

Bill	Description	Our Take	Position	Witness Slip/Status	More Info	More Info
PASSED BILLS						
HB5701	<p>JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ACT</p> <p>HOUSE AMENDMENT 5: An employer may not require disclosure of a job applicant's criminal record until that applicant has been found to be qualified and selected for an interview or if there is no interview until a conditional offer of employment has been extended to the applicant. The bill makes exceptions for positions that under law would disqualify an applicant based on type of conviction or when the position requires a fidelity bond for the applicant. The bill also establishes civil penalties for employers who violate this act.</p> <p>SENATE AMENDMENT 3: Adds exclusion for employers who employ individuals under the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act.</p>	<p>MAY IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS FOR CONVICTED FELONS</p> <p>This bill could open up many job opportunities for RSOs and other convicted felons who otherwise would not have been considered for a job interview based on a conviction box checked on a job application. The bill is not as strong as the version originally introduced since it does not require the employer to consider the relevance of the conviction to the candidate's ability to do the job but it could help qualified candidates to at least be considered for more jobs.</p> <p>This bill now goes on to Governor Quinn who has indicated he will sign it.</p> <p>Effective January 1, 2015.</p>	Proponent	5/29 Passed Both Houses	Shriver Ce	Chicago
HJR96	Creates the Joint Criminal Justice Reform Committee to examine the impact of the current sentencing structure, ensure that the enforcement and punishment of crimes does not disproportionately or unfairly affect certain racial, ethnic, or minority groups, and develop solutions to address the issues that exist within the system.	<p>AN AVENUE FOR HAVING OUR VOICES HEARD</p> <p>This Committee would hold public hearings where it could be possible to voice the need for changes to existing sex offender registration and notification laws since they technically fall into the SENTENCING section of the IL Statutes. The committee would report its recommendations to the Illinois General Assembly by December 1, 2014. If this bill is approved by both the House and Senate then we might need some of our supporters and experts in the field of managing sex offenders to testify to this committee about why these laws are ineffective and how they should be changed.</p>	Proponent	5/30 Adopted Both Houses Committee to be formed in June		

Select "Proponent" in section "III. POSITION" of Witness Slip:						
-	-	2014 Legislative Session has Ended!	Proponent			
Select "Opponent" in section "III. POSITION" of Witness Slip:						
-	-	2014 Legislative Session has Ended!	Opponent			
DEAD BILLS:						
SB2912	Provides that any registered sex offender (RSO) who loses his or her employment must register this in person within 3 days of loss of employment	LAYERS ON MORE LAWS AND DOES NOT IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY This bill clarifies the existing registration statute and was motivated by a decision in May 2013 in which the Fourth District Appellate Court tossed out a conviction for failure to register an employment change since they ruled that job loss did not constitute a change in "place of employment" pursuant to the Sex Offender Registration Act. State Senator Jason Barickman who is co-sponsoring this bill claims it is only a clarification rather than a "get tough" bill. This bill means more registration requirements for RSOs at a time of job loss which can be a frequent occurrence for some. The ACLU of Illinois points out that this bill just layers on more laws and does nothing to improve public safety.	Opponent	3/4 Senate: Third Reading - Passed; 047-002-003 5/16 House: Rule 19(a) / Re-referred to Rules Committee	Article Feb	ACLU Op
SB3383	AWA/SORNA compliance. 1. More offenses would qualify for registration. 2. Retroactive increase of registration frequency/duration: "sexual predators" - every 90 days for life other felony offenses - every 6 months for 25 years misdemeanor offenses - 15 years annually 3. More information to register: Land, air and watercraft owned or operated by the offender Passports, immigration documents and professional licenses	UNCONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT WASTE This bill would do little to increase public safety and would cost Illinois far more money than it would save in lost Byrne funds from the Federal government. Making RSOs register more frequently or for a longer duration than when the RSO was sentenced is an EX-POST FACTO or RETROACTIVE form of PUNISHMENT and is prohibited by clause 1 of Article I, Section 10 of the United States Constitution. When applied to NON-VIOLENT offenders who have a LOW RISK of re-offense, registration and the public notification that goes with it is PUNISHMENT for the offender and the offender's family. The landmark U.S. Supreme Court case of Smith v. Doe had determined back in 2003 that retroactive application of sex offender registration laws is non-punitive but in light of the restrictions and damage to families that is caused by the public registry this same finding would likely be different in 2014.	Opponent	4/11 Rule 3-9(a) / Re-referred to Assignments	What is SO	IL Voices

HB4094	HOUSE AMENDMENT 3: States that "Except as otherwise provided by law" CSOs are not allowed to be in parks. Taken together with other parts of the law could mean that a CSO would be allowed in a "park" as long as the CSO does not contact/communicate with children other than their own while at that location.	RELAXES PARK RESTRICTIONS FOR CSOs This is a good first step toward the eventual elimination of park restrictions for CSOs. At the House Judiciary Hearing on April 3, Rep. Elaine Nekritz who is Chairperson of the committee called for the need for Risk Assessments for all registered sex offenders in Illinois! A supporter of Illinois Voices was the instigator of this bill and testified at the hearing since her son who is on probation for a sex offense and who has 50% custody of his children cannot go to a park with his children even when school-sponsored events are held there due to the current park restrictions. Discrepancies in the current statues were pointed out at the hearing since some prosecutors are following 720 ILCS 5/11-9.3 (a-10) and (b-2) and other prosecutors are following statute 720 ILCS 5/11-9.4-1 which outright bans CSOs from being present in or loitering within 500 feet of public parks.	Proponent	4/11 Rule 19 (a) / Re-referred to Rules Committee		
HB4280	Adds "County Fairs" to list of places child sex offenders (CSOs) are not allowed to be	FURTHER OSTRACIZES REGISTRANTS This bill would do little to increase public safety since we know that few sex offenses are committed by strangers and the recidivism rate for registrants is very low. It would add to a growing list of places where registrants are not allowed to go and further ostracize registrants and their families. The need for this bill is questionable since it is based solely on one incident where a CSO was found to be at a county fair in Whiteside County dressed in a costume. Apparently that CSO could not be prosecuted for being there since what he was doing was not against the law. What's next? Do we need laws to ban CSOs from shopping at stores and eating at restaurants since there could be children there too?	Opponent	3/28 Rule 19 (a) / Re-referred to Rules Committee	Article	
HB4617	Makes it illegal for a child sex offender (CSO) to operate a taxi or limo	UNNECESSARY As noted in the May 2013 NBC Chicago investigation, an individual already has to pass a background check to obtain state permits to drive school children. Why not fix this at the state level and by targeting the school bus and cab companies rather than creating another criminal offense for a CSO?	Opponent	3/28 Rule 19 (a) / Re-referred to Rules Committee	NBC Chicago	
HB5282	Provides that RSOs (including those with offenses involving adult victims) on probation/parole/supervised release must attend a special group meeting with other RSOs on Halloween or on any other day that children participate in Halloween activities	HALLOWEEN HYSTERIA Studies have found no significant increase in risk for non-familial child sexual abuse on or around Halloween. This bill would be costly to implement since trick-or-treating hours vary from town-to-town so every county sheriff's office and every local police department would need to dedicate staff to round up and detain RSOs on probation/parole/supervised release during those hours.	Opponent	3/28 Rule 19 (a) / Re-referred to Rules Committee	IL Voices R	

HB5407	Provides that it is a Class A misdemeanor for a CSO to transport a non-familial minor without the consent of the minor's parent or guardian	<p>LAYERS ON MORE LAWS AND DOES NOT IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY</p> <p>There may be legitimate reasons for a CSO to transport a non-familial minor without explicit consent from the minor's parent or guardian like to bring that minor to a hospital for emergency treatment. Also, since 720 ILCS 5/12-21.6-5 states that it is "unlawful for a parent or guardian of a minor to knowingly leave that minor in the custody or control of a child sex offender, or allow the child sex offender unsupervised access to the minor", technically that parent or guardian can't legally give such consent anyway.</p> <p>(Rep. Brown proposed this legislation as HB4005 in 2012 and as HB1164 in 2013. In 2012 it unanimously passed the House but died in the Senate Criminal Law Subcommittee on CLEAR Compliance. In 2013, 5 legislators in the House co-sponsored the bill but it never left the Rules Committee.)</p>	Opponent	3/28 Rule 19 (a) / Re-referred to Rules Committee	2013 HB1	2012 HB
HB5701	Limits inquiries into criminal background of applicants, requires consideration of the nature and gravity of a candidate's conviction record, the time elapsed since the conviction, and whether the conviction has a direct bearing on the candidate's fitness before excluding a candidate. Authorizes civil action for candidates injured by a violation of this act and penalties for employers who violate this act.	<p>OPENS UP JOB OPPORTUNITIES</p> <p>This could open up many job opportunities for RSOs and other convicted felons who otherwise would have been excluded previously due to a background check in cases where the conviction would not be a legal barrier or otherwise a hindrance to doing the job.</p>	Proponent	4/11 Rule 19 (a) / Re-referred to Rules Committee		