



CHICAGO COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

SB 1210 **Homeless Bill of Rights**

Chief House Sponsor Welch; Passed House 76-33-0
Chief Senate Sponsor Silverstein; Passed Senate 41-11-1

What the bill does:

SB 1210 protects homeless people from discrimination by creating basic rights.

Under the bill, basic rights, such as the right to maintain gainful employment, to access public services and spaces, to access emergency medical care, and the right to vote on the same basis as others cannot be denied solely because someone is homeless or lists a shelter as their address.

A person discriminated against because of his or her housing status would have the right to take legal action and seek damages.

How the law would protect homeless people:

Since 1993 Cook County has had a "housing status" protection in place in its human rights ordinance. In 1998, a suburban public library fired a long-term employee immediately after it learned that he was homeless. The aggrieved employee was able to sue and his job was restored with compensation for lost wages and benefits. Under SB 1210 similar rights would be applied state-wide.

Protections include:

Employment - People experiencing homelessness who must use the address of a shelter or social service provider cannot be discriminated against by their employer in maintaining employment.

Medical care: Emergency medical clinics cannot turn away otherwise eligible homeless persons solely because they live on the street, in a shelter or temporary residence.

Public spaces: Homeless individuals cannot be denied access to public spaces solely because of their housing status.

Voting: Homeless persons must be provided sufficient documentation to enable them to lawfully cast a vote in any election.

Supporters:

*Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law * The Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness
Housing Action Illinois * Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights * Project IRENE
Protestants for the Common Good * Community Renewal Society * South Side Office of Concern
Supportive Housing Providers Association * Corporation for Supportive Housing*

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