



SB 2256

Senator Robert Peters

LET'S TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT LENGTHY SENTENCES

Illinois has some of the most limited early release opportunities in the U.S.

Why this is a Problem:

- Illinois is one of only 17 states that *does not* provide most people with parole opportunities.
- Illinois passed “truth-in-sentencing” in 1998, severely restricting the opportunity to earn early release.

The 2022 **bipartisan Illinois Resentencing Task Force** recommends retroactive sentencing reform to address inequities and allow people serving long sentences to petition for a sentence review.

Retroactive resentencing means incarcerated people who currently have no meaningful way to earn early release would have the opportunity to petition for another look at their sentences.

**1,568 people
sentenced to
40+ years in prison
are projected to be
80+ years old at the
time of their release**

Solution: Implement Task Force Recommendations

SB 2256 would create a process for a person to **petition the court for a review of their sentence after serving 10 years**. It would be applied prospectively and retroactively.

- A judge would determine if the person is eligible for a sentence review, and would appoint counsel if needed.
- The state’s attorney would notify the victims, including notice of available restorative justice programs and the opportunity to testify during the hearing.
- At the sentencing hearing, the court would consider mitigating factors.
- The Sentencing Policy Advisory Council would receive copies of the petitions and final orders to report on the impact of resentencing motions.



The Task Force recommends the Illinois General Assembly pass legislation to create prospective and **retroactive resentencing opportunities.**

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