



# THE SAFER COMMUNITIES & SMALL BUSINESS ACT

## Supporting Small Businesses and Formerly Incarcerated Citizens

Illinois businesses are struggling to hire qualified employees, impacting their operations and recovery from the pandemic. The unemployment rate among formerly incarcerated individuals is extremely high. This undermines public safety and contributes to high recidivism rates.

House Bill 3215 can support small businesses that hire returning citizens, save our state millions each year and create long-term revenue. This legislation will provide crucial on-the-job training to formerly incarcerated Illinoisans and supplement the workforce. The legislation can foster economic growth in disadvantaged communities.

### WHAT WILL HB 3215 DO?

#### GRANTS TO SMALL BUSINESSES

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HB 3215 would create grants for small businesses that hire and provide on-the-job job training to formerly incarcerated citizens. Businesses with 100 or fewer employees will be eligible for these grants after they provide 60 days of training to qualified, net new employees. Grants awarded pursuant to HB 3215 will be for \$2,500.



##### WAGE SUBSIDIES

HB 3215 creates wage subsidies for businesses that hire formerly incarcerated individuals to facilitate the entry of returning citizens back into the workforce.

#### IMPROVE ILLINOIS ECONOMY

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Not only will HB 3215 support small businesses and formerly incarcerated individuals, but it will also save significant money in reduced reincarceration costs and increase revenue for the state through the income and sales taxes paid by returning citizens.



##### PUBLIC SAFETY

When individuals returning from incarceration become stably employed, their risk of recidivism drops by 62%. HB 3215 can reduce crime and improve public safety.

Encourage Illinois politicians to support small businesses and formerly incarcerated individuals, while improving our economy, by championing HB 3215!