
26 Career and Technical Education Curriculum, or both, that

1 addresses the educational and training needs identified as  
2 required by the Professionalized Street Outreach Workers Task  
3 Force. The Illinois Community College Board shall approve any  
4 of these requests provided, the requests meet both the Illinois  
5 Community College Board standards for approval and the  
6 identified training standards of the Professionalized Street  
7 Outreach Workers Task Force.

8 (h) This Section is repealed on January 1, 2020.

9 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
10 becoming law.