



# The Illinois Success Story

## Evaluating 17-Year-Old Felony Offenders

On July 22, 2010, following the success of Public Act 95-1031 in January 2010, the Illinois legislature took its reform efforts one step further and enacted S.B. 3085. This new law provides that the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission should study the impact of, develop timelines for, and propose a funding structure to accommodate the expansion of the juvenile court's jurisdiction to youths age 17 charged with felonies. The Commission will be required to submit a final report to the Illinois General Assembly by December 31, 2011.<sup>1</sup>

*March 2011*

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## ***References***

<sup>1</sup> P.A. 95-1031, 91st Gen. Assem. (Ill. 2009); S.B. 3085, 96th Gen. Assem. (Ill. 2010); Models for Change, *New Illinois law: 17-year olds charged with misdemeanors stay in juvenile court*, <http://www.modelsforchange.net/reform-progress/1>.

1 AN ACT concerning criminal law.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Children and Family Services Act is amended  
5 by changing Section 17a-9 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 505/17a-9) (from Ch. 23, par. 5017a-9)

7 Sec. 17a-9. Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission.

8 (a) There is hereby created the Illinois Juvenile Justice  
9 Commission which shall consist of 25 persons appointed by the  
10 Governor. The Chairperson of the Commission shall be appointed  
11 by the Governor. Of the initial appointees, 8 shall serve a  
12 one-year term, 8 shall serve a two-year term and 9 shall serve  
13 a three-year term. Thereafter, each successor shall serve a  
14 three-year term. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner  
15 as original appointments. Once appointed, members shall serve  
16 until their successors are appointed and qualified. Members  
17 shall serve without compensation, except they shall be  
18 reimbursed for their actual expenses in the performance of  
19 their duties. The Commission shall carry out the rights, powers  
20 and duties established in subparagraph (3) of paragraph (a) of  
21 Section 223 of the Federal "Juvenile Justice and Delinquency  
22 Prevention Act of 1974", as now or hereafter amended. The  
23 Commission shall determine the priorities for expenditure of

1 funds made available to the State by the Federal Government  
2 pursuant to that Act. The Commission shall have the following  
3 powers and duties:

4 (1) Development, review and final approval of the  
5 State's juvenile justice plan for funds under the Federal  
6 "Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974";

7 (2) Review and approve or disapprove juvenile justice  
8 and delinquency prevention grant applications to the  
9 Department for federal funds under that Act;

10 (3) Annual submission of recommendations to the  
11 Governor and the General Assembly concerning matters  
12 relative to its function;

13 (4) Responsibility for the review of funds allocated to  
14 Illinois under the "Juvenile Justice and Delinquency  
15 Prevention Act of 1974" to ensure compliance with all  
16 relevant federal laws and regulations; ~~and~~

17 (5) Function as the advisory committee for the State  
18 Youth and Community Services Program as authorized under  
19 Section 17 of this Act, and in that capacity be authorized  
20 and empowered to assist and advise the Secretary of Human  
21 Services on matters related to juvenile justice and  
22 delinquency prevention programs and services; and -

23 (6) Study the impact of, develop timelines, and propose  
24 a funding structure to accommodate the expansion of the  
25 jurisdiction of the Illinois Juvenile Court to include  
26 youth age 17 under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court

1       Act of 1987. The Commission shall submit a report by  
2       December 31, 2011 to the General Assembly with  
3       recommendations on extending juvenile court jurisdiction  
4       to youth age 17 charged with felony offenses.

5       (b) On the effective date of this amendatory Act of the  
6       96th General Assembly, the Illinois Juvenile Jurisdiction Task  
7       Force created by Public Act 95-1031 is abolished and its duties  
8       are transferred to the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission as  
9       provided in paragraph (6) of subsection (a) of this Section.

10       (Source: P.A. 89-507, eff. 7-1-97.)

11       (705 ILCS 405/5-121 rep.)

12       Section 10. The Juvenile Court Act of 1987 is amended by  
13       repealing Section 5-121.