



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 16-4199, **Version:** 2

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### PROPOSED RESOLUTION

#### **WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COOK COUNTY CHIEF JUDGE'S OFFICE TO CREATE A SPEAKERS BUREAU AS AN EDUCATIONAL TOOL TO PROMOTE THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides citizens the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury; and

**WHEREAS**, court cases have ruled that an impartial jury is selected from a pool of individuals that represent a cross section of the community in regards to race, gender, and national origin; and

**WHEREAS**, in the American judicial system, the juror is entrusted with protecting the individual rights to life and liberty; and

**WHEREAS**, jury service teaches an individual the skills needed for analyzing and processing contesting facts, debating issues, listening and tolerating dissenting opinions; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2007 survey by the National Center for State Courts estimates that 32 million individuals are summoned to service annually, but only 8 million actually show up to serve, and of that amount only 1.5 million are selected to sit on a jury in a state each year; and

**WHEREAS**, Illinois Public Act 99-0434 amended the Illinois School Code to require students to have at least one semester of civics in order to graduate from high school; and

**WHEREAS**, this course will allow schools to integrate service projects with the classroom curriculum in enabling students to leverage their knowledge to address community issues; and

**WHEREAS**, civic education has been used to teach the skills needed to be responsible citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, civics focuses on providing information on governmental institutions, current and controversial issues, and the importance of the jury to our system of justice; and

**WHEREAS**, the new graduation requirements took effect as of January 1, 2016; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the President and Members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners that Cook County Commissioner Stanley Moore will work on behalf of the Board in collaboration with the Office of the Chief Judge of Cook County to create a Speakers Bureau consisting of current and retired members of the bar; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that that the purpose of the Speakers Bureau is to reach out to the students within the 4<sup>th</sup> District Cook County to discuss the importance of citizens performing their civic duty and responding to a summons for jury duty; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Cook County Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this

resolution to Chief Judge Timothy Evans.