



REPORT RESTRICTIVE HOUSING DATA

An extensive body of research spanning more than 150 years has documented the detrimental effects of restrictive housing on the health and well-being of people who are incarcerated.

Problem: Illinois law does not limit the length of time a person can be held in restrictive housing, also known as solitary confinement. There is no publicly available data about who is subjected to restrictive housing, why, and for how long.

- Isolation can cause permanent damage to people's brains, and virtually everyone who spends extended time in isolation suffers severe impacts on their mental and physical health. **Research provides no conclusive evidence that restrictive housing makes facilities or communities safer.**
- In Illinois, time spent in restrictive housing can last for days, weeks, months, years, or even decades. **People can be confined to cells measuring 6 x 9 feet, smaller than the average parking space.**
- Subjecting people to extreme isolation causes pain, suffering, and psychological trauma lasting for years beyond the person's sentence. **The negative repercussions of restrictive housing can persist well after release and impact our communities.**

Solution: HB 4828 HA1 would require the Department of Corrections to publish data on the use of restrictive housing in Illinois.

HB 4828 HA 1 would increase transparency about the use of restrictive housing by requiring:

- **Online quarterly reports on the use of restrictive housing** – including demographic information, mental health issues, type of confinement status, length of stay, reasons for placement in restrictive housing, access to medical care, grievances to appeal, facility-wide lockdowns, and alternative programs to restrictive housing in facilities.
- **Annual reports** – summarizing restrictive housing data collected for the previous year would be submitted to the General Assembly and governor and posted on the Department of Corrections website.
- **Verification of data accuracy** – requiring the Department of Corrections to implement procedures to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data and collaborate with a third-party researcher to improve data collection and reporting. The data reporting requirements would be enforceable in circuit court.

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