

# Vote No on HB2265/SB1003

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## INCREASED MANDATORY MINIMUM PRISON SENTENCES WILL NOT REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE

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Illinois must effectively address gun violence, but increasing the mandatory minimum prison sentence for unlawful use of a weapon is not the answer.

### **1) There is no conclusive evidence that longer prison sentences decrease the number of gun assaults.**

- Illinois already has some of the strictest gun laws in the country. The additional year or two required by this bill will not deter potential offenders.
- Under the current law, offenders targeted by HB2265/SB1003 can be sent to prison for up to 10 years.

### **2) HB2265 will cost taxpayers up to \$1 billion.**

- Illinois Office of Management and Budget estimates that HB2265/SB1003 will cost almost **\$1 billion** over 10 years by increasing the state's prison population by nearly 4,000 inmates and requiring the state to build new prisons to house them.
- In the past three months, Illinois has closed several adult correctional facilities because it cannot afford to pay for its current prison system, which costs taxpayer 1.3 billion a year.

### **3) HB2265/SB1003 will significantly increase the state's prison population, further overcrowding the Illinois Department of Corrections.**

- Illinois already has one of the most crowded prison systems in the country, with more than 49,000 inmates in a system designed for 33,000. These numbers create dangerous conditions for inmates and staff. Such conditions put Illinois at risk for the kind of litigation that led the U.S. Supreme Court to declare that California's prison system was unconstitutionally overcrowded.
- If it becomes law, HB2265/SB1003 will pack more people into an overcrowded system only to return them to their communities a couple of years later, more dangerous than they were before.

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