

In the News

Around the state

A pilot program to keep juvenile offenders out of state correctional facilities became a permanent state program Tuesday with a signature from Gov. **Patrick J. Quinn**.

Quinn signed Senate Bill 1013, removing the pilot status of Redeploy Illinois and expanding its coverage from a handful of pilot sites to 70 counties.

Redeploy Illinois offers state funds to counties who reduce by 25 percent the number of juvenile offenders sent to state facilities. Under the program, juvenile offenders are treated locally through assessment, case management, counseling and advocacy.

The Illinois Department of Human services said that 400 juveniles were diverted from state facilities in the first three years of the program, saving the state \$18.7 million.

The Southern Illinoisan
Carbondale, Illinois
April 8, 2009

http://thesouthern.com/articles/2009/04/07/breaking_news/doc49dbe0c997a19245802203.txt

(This story also appeared in the Bloomington Pantagraph, Decatur Herald & Review)

Quinn makes program to keep youths out of prison permanent

BY MIKE RIOPELL, The Southern Springfield Bureau

SPRINGFIELD -- A state program aimed at keeping young people out of the state corrections system moved past its experimental phase Tuesday.

Gov. Pat Quinn signed legislation Tuesday to make permanent the Redeploy Illinois program. It's been running recently as a pilot program in Macon, McLean and some southeastern Illinois counties, among others.

Through it, the state pays counties to direct juvenile offenders to counseling, substance abuse help or other rehabilitation plans instead of being shipped off to a facility run by the state Department of Juvenile Justice.

Department of Human Services spokesman Tom Green says fewer youth in state facilities means fewer of them away from home, less cost to the state, and fewer repeat offenders.

"The benefit is that the services ... give the youth a much higher chance at being productive," Green said.

Redeploy Illinois costs \$3.1 million and is a part of Quinn's proposed state budget. According to supporters, the state spends \$70,000 a year on people sent to juvenile justice facilities. The alternatives in their home counties cost less than \$10,000.

The legislation, signed by Quinn in Chicago, also lets more rural counties apply to be a part of Redeploy Illinois.

The legislation was Senate Bill 1013.

Quinn signs 2 bills to help children

Tuesday, April 07, 2009 | 5:15 PM

April 7, 2009 (WLS) -- Governor Pat Quinn signed two bills Tuesday to help children in Illinois.

Quinn signed a bill to expand the Redeploy Illinois Program which helps at risk youth between the ages of 13 and 18. He also signed a bill requiring health insurance policies to cover habilitative services for children under 19 with congenital, genetic or early acquired disorders.

"If we have a child initiative in Illinois at all times, always thinking about what's good for the future and what's good for children in Illinois we'll do very well," said Gov. Quinn.

The governor also said Tuesday he's canceled his predecessor's sweeping ban on all campaign contributions from companies doing business with the state because he says it raises constitutional questions.

WJBD Radio -- Bloomington

Two laws signed to benefit youth

4/8/09 @ 1:27:09 pm

Governor Pat Quinn signed two laws Tuesday, both benefiting the youth of Illinois. The first measure expands the Redeploy Illinois Program, which helps at risk kids between the ages of 13 and 18 avoid jail time. Governor Quinn says that includes therapy, substance abuse treatment, and teaching them life skills.

"One of the most important things in Illinois is to make sure that we're safe, and at the same time that we have a caring attitude towards all, especially young people. Sometimes, boys and girls get on the wrong track. We want to get them on the right track," said Quinn.

The second law requires insurance companies to cover ongoing treatment like speech and physical therapy for kids with problems such as autism and cerebral palsy.

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