

HR0233HAM001 LRB0

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AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 233

AMENDMENT NO. ____. Amend House Resolution 233 by replacing everything after the heading with the following:

"WHEREAS, The Tamms Correctional Center opened in 1995 in
Tamms, Alexander County as a 200-bed minimum-security prison;
in 1998, it expanded, adding a 500-bed facility, designed to
hold the most dangerous and violent male prisoners in the
State; and

9 WHEREAS, Following the closure of the Tamms Correctional Center in January of 2013, the inmates were transferred to 10 maximum security prisons; this put a strain on the already 11 12 overly crowded correctional State system; with the maximum-security prisons taking in more inmates, many of their 13 existing inmates were then transferred to lower-security 14 15 facilities; this trend rippled through the State system; and

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1 WHEREAS, Currently, the State correctional system holds 2 around 49,000 inmates, however the facilities that are open are 3 designed to hold around 32,000 inmates; with the State's 4 prisons being so drastically over-crowded, staff and inmate 5 safety has again become a major cause of concern; and

6 WHEREAS, The current levels of inmates in the overly 7 crowded State correctional system has caused major concern for 8 the safety of staff working in the prisons; at Pickneyville 9 Correctional Center on September 25, 2013, inmate Rodolfo Rosas 10 attacked 3 male guards and one female guard; they were taken to 11 an area hospital and treated for various injuries, including a 12 broken nose; and

13 WHEREAS, Over-crowded correctional facilities are not just 14 a safety problem for staff but also create a dangerous 15 atmosphere for other inmates; since the closure of the Tamms 16 Correctional Center, other facilities having to deal with the 17 over-population issue have resorted to moving hundreds of 18 inmates into a gymnasium as cells have become too crowded; and

19 WHEREAS, Incidents of violent fights between inmates have 20 increased since the closure of the Tamms Correctional Center 21 because the current correctional system is having difficulty 22 handling the over-populated prisons; and HR0233HAM001

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1 WHEREAS, If the State of Illinois would utilize the former 2 Tamms Correctional Center it could help increase safety inside 3 the State's correctional centers for both the staff and 4 inmates; the space inside the former Tamms Correctional Center 5 would also greatly help to reduce the strain over the State's 6 over-populated correctional centers; and

7 WHEREAS, The former Tamms Correctional Center should be 8 refitted and reopened in order to ensure the best outcomes for 9 inmates and staff in helping to keep people safe and in helping 10 aid in rehabilitation; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, ΒY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we 12 13 urge Governor Rauner to refit and reopen the former Tamms 14 Correctional Center to help control the over-crowding in the State's correction system and to ensure the safety of 15 correctional staff and inmates; and be it further 16

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be 18 delivered to Governor Rauner and the Director of Corrections.".