



HB 3564

Representative La Shawn Ford / Senator Robert Peters

Restrict the Use of Solitary Confinement

The United Nations and the World Health Organization have condemned the use of solitary confinement for extended periods of time.

Problem:

In Illinois, there are no limits on how long a person can be held in solitary confinement.

- Under international standards, more than 15 days in solitary is considered torture.
- A growing body of medical literature establishes that **solitary can cause permanent damage to people's brains** and that virtually everyone who spends extended time in solitary suffers severe, and often long-term, adverse impacts on their mental and physical health.
- Solitary confinement in carceral settings can last for a period of weeks, months, years, or even decades. **Individuals can be confined in cells that measure 6 x 9 feet, which is smaller than the average parking space**, without work, education, and sometimes without access to sufficient medical treatment.
- Solitary confinement is generally costlier than general population housing. **There is no peer-reviewed study or other evidence that it improves facility safety.**
- Despite this well-established evidence of harm, some people in Illinois prisons have spent more than two decades in solitary confinement.

Solution:

HB 3564 creates the Anthony Gay Law, also known as the Isolated Confinement Restriction Act. This bill limits the use of solitary confinement in prisons, jails, and immigration facilities by requiring:

- Everyone be allowed out of their cells at least four hours a day.
- If someone needs to be kept in a cell for more than 20 hours a day, that can only last 10 days out of any 180-day period.
- The Illinois Department of Corrections to post online quarterly reports on the use of isolated confinement.

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