



SR1004

LRB097 23535 RLC 72530 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Corrections is  
3 required by law to house inmates committed to State prison; and

4 WHEREAS, Various trends and factors, including population  
5 increases, sentencing laws, and recidivism rates have created  
6 circumstances in which the Illinois Department of Corrections  
7 is now required to house a record number of inmates in the  
8 prison system, with a total inmate population currently more  
9 than 48,000 inmates in a system designed for 33,700 inmates;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Due to the record number of inmates currently  
12 housed in prison in Illinois, several facilities are now at or  
13 above maximum operational capacity, requiring the Illinois  
14 Department of Corrections to house inmates in conditions that  
15 pose substantial safety risks, namely, prison areas never  
16 designed or intended for inmate housing, including, but not  
17 limited to, common areas such as prison gymnasiums, dayrooms,  
18 and program rooms; and

19 WHEREAS, Despite an overcrowded and understaffed prison  
20 system, the Governor has announced the closure of several  
21 facilities, including Tamms, Dwight and several Adult  
22 Transition Centers, as well as brokered the sale of the unused

1 Thomson Correctional Center; and

2 WHEREAS, Overcrowded, understaffed prisons with inadequate  
3 facilities and work/treatment programs are a serious threat to  
4 staff, inmates and the citizens of this State; and

5 WHEREAS, The staff reductions, facility closures, and  
6 placement of dangerous inmates into medium security prisons has  
7 led to a rise in inmate violence; and

8 WHEREAS, The Governor's current policy has resulted in  
9 increased gang organization by the Latin Kings, Gangster  
10 Disciples and other well-known gangs; and

11 WHEREAS, Overcrowded prison conditions are  
12 counter-productive to the goals of imprisonment in this State;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The Governor and Director of Corrections have  
15 failed to take action in this crisis; and

16 WHEREAS, Recent media reports indicate that the Illinois  
17 Department of Corrections has been understaffed and  
18 overcrowded for years, and the problem has only been made worse  
19 by an inept and even, in some cases, corrupt Illinois  
20 Department of Corrections administrative team; and

1           WHEREAS, The Governor has failed to respond to serious  
2           allegations against senior officials within the Illinois  
3           Department of Corrections; and

4           WHEREAS, These issues could be addressed by replacing  
5           senior agency officials, including the Director, Executive  
6           Chief, Deputy Chief of Operations and Southern Illinois Deputy  
7           Director; and

8           WHEREAS, The continued lack of transparency and lack of  
9           control by the Governor creates serious public safety concerns  
10          and allows for an environment of corruption; and

11          WHEREAS, The Governor's planned closures will result in a  
12          loss of more than 1,000 jobs; and

13          WHEREAS, Lawmakers provided funding for the facilities in  
14          the budget but this funding was later vetoed by the Governor;  
15          therefore, be it

16          RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
17          ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Senate  
18          Appropriations Committees shall jointly review the misconduct  
19          and mismanagement in the Illinois Department of Corrections;  
20          and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Corrections and  
2 any other State agency, entity, or person that may have  
3 information relevant to this investigation cooperate fully and  
4 promptly with the Committee's investigation; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Corrections  
6 develop comprehensive plans to ensure that the public is  
7 informed about the operations of all correctional and detention  
8 facilities within its jurisdiction and that those facilities  
9 are accountable to the General Assembly, the public, and the  
10 media; and be it further

11           RESOLVED, That the Governor seek the immediate  
12 resignations of the Director, Executive Chief, Deputy Chief of  
13 Operations and Southern Illinois Deputy Director, then begin an  
14 immediate internal investigation into the negligence and  
15 corruption within the Illinois Department of Corrections; and  
16 be it further

17           RESOLVED, That in order to immediately mitigate the severe  
18 overcrowding within the Illinois Department of Corrections  
19 facilities the Governor not close any of the proposed  
20 facilities; and be it further

21           RESOLVED, That the Senate Appropriations Committees

1 jointly review the physical condition, the size and composition  
2 of the inmate population, and any specific and immediate needs  
3 of each correctional facility managed or operated by the State;  
4 and be it further

5       RESOLVED, That the Senate Appropriations Committees  
6 jointly hold public hearings, take testimony, and request  
7 detailed and specific information relating to the inmate  
8 population and staff of any individual correctional facility  
9 managed or operated by the State, as well as the State's prison  
10 system at large; and be it further

11       RESOLVED, That the Senate Appropriations Committees' joint  
12 review shall include, but not be limited to, the following  
13 areas:

14           (1) a detailed composition of current prison  
15 populations and their respective requirements for  
16 effective reform;

17           (2) the geographical location of inmate families and  
18 their respective needs;

19           (3) employee locations, staffing levels, and the  
20 demands being placed on prison staffs within the State;

21           (4) the physical condition of each of the State's  
22 correctional facilities and their respective needs;

23           (5) the potential necessity for a geriatric  
24 correctional facility;

1           (6) criminal sentencing guidelines;  
2           (7) the economic impact created, at both the State and  
3           local levels, by each of the State's correctional  
4           facilities, with special attention given to any  
5           correctional facility recommended to be immediately or  
6           abruptly decommissioned and their respective populations  
7           moved throughout the remainder of the State's prison  
8           system; and be it further

9           RESOLVED, That the Senate Appropriations Committees shall  
10          jointly issue their findings and recommendations in a final  
11          report outlining a long-term objective plan for the State's  
12          correctional facilities, the populations they hold, and the  
13          workforce needed to best protect the citizens of Illinois, by  
14          September 1, 2013.