



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 14-4657, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**COB# 322615**

### **ISSUING A MORATORIUM ON FELONY PROSTITUTION CHARGES IN COOK COUNTY**

Submitting a Proposed Resolution sponsored by Toni Preckwinkle, President and Bridget Gainer, County Commissioner; Co-sponsored by Earlean Collins, John P. Daley, John A. Fritchey, Jesus G. Garcia, Joan Patricia Murphy, Edwin Reyes, Timothy O. Schneider, Deborah Sims, Robert B. Steele and Larry Suffredin, County Commissioners.

**WHEREAS**, Illinois, Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri and Texas are the only eight (8) states in the Country to have a felony sentencing option for prostitution offenses; and

**WHEREAS**, of these eight (8) states, Illinois has the harshest sentencing option in the Country requiring only one (1) prior prostitution conviction before a felony charge option is available for subsequent offenses; and

**WHEREAS**, as noted by End Demand Illinois, the Department of Corrections reported 127 felony prostitution admissions for 2012, costing the state \$2,011,680.00. Pretrial detention for those facing felony prostitution charges costs Cook County Department of Corrections between \$5.3 to \$9.5 million annually; and

**WHEREAS**, felony convictions make the transition out of the sex trade to the legitimate economy more difficult because those with felony convictions can be rejected from jobs, denied work authorization, denied housing and can even be evicted from their homes for having a felony conviction; and

**WHEREAS**, rather than continuing to treat prostitution as a crime, we must shift our resources and focus to the pimps and johns who exploit them.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the State's Attorney, the President and the members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners urge the General Assembly to pass legislation that will permanently remove the felony prostitution charge option from Illinois State Statute; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the State's Attorney, the President and members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners issue a moratorium on felony prostitution charges in Cook County.