



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 15-2114, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **REQUESTING A HEARING OF THE LEGISLATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS OPIATE/HEROIN ADDICTION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE COOK COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND HEALTH SYSTEMS**

**WHEREAS**, the opiate/heroin crisis in Illinois calls for practical public health and public safety solutions, including broad-based and coordinated prevention, intervention, and treatment strategies, and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County, as with the whole region, has a growing opiate/heroin addiction problem;

**WHEREAS**, opiate/heroin addiction costs Cook County millions of dollars in healthcare and public safety spending yearly; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County Department of Corrections processes 200-300 individuals per day, houses over 8,000 detainees at any given time, and sees more than 100,000 admissions per year; and

**WHEREAS**, seventy-four percent (74%) of these detainees screen positive for various types of drug use, and

**WHEREAS**, the Cermak Health Services manages over 500 opiate/heroin detoxes a month; and

**WHEREAS**, many detainees have multiple opiate/heroin detoxes in a year after multiple admissions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County Health and Hospital System treats opiate/heroin addiction cases on a daily bases; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County as a leader in healthcare and public safety can establish cost effective treatments for opiate addiction; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 1, which was recently introduced in the Illinois General Assembly, is the result of a statewide legislative task force that has studied opiate/heroin addiction and treatment options; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 1 would require increased resources and training for responding to opiate/heroin overdoses and addiction; and

**WHEREAS**, there are a number of methods to treat opiate/heroin addiction including FDA-approved medications to those with opiate/heroin addiction; and

**WHEREAS**, a variety of behavioral therapies can be effective at treating opiate/heroin addiction when combined with appropriate medications, and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical to understand that opiate/heroin addiction is a treatable disease.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby request that a meeting of the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee be convened to discuss

the cost of opiate/heroin abuse on the health and well-being of Cook County Citizens and the impact on the Cook County Criminal Justice System and Cook County Health and Hospital System; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby request that a representative of the Cook County Sheriff and the Cook County Health and Hospital System present testimony on the cost and treatment options for opiate/heroin addiction at the Cook County Jail and the John Stroger Hospital Emergency Room; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that testimony should be presented at the Committee hearing in regard to the manner in which opiate/heroin affects the brain and the resultant behavior and the role that pharmacological interventions play in the treatment of opiate/heroin addiction and cost effective treatment.