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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Joint Criminal Justice Reform Committee ("Committee") was created as a special committee by House Joint Resolution 96 in the 98th General Assembly to examine the Illinois criminal justice system, examine the impact of the current sentencing structure, and discuss strategies for reform; and

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WHEREAS, The Committee was a bicameral and bipartisan committee composed of members of the Illinois General Assembly that sought input from a wide range of stakeholders within the criminal justice community; and

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WHEREAS, State and county agencies, advocates, and community organizations engaged the members of the Committee in discussions during public hearings from July of 2014 to December of 2014; and

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WHEREAS, Discussions that took place during the Committee's hearings highlighted important issues regarding the growth of the adult corrections population, the unique issues presented with respect to juveniles involved in the criminal justice system, the impact that current laws have on Illinois communities and the justice-involved population, and policy changes across the nation that have proven effective in

1 reducing costs and corrections populations in other states; and

2 WHEREAS, Pursuant to House Joint Resolution 96, the
3 Committee timely submitted a report to the Illinois General
4 Assembly on December 1, 2014; following the Rules of the House
5 of Representatives and the Senate for the 98th General
6 Assembly, the Committee expired upon the adjournment of both
7 chambers; and

8 WHEREAS, The members of the Committee recognize that the
9 6-month period in which the Committee was active could not
10 allow for adequate consideration and understanding of the
11 evidence-based methods that may address some of the issues that
12 were presented to the Committee; and

13 WHEREAS, The members of the Committee remain committed to
14 continuing productive discussions with stakeholders in the
15 criminal justice community in order to develop comprehensive
16 methods that are in the interest of the public safety and the
17 public good of the State; and

18 WHEREAS, The members of the Committee recognize that it is
19 equally important to ensure that it explores avenues to better
20 educate the legislature at-large regarding sentencing
21 policies; therefore, be it

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

10 RESOLVED, That the Committee shall consist of 16 members of
11 the General Assembly appointed as follows:

12 (1) 4 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
13 Representatives, one of whom shall serve as
14 co-chairperson;

15 (2) 4 members appointed by the President of the Senate,
16 one of whom shall serve as a co-chairperson;

17 (3) 4 members appointed by the Minority Leader of the
18 House of Representatives; and

19 (4) 4 members appointed by the Minority Leader of the
20 Senate; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Committee shall hold public hearings at
22 the call of the co-chairpersons to receive testimony from the
23 public regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of the
24 Illinois criminal justice system and the impact of the current

1 sentencing scheme; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Committee shall make recommendations
3 for legislation to the General Assembly no later than April 1,
4 2015.