



## 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*

**Contact: Jennifer Cushman, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, (646) 326-4279  
70 E. Lake St., Suite 720 • Chicago, IL 60601 • (312) 641-4140 • FAX: (312) 641-4144**



SB1210 Enrolled

LRB098 07470 HEP 37540 b

1 AN ACT in relation to homeless persons.

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

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Bill  
5 of Rights for the Homeless Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative intent. It is the long-standing  
7 policy of this State that no person should suffer unnecessarily  
8 from cold or hunger, be deprived of shelter or the basic rights  
9 incident to shelter, or be subject to unfair discrimination  
10 based on his or her homeless status. At the present time, many  
11 persons have been rendered homeless as a result of economic  
12 hardship, a severe shortage of safe and affordable housing, and  
13 a shrinking social safety net. It is the intent of this Act to  
14 lessen the adverse effects and conditions caused by the lack of  
15 residence or a home.

16 Section 10. Bill of Rights.

17 (a) No person's rights, privileges, or access to public  
18 services may be denied or abridged solely because he or she is  
19 homeless. Such a person shall be granted the same rights and  
20 privileges as any other citizen of this State. A person  
21 experiencing homelessness has the following rights:

22 (1) the right to use and move freely in public spaces,

SB1210 Enrolled

- 2 -

LRB098 07470 HEP 37540 b

1 including but not limited to public sidewalks, public  
2 parks, public transportation, and public buildings, in the  
3 same manner as any other person and without discrimination  
4 on the basis of his or her housing status;

5 (2) the right to equal treatment by all State and  
6 municipal agencies, without discrimination on the basis of

7 housing status;

8 (3) the right not to face discrimination while  
9 maintaining employment due to his or her lack of permanent  
10 mailing address, or his or her mailing address being that  
11 of a shelter or social service provider;

12 (4) the right to emergency medical care free from  
13 discrimination based on his or her housing status;

14 (5) the right to vote, register to vote, and receive  
15 documentation necessary to prove identity for voting  
16 without discrimination due to his or her housing status;

17 (6) the right to protection from disclosure of his or  
18 her records and information provided to homeless shelters  
19 and service providers to State, municipal, and private  
20 entities without appropriate legal authority; and the  
21 right to confidentiality of personal records and  
22 information in accordance with all limitations on  
23 disclosure established by the federal Homeless Management  
24 Information Systems, the federal Health Insurance  
25 Portability and Accountability Act, and the federal  
26 Violence Against Women Act; and

SB1210 Enrolled

- 3 -

LRB098 07470 HEP 37540 b

1 (7) the right to a reasonable expectation of privacy in  
2 his or her personal property to the same extent as personal  
3 property in a permanent residence.

4 (b) As used in this Act, "housing status" means the status  
5 of having or not having a fixed or regular residence, including  
6 the status of living on the streets, in a shelter, or in a  
7 temporary residence.

8 Section 15. Damages and attorney's fees. In any civil  
9 action alleging a violation of this Act, the court may award  
10 appropriate injunctive and declaratory relief, actual damages,  
11 and reasonable attorney's fees and costs to a prevailing  
12 plaintiff.

13 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
14 becoming law.



# Illinois General Assembly

[Home](#) [Legislation & Laws](#) [Senate](#) [House](#) [My Legislation](#) [Site Map](#)

## Bills & Resolutions **Bill Status of SB1210 98th General Assembly**

[Compiled Statutes](#)

[Public Acts](#)

[Legislative Reports](#)

[IL Constitution](#)

[Legislative Guide](#)

[Legislative Glossary](#)

**Search By Number**  
(example: HB0001)

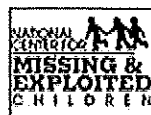
[Go](#) [Search Tips](#)

**Search By Keyword**

[Go](#)  
☐ Alternate  
Search

[Search Tips](#)

[Advanced Search](#)



[Full Text](#) [Votes](#) [View All Actions](#) [Printer-Friendly Version](#)

**Short Description:** HOMELESS BILL OF RIGHTS-NEW

### Senate Sponsors

Sen. [Ira I. Silverstein](#) - [Michael Noland](#) - [Toi W. Hutchinson](#) - [Jacqueline Y. Collins](#) - [William Delgado](#),  
[John J. Cullerton](#), [Emil Jones, III](#) and [Mattie Hunter](#)

### House Sponsors

(Rep. [Emanuel Chris Welch](#) - [La Shawn K. Ford](#) - [Arthur Turner](#) - [JoAnn D. Osmond](#) - [Ron Sandack](#),  
[Kelly M. Cassidy](#), [Marcus C. Evans, Jr.](#), [Elgie R. Sims, Jr.](#), [André M. Thapedi](#), [Anthony DeLuca](#),  
[Cynthia Soto](#), [Deborah Conroy](#), [Frances Ann Hurley](#), [Sam Yingling](#), [Mary E. Flowers](#), [Elizabeth Hernandez](#),  
[Naomi D. Jakobsson](#), [Robyn Gabel](#), [Camille Y. Lilly](#), [Derrick Smith](#), [Esther Golar](#) and  
[Charles E. Jefferson](#))

### Last Action

Date	Chamber	Action
6/26/2013	Senate	Sent to the Governor

### Statutes Amended In Order of Appearance

New Act

[775 ILCS 5/1-102](#)

from Ch. 68, par. 1-102

[775 ILCS 5/1-103](#)

from Ch. 68, par. 1-103

### Synopsis As Introduced

Creates the Bill of Rights for the Homeless Act. Sets forth certain rights of homeless persons. Provides that in any civil action alleging a violation of the Act, the court may award appropriate injunctive and declaratory relief, actual damages, and reasonable attorney's fees and costs to a prevailing plaintiff. Amends the Illinois Human Rights Act to make corresponding changes. Defines "housing status" as the status of having or not having a fixed or regular residence, including the status of living on the streets, in a shelter, or in a temporary residence.

### Senate Floor Amendment No. 1

*Deletes reference to:*

[775 ILCS 5/1-102](#)

[775 ILCS 5/1-103](#)

Provides that a person experiencing homelessness has the right not to face discrimination while maintaining (rather than while seeking or maintaining) employment due to his or her lack of permanent mailing address, or his or her mailing address being that of a shelter or social service provider. Deletes amendatory changes to the Illinois Human Rights Act making it unlawful to discriminate against any individual because of his or her housing status and defining "housing status" as the status of having or not having a fixed or regular residence, including the status of living on the streets, in a shelter, or in a temporary residence.

**House Committee Amendment No. 1**

Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Reinserts the provisions of the engrossed bill with the following changes: Redefines "housing status" to mean the status of having or not having a fixed or regular residence, including the status of living on the streets, in a shelter, or in a temporary residence. Adds an immediate effective date. Effective immediately.

**Actions**

Date	Chamber	Action
1/30/2013	Senate	Filed with Secretary by <u>Sen. Ira I. Silverstein</u>
1/30/2013	Senate	<b>First Reading</b>
1/30/2013	Senate	Referred to <u>Assignments</u>
2/7/2013	Senate	Assigned to <u>Judiciary</u>
2/27/2013	Senate	Postponed - <u>Judiciary</u>
3/5/2013	Senate	Postponed - <u>Judiciary</u>
3/7/2013	Senate	Added as Chief Co-Sponsor <u>Sen. Michael Noland</u>
3/12/2013	Senate	Postponed - <u>Judiciary</u>
3/19/2013	Senate	Do Pass <u>Judiciary</u> ; 007-004-001
3/19/2013	Senate	Placed on Calendar Order of 2nd Reading March 20, 2013
3/21/2013	Senate	<b>Second Reading</b>
3/21/2013	Senate	Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading April 10, 2013
3/21/2013	Senate	Added as Chief Co-Sponsor <u>Sen. Toi W. Hutchinson</u>
4/12/2013	Senate	Added as Chief Co-Sponsor <u>Sen. Jacqueline Y. Collins</u>
4/18/2013	Senate	Added as Chief Co-Sponsor <u>Sen. William Delgado</u>
4/23/2013	Senate	Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 Filed with Secretary by <u>Sen. Ira I. Silverstein</u>
4/23/2013	Senate	Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 Referred to <u>Assignments</u>
4/24/2013	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor <u>Sen. John J. Cullerton</u>
4/24/2013	Senate	Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 Assignments Refers to <u>Judiciary</u>
4/24/2013	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor <u>Sen. Emil Jones, III</u>
4/25/2013	Senate	Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 Recommend Do Adopt <u>Judiciary</u> ; 011-000-000
4/25/2013	Senate	Added as Co-Sponsor <u>Sen. Mattie Hunter</u>
4/25/2013	Senate	Recalled to Second Reading
4/25/2013	Senate	Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 Adopted; <u>Silverstein</u>
4/25/2013	Senate	Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading
4/25/2013	Senate	<b>Third Reading - Passed; 041-011-001</b>
4/26/2013	House	Arrived in House
4/30/2013	House	Chief House Sponsor <u>Rep. Emanuel Chris Welch</u>
4/30/2013	House	<b>First Reading</b>
4/30/2013	House	Referred to <u>Rules Committee</u>
4/30/2013	House	Assigned to <u>Judiciary</u>
5/1/2013	House	House Committee Amendment No. 1 Filed with Clerk by <u>Rep. Emanuel Chris Welch</u>
5/1/2013	House	House Committee Amendment No. 1 Referred to <u>Rules Committee</u>
5/1/2013	House	Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. La Shawn K. Ford</u>
5/1/2013	House	Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Arthur Turner</u>
5/6/2013	House	House Committee Amendment No. 1 Rules Refers to <u>Judiciary</u>
5/8/2013	House	House Committee Amendment No. 1 Adopted in <u>Judiciary</u> ; by Voice Vote

5/8/2013	House	Do Pass as Amended / Short Debate <a href="#">Judiciary; 015-000-000</a>
5/8/2013	House	Placed on Calendar 2nd Reading - Short Debate
5/8/2013	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <a href="#">Rep. Kelly M. Cassidy</a>
5/8/2013	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <a href="#">Rep. Marcus C. Evans, Jr.</a>
5/8/2013	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <a href="#">Rep. Elgie R. Sims, Jr.</a>
5/8/2013	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <a href="#">Rep. André M. Thapedi</a>
5/8/2013	House	Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor <a href="#">Rep. JoAnn D. Osmond</a>
5/8/2013	House	Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor <a href="#">Rep. Ron Sandack</a>
5/9/2013	House	<b>Second Reading - Short Debate</b>
5/9/2013	House	Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading - Short Debate
5/9/2013	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <a href="#">Rep. Anthony DeLuca</a>
5/9/2013	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <a href="#">Rep. Cynthia Soto</a>
5/10/2013	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <a href="#">Rep. Deborah Conroy</a>
5/10/2013	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <a href="#">Rep. Frances Ann Hurley</a>
5/10/2013	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <a href="#">Rep. Sam Yingling</a>
5/10/2013	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <a href="#">Rep. Mary E. Flowers</a>
5/10/2013	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <a href="#">Rep. Elizabeth Hernandez</a>
5/10/2013	House	<b>Third Reading - Short Debate - Passed <a href="#">076-033-000</a></b>
5/10/2013	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <a href="#">Rep. Naomi D. Jakobsson</a>
5/10/2013	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <a href="#">Rep. Robyn Gabel</a>
5/10/2013	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <a href="#">Rep. Camille Y. Lilly</a>
5/10/2013	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <a href="#">Rep. Derrick Smith</a>
5/10/2013	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <a href="#">Rep. Esther Golar</a>
5/10/2013	House	Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <a href="#">Rep. Charles E. Jefferson</a>
5/14/2013	Senate	Secretary's Desk - Concurrence House Amendment(s) 1
5/14/2013	Senate	Placed on Calendar Order of Concurrence House Amendment(s) 1 - May 15, 2013
5/14/2013	Senate	House Committee Amendment No. 1 Motion to Concur Filed with Secretary <a href="#">Sen. Ira I. Silverstein</a>
5/14/2013	Senate	House Committee Amendment No. 1 Motion to Concur Referred to <a href="#">Assignments</a>
5/23/2013	Senate	House Committee Amendment No. 1 Motion to Concur Assignments Referred to <a href="#">Judiciary</a>
5/24/2013	Senate	House Committee Amendment No. 1 Motion To Concur Recommended Do Adopt <a href="#">Judiciary; 008-000-000</a>
5/28/2013	Senate	House Committee Amendment No. 1 Senate Concurs <a href="#">048-007-000</a>
5/28/2013	Senate	Passed Both Houses
6/26/2013	Senate	<b>Sent to the Governor</b>

[Back To Top](#)


---

[Home](#) | [Legislation & Laws](#) | [House](#) | [Senate](#) | [My Legislation](#) | [Disclaimers](#) | [Email](#)

---



This site is maintained for the Illinois General Assembly by the  
 Legislative Information System, 705 Stratton Building, Springfield, Illinois 62706  
 217-782-3944 217-782-2050 (TTY)

