



SR1706

LRB100 21897 MST 39766 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Public higher education is a shared public good;
3 the University of Illinois System should serve everyone in
4 Illinois with equal access to education and the freedom that
5 comes from learning; and

6 WHEREAS, The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
7 (UIUC) is the flagship campus and was one of the original 37
8 public land-grant institutions created under the Morrill Act
9 with the goal of increasing access to higher education, then
10 widely unavailable to many agricultural and industrial
11 workers; and

12 WHEREAS, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), with its
13 urban mission is "focused on eliminating disparities in health,
14 education and economic opportunity" because "diversity is not
15 an end in itself, but a vehicle for advancing access, equity,
16 and inclusion" and considers itself one of the most ethnically
17 and culturally diverse campuses in the country; and

18 WHEREAS, The University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS) is
19 a public affairs university resolved to pioneer leaders in
20 public education who will investigate the social,
21 technological, environmental, and moral questions of our times
22 by encouraging exposure to public affairs that extend beyond

1 the classroom and campus and to the community; and

2 WHEREAS, 47% of adults in Illinois have a criminal record,
3 which creates barriers to housing, jobs, employment, and full
4 democratic participation; and

5 WHEREAS, All the factors that increase the likelihood of
6 involvement with the criminal legal system, such as being poor,
7 coming from neighborhoods with low educational spending and
8 high incarceration rates, or having low access to social
9 mobility or economic opportunity, only persist or worsen after
10 a conviction; and

11 WHEREAS, Many high schools in poor communities of color
12 disproportionately use suspension, expulsion, and
13 zero-tolerance policies, and therefore disciplinary actions
14 and arrests are much higher; and

15 WHEREAS, Poor people of color are disproportionately
16 arrested, convicted, and incarcerated, and African Americans
17 and Latinos together make up approximately 32% of the U.S.
18 population, but comprise 56% of all incarcerated people; and

19 WHEREAS, Asking university applicants about their high
20 school disciplinary records and adult conviction records has a
21 chilling effect, discouraging people from even applying to the

1 University of Illinois, and all three campuses currently
2 request information about an applicant's criminal record and
3 high school records in the admission process, thus creating a
4 barrier to education; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Education has
6 given forceful guidance for colleges and universities to
7 eliminate collateral consequences of convictions and
8 encourages abolition of these questions from applications, so
9 that universities may mitigate, rather than exacerbate, the
10 damage of the criminal justice system to individuals and
11 communities; and

12 WHEREAS, By discouraging people from applying, the
13 University of Illinois system acts against the ideals of public
14 higher education, undermines its mission to make higher
15 education accessible to all, and impedes Illinois residents in
16 their efforts to lead positive and productive lives, thus
17 preventing people with unlimited potential from matriculating
18 and depriving current students of valuable colleagues and
19 peers; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the University
22 of Illinois System to eliminate barriers to obtaining a
23 post-secondary education by ceasing to inquire about prior

1 conviction information or past high school disciplinary
2 history on any admissions application; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the University of Illinois System is urged
4 not to consider any conviction or high school disciplinary
5 history information provided at any point during the admissions
6 process from any application using a third-party-vendor and
7 should further urge any such vendor not to disclose such
8 information to the University of Illinois; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That in spite of the above statements, inquiries
10 or considerations of an applicant's criminal history are
11 permitted if required by federal law or in accordance with
12 Section 2605-327 of the Department of State Police Law of Civil
13 Administrative Code of Illinois or Section 10, 15, or 20 of the
14 Medical School Matriculant Criminal History Records Check Act;
15 and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the University of Illinois is urged to only
17 inquire about criminal history information related to specific
18 convictions to follow existing laws and restrictions on aspects
19 of campus life such as housing and employment after the student
20 is admitted; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, The University of Illinois is urged to only
22 inquire about criminal history after an individual has been

1 admitted, only to offer the individual supportive services,
2 academic, or career counseling, and institutional support; and
3 be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the University of Illinois is urged to
5 include information on all printed and online admissions
6 materials that informs prospective applicants that a
7 conviction record may affect an individual's ability to obtain
8 certain professional or occupational licenses, types of
9 employment, or to participate in certain clinical or other
10 educational requirements; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 delivered to all members of the Illinois General Assembly, and
13 the Governor of the State of Illinois.