

Bill	Description	Our Take	Position	Witness Slip/Status	More Info	More Info
Illinois 99th General Assembly -- bill information last updated 6/1/2016						
Select "Proponent" in section "III. POSITION" on Witness Slip						
HB5572	This bill proposes to create a task force to examine the offenses that require registration, conditions and restrictions for registrants, and the registration process. The task force will hold public hearings to receive testimony from the public and to make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding legislative changes. The task force is to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations on or before January 1, 2018.	The creation of this task force is our #1 legislative priority for 2016. It's time to get the discussion going and the change started. Oregon started this process a few years ago and is now in the process of risk-assessing all registrants into 3 categories. Connecticut started their task force last year. It's time for Illinois to start its task force and to make some positive recommendations to reduce the size of our bloated registry and to remove the burden of registration and restrictions from those who do not pose a threat to public safety. We know based on research that the recidivism rates for those who have been convicted of sex offenses is very low and that most new offenses are committed by those NOT currently on the registry. We also know that presence/residence restrictions are ineffective so this task force will be an opportunity for us to present that evidence.	Proponent	Public Act 99		
HB4572	Provides that an insurer or producer authorized to issue policies of insurance in the State may not make a distinction or otherwise discriminate between persons, reject an applicant, cancel a policy, or demand or require a higher rate of premium for reasons based solely upon the basis that an applicant or insured has been convicted of a felony.	Clearly those convicted of felonies have insurance needs just like other citizens of our state. Life insurance and liability insurance are probably the two hardest types of insurance for someone convicted of a felony to obtain. This bill would be a welcome change for those wanting insurance and unable to obtain it.	Proponent	4/8 Re-referred to Rules Committee	Why Life Ins	Can They
HB6315	This bill proposes to create a task force to examine employment restrictions for those with criminal records and seeks to eliminate those restrictions which do not have a rational connection to public safety. The task force is to submit its findings on or before November 1, 2016 and each even-numbered year thereafter.	It seems unlikely that any recommendations will be made to remove employment restrictions from registered citizens until the "Sex Offenses and Sex Offender Registration Task Force" (HB5572) creates a risk-based registry. However, this Task Force is needed and its work will be a stepping-stone toward eventual elimination of employment restrictions for lower risk registrants.	Proponent	4/22 Rule 19 (a) / Re-referred to Rules Committee		

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HB4271	<p>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.</p> <p>This is a repeat of SB2912 from 2014 which passed the Senate on a vote of 047-002-003 but died in the House Judiciary Sex Offenses Subcommittee.</p>	<p>DOES NOT IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY</p> <p>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 co-sponsored SB2912 claimed 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.</p>	Opponent	4/22 Re-referred to Rules Committee	ACLU Opinion Feb. 2014	Appellate Court decision which was the motivation for this bill May 6, 2013
HB4294	<p>Prohibits a Child Sex Offender (CSO) from residing within 500 feet of a "foster family home" unless the property of the CSO was purchased before the effective date of this act.</p> <p>Prohibits a CSO from operating, managing, being employed by, volunteering at, being associated with, or knowingly being present at any "foster family home".</p>	<p>This would add to the growing list of places where a CSO cannot reside and cannot be present which is looking more and more like banishment. The definition of a "foster family home" can be found in 225 ILCS 10/2.17.</p> <p>Residence restrictions and proximity restrictions haven't been shown to improve public safety and they have been shown to be damaging to the CSO and his/her family.</p> <p>This bill appears to have been motivated by someone living in Rep. Beiser's district who operates a foster home and was surprised to find that he/she had sexual predators living nearby and that the state does not include foster homes in the definition of "daycare".</p> <p>How is the CSO to determine the locations of foster homes? It's already difficult if not impossible to determine the locations of day cares.</p>	Opponent	4/8 Re-referred to Rules Committee	State of Ala	
HB4342	<p>Gives discretion to the courts to require those convicted of disorderly conduct to register if the court finds that the offense was "sexually motivated".</p>	<p>Illinois Voices does not support adding more people to an already bloated and ineffective registry that continues to punish people who have already served their time. The collateral consequences of registration/public notification endangers sex offenders and their families and does not promote rehabilitation of an ex-offender. The current public registry in Illinois includes too many offenders who pose little-to-no public risk, it is too broad to be used as an effective public safety tool, and is a poor use of scarce law enforcement resources.</p> <p>Sometimes, potential sex crimes are charged as non-sex crimes for evidentiary or other reasons. That is a judgment for the prosecutor to make.</p>	Opponent	4/8 Re-referred to Rules Committee	NBC 5 Inve	

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HB4995	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.	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. NOTE: The same bill has been filed 4 years in a row by Rep. Brown.	Opponent	2/8 Referred to Rules Committee		
HB5547	Makes it illegal for a child sex offender (CSO) to operate a taxi or limo. (Last year HB224 had an Amendment 1 that added "transportation network company driver" like Uber and Lyft.)	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 deficiencies in their background check process by targeting the school bus and cab companies rather than creating another criminal offense for a CSO? This bill is just adding to the public hysteria over sex offenses when in fact most of the offenses are committed by people not currently on any sex offender registry since recidivism for sex offenders is <5% nationally. Employment restrictions are counterproductive to public safety since studies have shown that people who have jobs are less likely to re-offend. NOTE: The same bill has been filed 3 years in a row by Rep. Cavaletto."	Opponent	4/8 Re-referred to Rules Committee	NBC Chicago	
HB5555	Applies loitering/presence restrictions to anyone convicted of battery against a minor for a period of 5 years from date of conviction and restricts employment for these individuals.	Loitering/presence restrictions are an ineffective means to improve public safety.	Opponent	4/8 Re-referred to Rules Committee		

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HB5586	Makes it illegal for a CSO to be present at a county fair or to loiter within 500 feet of a county fair that is located in a county with a population of less than 150,000.	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	4/8 Re-referred to Rules Committee		
HB5725	Creates the "Petition Circulation Protection Act". Provides that no RSO may circulate candidate petitions for any office. Any individual circulating petitions on behalf of a political candidate shall be asked if he or she is a sex offender by the person hiring or organizing circulators. If an RSO collects petitions, the signatures collected by that individual shall be void.	Having a conviction should not affect a person's right to participate in the political process. Elected officials may have felony convictions, so it makes no sense to bar people from passing petitions. Also, the list of registered voters is publicly available.	Opponent	4/8 Re-referred to Rules Committee		
HB5883	Provides that a period of probation, a term of periodic imprisonment or conditional discharge shall not be imposed for an offense that requires registration under the Sex Offender Registration Act.	Not all offenses or offenders are created equal. If we are letting drug and gun offenders out of prison early this will just fill up our prisons with people who have committed sex offenses. This is yet another vindictive bill from this freshman legislator who is looking to make a name for herself by being "tough on crime".	Opponent	4/8 Re-referred to Rules Committee		

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HB6155	Gives discretion to the courts to require a person who is convicted of or adjudicated a juvenile delinquent to register for any offense if the court finds at the time of sentencing that the person committed the offense for the purpose of sexual arousal or sexual gratification. Provides that the court shall state on the record the reasons for its findings and the reasons for requiring registration.	<p>Data shows that subjecting juveniles to long-term registration and notification requirements does not improve public safety and actually harms youth.</p> <p>Illinois Voices does not support adding more people to an already bloated and ineffective registry that continues to punish people who have already served their time. The collateral consequences of registration/public notification endangers sex offenders and their families and does not promote rehabilitation of an ex-offender. The current public registry in Illinois includes too many offenders who pose little-to-no public risk, it is too broad to be used as an effective public safety tool, and is a poor use of scarce law enforcement resources.</p>	Opponent	2/11 Referred to Rules Committee	Juvenile Law Center Initiative	
SB2201	Gives discretion to the courts to require those convicted of battery to register if the court finds that the offense was "sexually motivated". HB2548 was Rep. Batnick's 2015 bill known as "Stephanie's Law".	<p>Illinois Voices does not support adding more people to an already bloated and ineffective registry that continues to punish people who have already served their time. The collateral consequences of registration/public notification endangers sex offenders and their families and does not promote rehabilitation of an ex-offender. The current public registry in Illinois includes too many offenders who pose little-to-no public risk, it is too broad to be used as an effective public safety tool, and is a poor use of scarce law enforcement resources.</p> <p>Sometimes, potential sex crimes are charged as non-sex crimes for evidentiary or other reasons. That is a judgment for the prosecutor to make.</p>	Opponent	5/13 Rule 3-9(a) / Re-referred to Assignments	NBC 5 Inve	Chicago T

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SB2220	Provides that public indecency also includes committing the proscribed acts while confined in a penal institution. Provides that a person convicted of a second or subsequent violation for public indecency while confined in a penal institution is guilty of a Class 4 felony. Amends the Sex Offender Registration Act. Includes in the definition of "sex offense", a second violation or attempted violation of public indecency while confined in a penal institution committed on or after the effective date of the amendatory Act.	It looks like some prisoner must have successfully argued in court that indecency while in a penal institution is not a criminal offense and is not a registerable offense due to a technicality since the statute requires that the indecency occur in a public place.	Opponent	1/13 Referred to Assignments		
SB2347	Permits sale of computers used to facilitate the commission of certain offenses and monies to be used by the law enforcement agency that seized them. The computers may also be recommissioned for official use or destroyed. The court shall not be able to order the computer to be returned to the defendant.	Police forfeiture creates perverse incentives for how policing is conducted—whole police funding streams are designed around it. Police should not profit from taking property. According to the ACLU, "many police departments use forfeiture to benefit their bottom lines, making seizures motivated by profit rather than crime-fighting." This bill would lead to an increased abuse by police authority in confiscating computers. People with criminal records already face huge obstacles to reintegrating. You take away their computer and that is just another essential you have taken away from them to conduct job searches and even to obtain an online education."	Opponent	5/13 Rule 3-9(a) / Re-referred to Assignments	ACLU Opini	
NO POSITION						
SB3354	Provides that the place of registration for a person who is required to register under any of the Acts with the Chicago Police Department is at a fixed location designated by the Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department (rather than at the Chicago Police Department Headquarters).	We are still trying to determine the motivation for this and whether it is something good or bad.	No Position	Public Act 99		

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114th U.S. Congress						
H.R.515	International Megan's Law: Grants the Department of Homeland Security (Angel Watch Center) the authority to provide advance notice to countries when CSOs have plans to travel there and requires DHS to notify registrants in advance when they might be denied travel to those countries based on this notice. Requires the center to establish a mechanism to receive complaints from CSOs affected by these notifications..	<p>This bill appears to legitimize activities that Department of Homeland Security is already doing. At least there is some decency in this bill to add a complaint process and a notification to the CSO when he/she is likely to be denied entry to a destination country. Most CSOs do not travel with ill intentions and have a low risk for re-offense so to subjecting all CSOs to this law regardless of risk of re-offense makes this law too broad and therefore unconstitutional.</p> <p>The senate amendment to this bill authorizes the marking of passports of SOs. See Washington Post Article to the right for more details.</p>	Opponent	2/8/16 Signed into Law	Obama Cou	Washingt
H.R.52	Grants the Department of Homeland Security the authority to deny an RSO who petitions for a visa for a spouse or child if that offender was incarcerated following conviction for 1 year or longer or if in the opinion of DHS granting the petition would put the spouse or child in danger of being sexually abused.	This bill would prevent some RSOs who have served their time from being able to see their spouse and children again by preventing them from obtaining visas to come to the U.S. On the positive side this is discretionary authority and not a mandate.	Opponent	<p>1/6/15 Referred to House Oversight and Government Reform</p> <p>1/22/15 Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security</p> <p>1/23/15 Referred to the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security</p>		

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S.993	Disqualifies anyone charged with or convicted of a sex offense from receiving mental health services funded by this program.	What is the rationale for disqualifying anyone charged with or convicted of a sex offense? It would be in the best interest of the public to fund programs that provide services to anyone with a mental health problem.	Opponent	12/10/2015 Passed Senate		
H.R.2521	This bill amends title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to eliminate the provision that prohibits Pell Grant eligibility for individuals incarcerated in a federal or state penal institution and for sex offenders subject to civil commitment following incarceration.	This is the right thing to do for rehabilitation of offenders.	Proponent	11/16/2015 Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training		
H.R.4410	Provides for automatic expungement of certain non-violent federal offenses 7 years post-sentence but excludes anyone required to register as a sex offender. Provides for a 5% increase in Byrne funds to any state that implements a similar law for state offenses and a 5% reduction in Byrne funds for any state that does not implement a similar law.	This bill is a good first step but it doesn't include provisions for those on the registry so that's not a good thing.	Proponent	2/1/2016 Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary 4/1/2016 Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigation		