



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Cook County Building, Board Room, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois

New Items Agenda

Second Set

Thursday, April 25, 2019, 10:00 AM

19-3142

Sponsored by: DENNIS DEER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**URGING THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SUPPORT HB2541 RE-ENTERING CITIZENS CIVICS EDUCATION ACT**

WHEREAS, 30,000 citizens re-enter society from Illinois correctional institutions; and

WHEREAS, Re-entering citizen means any United States citizen who is 17 years of age or older; in the physical custody of the Department of Corrections or Department of Juvenile Justice and schedule to re-entering society within 6 months; and

WHEREAS, many citizens in the state of Illinois believe their past criminal record prohibits them from voting in the State of Illinois but that is not true; and

WHEREAS, HB2541 purpose is for the Department of Corrections and the Department of Juvenile Justice to provide a non partisan peer led civics program throughout the correctional institutions of the State of Illinois to teach civics to soon -to -be released citizens who will be re-entering society; and

WHEREAS, the goal is to promote the successful integration of re-entering citizens, strengthen democracy, and reduce rates of recidivism with the state; and

WHEREAS, the curriculum will focus on voting rights, governmental institutions, current affairs, simulations of voter registration, election and the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, each workshop will consist of (3) sessions that are 90 minutes each and do not need to be taken consecutively; and

WHEREAS, the civic peer education program shall be taught by peer educators who are citizen's incarcerated in the Department of Corrections and Department of Juvenile Justice facilities and specially trained by experienced peer educators and established nonpartisan civic organizations; and

WHEREAS, HB2541 states the Department of Corrections must offer re-entering citizens scheduled to be discharged within 6 months with the civics peer education program, and each re-entering citizens must enroll in the program one to 6 months prior to his or her expected date of release; and

WHEREAS, Re-entering Citizens Civics Education workshop must be included in the standard exit process by the Illinois Department of Corrections and the Department of Juvenile Justice. In addition the delays in a workshop being provided shall not cause delays in discharge; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Cook County strongly hereby urges the State of Illinois General Assembly to pass HB2541 Re-entering Citizens Civics Education Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to the Governor of the State of Illinois, The Speaker of the House, and the Senate President and a copy of the same be spread upon the official record of this auspicious body