



HJ0096

LRB098 21178 RLC 59377 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The criminal laws of the State of Illinois seek to
3 prescribe penalties which are proportionate to the seriousness
4 of offenses and the differences in rehabilitation
5 possibilities among individual offenders; and

6 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes that the data
7 collected and analyzed by State agencies, including the
8 Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council, and independent
9 entities have demonstrated that the State of Illinois
10 experiences overcrowding in prison and jail populations, a
11 continued high rate of recidivism of approximately 50%, and
12 levels of crime that plague Illinois communities; and

13 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes that the State of
14 Illinois currently spends \$1.3 billion per year on imprisonment
15 of adults and approximately \$86,861 per year to detain a single
16 juvenile; and

17 WHEREAS, It is in the interest of public safety and the
18 public good of the State to examine the current Illinois
19 criminal justice system and develop comprehensive,
20 evidence-based methods to more effectively and
21 cost-efficiently sanction criminal offenses and improve
22 outcomes, while holding offenders accountable; therefore, be

1 it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
3 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
4 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Joint Criminal Justice
5 Reform Committee is created to examine the impact of the
6 current sentencing structure, ensure that the enforcement and
7 punishment of crimes do not disproportionately or unfairly
8 affect certain racial, ethnic, or minority groups, and develop
9 solutions to address the issues that exist within the system;
10 and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Committee shall consist of 10 members of
12 the General Assembly appointed as follows:

13 (1) 3 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
14 Representatives, one of whom shall serve as
15 co-chairperson;

16 (2) 3 appointed by the President of the Senate, one of
17 whom shall serve as a co-chairperson;

18 (3) 2 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
19 Representatives; and

20 (4) 2 appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;
21 and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Committee shall hold public hearings, at
23 the call of the co-chairpersons, to receive testimony from the

1 public regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of Illinois
2 criminal justice system, and the impact of the current
3 sentencing scheme; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Committee shall submit a report to the
5 General Assembly no later than December 1, 2014.