



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 18-4210, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION TO EVALUATE THE FEASIBILITY OF SHERIFF'S OFFICE CONDUCTING COOK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S BACKGROUND CHECKS

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, An investigative report recently exposed multiple counts of sexual abuse of Chicago Public School (CPS) students at the hands of staff and teachers; and,

WHEREAS, Ineffective background checks or the disregard of negative background checks exposed students to educators and staff with criminal convictions and arrests for sex crimes against children; and,

WHEREAS, Although all school districts require potential school staff, volunteers and contract workers to pass a background check before they work with students, the report cited a lack of control over commissioning, receipt, and action of information received from background checks; and,

WHEREAS, Currently the Chicago Police Department, like CPS a department of the City of Chicago, conducts criminal background checks on all CPS potential staff; and,

WHEREAS, The background check function could be directed to an outside vendor, however, such a contract would still be under the management and control of a department of the City of Chicago; and,

WHEREAS, As is best practice in law enforcement, currently the city and the county operate a separation of powers in law enforcement functions; and,

WHEREAS, It is imperative to have separation of power to ensure all units of government are performing its core functions to the highest standard; and,

WHEREAS, The Cook County Sheriff's Office has the ability to conduct in depth criminal background checks, including criminal records, educational credentials, and prior employment on potential staff and conduct random checks to catch the arrests of current staff; and,

WHEREAS, It is the first duty of any unit of government to ensure the protection of children, especially those entrusted in the care of such government.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners shall direct the Cook County Sheriff's Office to explore the feasibility of conducting background checks for school districts in the County of Cook; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners directs the Cook County Sheriff's Office and all other various stakeholders to work together to suggest any necessary public policy determinations or procedural changes necessary to allow the Cook County Sheriff's Office to conduct such background checks.