



HR0840

LRB103 41000 ECR 74109 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has repeatedly emphasized  
3 the importance of timely and accessible mental health  
4 services; and

5 WHEREAS, The number of individuals facing mental health  
6 challenges in Illinois continues to rise at an alarming rate;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Mental health issues affect individuals across  
9 every socioeconomic status; and

10 WHEREAS, It is critically important to provide necessary  
11 assistance to those experiencing mental health challenges; and

12 WHEREAS, The provision of community-based mental health  
13 services varies greatly across the State; and

14 WHEREAS, Numerous facilities that previously provided  
15 inpatient mental health care have been eliminated and closed  
16 over the past few decades; and

17 WHEREAS, Efforts have been made and continue to be made to  
18 bring mental health services to those in need; and

1           WHEREAS, These efforts have not been sufficient to meet  
2 the growing mental health needs of Illinois citizens; and

3           WHEREAS, The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has  
4 significantly exacerbated the already existing problem of  
5 unmet mental health service needs; and

6           WHEREAS, Mental health service providers face increasing  
7 challenges in finding necessary staffing to address the  
8 growing mental health needs of the people of Illinois; and

9           WHEREAS, Many individuals with unmet mental health needs  
10 have become entangled in the criminal justice system; and

11           WHEREAS, Numerous individuals facing mental health  
12 struggles have been incarcerated in county jails, environments  
13 not suited for addressing or treating mental health problems;  
14 and

15           WHEREAS, Many individuals with mental illness are found  
16 unfit to stand trial by the courts and are ordered to the  
17 Department of Human Services (DHS) for restoration to  
18 competency; and

19           WHEREAS, DHS was previously required to assign such  
20 individuals to an inpatient facility within 20 days of being

1 found unfit to stand trial, after which the local county  
2 sheriff would transfer them; and

3 WHEREAS, DHS has successfully passed legislation to change  
4 that timeline to 60 days, with the possibility of additional  
5 30-day extensions in perpetuity; and

6 WHEREAS, These extensions have placed significant burdens  
7 on county resources, diverting valuable time and attention  
8 away from the critical issues that county personnel are  
9 specifically trained and mandated to address, not only  
10 hampering the efficiency of our county systems but also  
11 undermining the well-being and safety of our communities; and

12 WHEREAS, This change in timeline has exacerbated the  
13 situation for those in need of mental health treatment,  
14 leaving individuals incarcerated when they should be receiving  
15 critical services from DHS; and

16 WHEREAS, The mental health crisis continues to grow with  
17 no end in sight; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
19 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
20 we urge the Department of Human Services (DHS) to work with  
21 stakeholders, including sheriffs, to submit monthly reports to

1 the General Assembly detailing the number of available beds,  
2 the number of individuals needing mental health services on  
3 the waiting list, staffing changes implemented to support  
4 improvements, and the waiting time from the receipt of the  
5 judge's order for individuals deemed unfit to stand trial to  
6 when they begin receiving services; and be it further

7       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8 delivered to the Department of Human Services.