



EXECUTIVE ORDER

NUMBER 9 (2000)

FILED
INDEX DEPARTMENT

MAY 4 - 2000

**EXECUTIVE ORDER TO REWRITE AND
REFORM THE ILLINOIS CRIMINAL CODE**

IN THE OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF STATE

WHEREAS, the Criminal Code of Illinois has not undergone a comprehensive review since 1961 and is currently a collection of stopgap solutions, which has swelled from 72 pages when passed to 1,200 pages today.

WHEREAS, in the ensuing forty years the numerous amendments and additions to the Criminal Code have made it overly complex and difficult to interpret and apply.

WHEREAS, our laws should be written in plain-English so that they are clear and easily understood by all.

WHEREAS, a substantive re-codification process is necessary to address the significant changes in our society, such as, growth of drug trafficking, increased viciousness of gangs and the expanding criminal frontier of computers and the Internet.

WHEREAS, these changes in society are not adequately integrated into all the appropriate facets of our law but must be in order to ensure a cohesive and fair approach to crime and punishment for the next century.

THEREFORE, I, George H. Ryan, order the following:

- I. The creation of a Criminal Code Rewrite and Reform Commission (CCRRC) in the State of Illinois.
 - A. The voting members of the CCRRC shall consist of 33 voting members appointed by the Governor. The Governor shall designate a Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons. The Governor shall also appoint an Executive Director. The Commission shall appoint a professor from an accredited Illinois law school to serve as the Commission's Reporter. The Commission shall also appoint a consultant to advise them on the use of plain English.
 - B. The voting members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
 - C. Voting members of the CCRRC shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in carrying out the duties of the CCRRC, unless prohibited by any law or regulation.
 - D. The CCRRC shall be provided assistance and necessary staff support services by the Office of the Governor and the agencies of state government involved in the issues to be addressed by it.

- E. The CCRRC shall seek the input and participation of other departments, agencies, boards and commissions, units of government, private organizations, public interest groups and victim rights organizations as necessary or appropriate.

II. PURPOSE:

The purpose of the CCRRC shall include, but not limited to, the following:

- A. Conduct a comprehensive study and analysis of the existing criminal laws and the procedural and sentencing laws of this State;
- B. Propose simple and clear language and a coherent structure for the criminal statutes so that the Illinois criminal laws and the procedural and sentencing laws will be more easily applied and understood by both the public and legal practitioners;
- C. Review existing offenses and penalties to determine if the penalty provided is proportional to the seriousness of the offense committed and to the penalties provided for other offenses, as well as balancing the needs to protect the public, deter other crimes, and rehabilitate offenders to useful citizenship; and
- D. Propose new provisions which address the changing nature of crime and which will ensure that our criminal laws and punishment will make Illinois safer for all its citizens as we enter the new century.

III. MEETINGS:

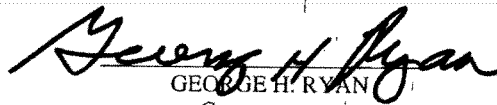
The entire CCRRC shall meet at least quarterly or upon the call of the Chairpersons or a majority of the voting members. A quorum of the CCRRC shall consist of a majority of the voting members.

IV. ANNUAL REPORTS:

The CCRRC shall report to the Governor annually or as it deems necessary and useful on the results of the performance of its duties.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE:

This Executive Order Number 9 (2000) shall be effective upon filing with the Secretary of State.


GEORGE H. RYAN
Governor

May 4, 2000

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