

ABSTRACTS OF STATE REPORTS

APRIL 2023

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Reports Filed with the General Assembly

The CGFA staff is required to prepare abstracts of reports required to be filed with the General Assembly (25 ILCS 130/10-6). Legislators may receive copies of entire reports by emailing the form that was delivered to their Springfield office to isinfo@ilsos.net or by mailing it to the State Government Report Distribution Center at the Illinois State Library. This report is posted monthly on our website.

Agriculture, Dept. of

Farmland conversion, FY 2021
State agency purchases or other actions affected 28,600 acres. The Illinois Power Agency converted the most (13,328 acres). The other major converter was the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (11,639 acres). A table summarizes farmland and other land conversions by agency. (505 ILCS 75/6; March 2022, rec'd March 2023, 13 pp.)

Agriculture, Dept. of

Farmland conversion, FY 2022
State agency purchases or other actions affected 27,446 acres. The Illinois Power Agency converted the most (21,412 acres). The other major converter was the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (4,769 acres). A table summarizes farmland and other land conversions by agency. (505 ILCS 75/6; issued & rec'd March 2023, 13 pp.)

Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Dept. of

Apprenticeship Education Expense Tax Credit Program annual report, 2021

Under the Program, companies that incur educational expenses for qualified apprentices can apply for income tax credits. In calendar year 2021, 10 applications were received and approved. Recipients spent \$106,378 on educational expenses of 47 apprentices and received \$94,779 in tax credits. The Department continues to advertise the program through presentations, webinars, and other business outreach. (35 ILCS 5/231(h); July 2022, rec'd March 2023, 4 pp.)

Angel Investment Tax Credit Program, 2022

The program's purpose is to attract and encourage investments in early-stage, innovative companies in Illinois. Applicants got \$6.99 million in tax credits in 2022. There were 76 businesses registered as qualified new

ventures, with 128 registered investors in 2022. (35 ILCS 5/220(h); issued & rec'd March 2023, 23 pp.)

Bilingual employees report, 2023

DCEO has 7 frontline bilingual employees, all speaking Spanish. The report includes their names, job titles, and job descriptions. (5 ILCS 382/3-20; Feb. 2023, rec'd March 2023, 2 pp.)

Build Illinois revolving funds, FY 2022

On June 30, 2022 the Illinois Capital Revolving Loan Fund had over \$2.1 million; the Large Business Attraction Fund had \$367,246; and the Illinois Equity Fund had almost \$2.16 million. (30 ILCS 750/9-9 and 750/10-9; Dec. 2022, rec'd March 2023, 6 pp.)

Business Development Relocation Survey, 2021

The Department is to survey businesses annually to find out whether they left the state, and

if so, why. Only 14 relocated businesses out of some 134 businesses contacted by the Department completed the survey. “State/local taxes” was the most commonly cited reason for leaving Illinois. (20 ILCS 605/605-456(b); issued & rec’d March 2023, 8 pp.)

Business Information Center annual report, 2022

The First Stop Business Information Center answers questions on federal and state requirements, regulatory processes, and aid. It also continued to provide COVID-19 business assistance; free business startup kits; and access to its online database for licensing and regulatory information. The database was accessed more than 73,000 times in 2022. The Center took 8,862 inquiries—5,961 by phone and 2,901 by email. Requestors sought information on startup and regulatory guidance; COVID-19 aid; and financial assistance and incentives. (20 ILCS 608/15(q); issued & rec’d March 2023, 3 pp.)

Data Center Investment Program annual report, 2021

The Program aims to attract large-scale data centers through sales and use tax exemptions, and tax credits for projects in underserved areas. As of the end of 2021, the Department had signed memorandums of understanding with, and issued sales and use tax exemption

certificates to, 13 data center operators. The data centers reported creating 210 new jobs and investing \$3.3 billion. They estimated that their sales tax exemptions were worth \$43.8 million. Similar tax incentive programs in other states are also summarized. (20 ILCS 605/605-1025(e); July 2022, rec’d March 2023, 12 pp.)

Enterprise Zone Loan Fund report, FY 2022

DCEO reports that it never received an appropriation for the Enterprise Zone Loan Fund, and the Fund does not exist at the State Comptroller’s Office. Thus it has no fund operations to report. (20 ILCS 655/12-9; Dec. 2022, rec’d March 2023, 1 p.)

Hydrogen Economy Task Force report, 2022

The Task Force first met on November 29, 2022 and adopted bylaws, discussed objectives and strategies, and proposed a schedule for further meetings. It plans to name working groups to develop findings and recommendations for inclusion in the next report. (20 ILCS 4122/15; Dec. 2022, rec’d March 2023, 2 pp. + 2 appendices)

Illinois Film Office quarterly report, Oct.-Dec. 2022

The Illinois Film Office estimates that 975 management, 2,041 production office, 771 entry-level, 357 talent, and 419 extra jobs were created or

retained. (Figures may be for projects dating back to 2018.) Of 3,746 crew members hired, 32% were minorities and 20% were white women. Reported production spending was almost \$46.5 million (\$31.9 million commercial; \$5.5 million TV; and \$9.1 million film). The Office encourages educational opportunities for minorities to be trained for film and television work. (35 ILCS 16/45(b); undated, rec’d March 2023, 2 pp.)

Illinois Works apprenticeship and preapprenticeship program evaluations, 2022

The Illinois Works Jobs Program Act (2019) set a statutory goal for apprentices to perform 10% of hours worked on large public works projects. As of June 30, 2022, 1,682 projects costing \$12.2 billion have been subject to that goal. The Act also established funding for preapprenticeship training. DCEO issued Preapprenticeship Program grants to 22 organizations (23 programs in total) ranging from \$170,000 to \$500,000 in 2022; DCEO received approval for \$15 million to be used in FY 2023. The Illinois Works Review Panel made four recommendations for changes based on preliminary data, including requiring that projects under the Act mainly employ apprentices who graduated from the Preapprenticeship Program; amending the Act to include penalties for

contractors failing to comply with the apprenticeship goal; educating contractors to properly determine whether their projects are under the Act; and examining whether the state could impose or encourage a greater linkage between state preapprenticeship programs and private apprenticeship programs. (30 ILCS 559/20-25(e); Aug. 2022, rec'd March 2023, 6 pp.)

Live Theater Tax Credit report, Oct.-Dec. 2022

No live theater production spending or job hires in the quarter were reported. (35 ILCS 17/10-50(b); undated, rec'd March 2023, 1 pp.)

Restore Illinois Collaborative Commission, Jan. 2023

These monthly reports describe actions under the Restore Illinois plan for responding to COVID-19, including support to businesses, residents, and local governments. The Strengthen and Grow Child Care Grant Program awarded \$164 million in four rounds of funding. So far in Round 2 of assistance through the Illinois Rental Payment Program, \$203.5 million has been disbursed to 27,279 applicants. The Illinois Emergency Homeowner Assistance Fund also launched a second round of funding in November 2022, and has so far disbursed \$2 million to 196 applicants. Another \$93 million went to 17,091 households by the end

of October 2022 through the Rental Assistance Program. (20 ILCS 605/605-1045(c); Jan. 2023, rec'd Feb. 2023, 8 pp.)

Restore Illinois Collaborative Commission Report, Feb. 2023

Grants for Community Navigators have been extended through 2023 with an additional \$2.5 million in funding. DCEO will make awards later in 2023 in a second round of grant funding for tourism attractions and festivals. Some \$20 million in grants has been awarded to serve unemployed or underemployed persons with job training and support services. The Illinois Housing Development Authority started Round 2 of applications for the Illinois Emergency Homeowner Assistance Fund; by January 25, 2023, \$8.5 million was disbursed to 668 Round 2 applicants. (20 ILCS 605/605-1045(c); Feb. 2023, rec'd March 2023, 8 pp.)

Restore Illinois Collaborative Commission Report, March 2023

A notice of funding opportunity was issued for a Community Navigator to focus solely on the creative arts sector. Child Care Assistance for parents looking for employment has been extended through June 30, 2024. In Round 2 of awards under the Illinois Emergency Homeowner Assistance Fund program, \$26.6 million was

disbursed to 1,907 applicants by February 26, 2023. (20 ILCS 605/605-1045(c); issued & rec'd March 2023, 8 pp.)

Small business incubator program annual report, FY 2021

The program has been inactive for over 10 years. No funding was allocated in that time; no applicants were accepted; and there is no other pertinent information to report. (30 ILCS 750/11-15; Dec. 2021, rec'd March 2023, 1 p.)

Commerce Commission

Accidents and incidents

involving hazardous materials on railroads in Illinois, 2022

The Commission checked 8,549 railroad cars carrying hazardous materials in 2022. Inspectors found violations in 1.3% of inspections. Among 86 railway incidents involving hazardous materials, 5 derailments released hazardous materials and 29 did not; 52 releases occurred without derailment. For each incident, tables show location, railroad, material, suspected causes, amounts involved and released, and dates. (625 ILCS 5/18c-1204(3); issued & rec'd March 2023, 11 pp. + 6 attachments)

Crossing Safety Improvement Program, FYs 2024-2028

Preliminary data showed 123 collisions at public highway-railroad crossings in 2022, compared to 106 in 2021. For

FY 2024, ICC anticipates it will consider projects requiring nearly \$98.1 million from the Grade Crossing Protection Fund (GCPF) and set aside \$10 million from that fund for emergency projects. The report also lists \$316.9 million in proposed safety crossing improvements for FYs 2025-2028, also funded by the GCPF. Projects are listed by county. (35 ILCS 505/8(c); issued & rec'd March 2023, 11 pp. + 5 appendices)

Comptroller, Office of the
Fee Imposition Report, FY 2020

At least 75 state agencies received fees that totaled \$10.990 billion—up nearly 10% from FY 2019. The report lists fees and collections by agency. The Department of Healthcare and Family Services collected about one-third of the total (\$3.621 billion). Public universities collected \$2.611 billion, and the Secretary of State \$2.373 billion. Most fee money (95.6%) went to restricted funds. (15 ILCS 405/16.2; Dec. 2021, rec'd March 2023, 16 pp. + 5 appendices)

Fee Imposition Report, FY 2021

At least 72 state agencies received fees that totaled \$11.904 billion, up 8.3% from FY 2020. Fees and collections are listed by agency. The Department of Healthcare and

Family Services collected about one-third of the total (\$3.977 billion). The next highest recipients were the Secretary of State (\$2.946 billion) and public universities (\$2.486 billion). Most fee money (96.4%) went to restricted funds. (15 ILCS 405/16.2; Feb. 2023, rec'd March 2023, 16 pp. + 5 appendices)

Illinois Future of Work Task Force

Final report

The Task Force was created to study what jobs will be needed in coming years and how to prepare the workforce for them. It found that shifts from manufacturing in Illinois have led to a loss of middle-wage jobs, with that trend expected to continue in the next 10 years; but many new jobs in health care, education, and hospitality are expected in that time. The Task Force made a number of recommendations, including to adopt a statewide job quality measurement and use it to award state funding; require that employment-related decisions made using data-driven technologies be transparent; make investments in jobs for the clean energy, transportation, and agriculture sectors; and improve tax credits for worker training and apprenticeship programs. (20 ILCS 4103/20; May 2022, rec'd March 2023, 46 pp. + appendix)

Legislative Information System

Biennial report, 2021-2022

LIS provided 21 information technology services to the General Assembly, including systems for bill drafting, tracking, voting, and enrolling and engrossing; audio and video services for each chamber; posting journals and debate transcripts; hosting the Illinois Administrative Code; and tracking federal grants. LIS spent \$5.12 million in FY 2021 and \$5.10 million in FY 2022. It was appropriated \$7.22 million For FY 2023. LIS continues to develop information technology for the General Assembly. (25 ILCS 145/5.07; issued & rec'd April 2023, 30 pp.)

Property Tax Appeal Board

Annual report, 2022

The report presents data by county on commercial and industrial property tax assessment appeals and any resulting assessment reductions in recent years. In 2022 the Board closed 27,906 residential appeals involving 34,157 parcels. (35 ILCS 200/16-190(b); Feb. 2023, rec'd March 2023, 9 pp.)

Public Health, Dept. of

Opioid overdose semiannual report, 2021 final data and partial 2022 preliminary data

This report finalizes the previous report's 2021

preliminary data on opioid overdose deaths of Illinois residents, and adds provisional data for the first half of 2022. Opioid overdose deaths of Illinois residents rose 2.3%, from 2,944 in 2020 to 3,013 in 2021. Preliminary data show 3.3% more opioid overdose deaths in the first half of 2022 than in the first half of 2021. Monthly and 12-month rolling averages of opioid fatalities are provided from 2020 to June 2022. Fatal synthetic opioid overdoses in Illinois youths aged 13 to 17 rose from 3 in 2020 to 14 in 2021. (210 ILCS 85/6.14g(d); issued & rec'd Feb. 2023, 5 pp.)

State Board of Education
Data Governance and Organization to Support Equity and Racial Justice Act progress report, 2023

Under the Act, a number of state agencies are required to report demographic data for each of their major programs. ISBE identified 11 programs for analysis, and determined that 5 demographic categories are already defined and standardized for those programs: race/ethnicity; age; disability status; gender; and primary or preferred language. ISBE will work to standardize definitions for “sex”

and “sexual orientation,” and continue collecting data in the coming year. (20 ILCS 65/20-15(f); issued & rec'd March 2023, 2 pp.)

802 Stratton Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706
Phone: (217) 782-5320
Email: webmastercgfa@ilga.gov