

ABSTRACTS OF STATE REPORTS

JULY 2021

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Abstracts of Reports Required to be Filed With the General Assembly

The CGFA staff is required to prepare abstracts of reports required to be filed with the General Assembly. 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.

Auditor General, Office of the Annual report, 2020

The Financial/Compliance Audit Division conducted “engagements” at 84 agencies during FY 2019, including compliance examinations, financial audits, and federal audits. Of those, the Auditor General’s staff did 27 audits; accounting firms did the rest. The report summarizes important audit findings. The Division also performed a Statewide Single Audit, as required for the state to receive federal funds. The Performance Audit Division released 3 performance audits and 3 reviews in 2020; the report summarizes improvement recommendations from those examinations. The Division also released 35 audits of Regional Offices of Education and 3 Intermediate Service Centers from FY 2019. The report describes performance audits currently in progress. (30 ILCS 5/3-15; issued & rec’d March 2021, 44 pp.)

Report on the actuarial assumptions and valuations of the state-funded retirement systems, 2020

The report contains actuarial assumptions and valuations of 6 retirement systems: the 5 state-funded systems and the Public School Teachers’ Pension and Retirement Fund of Chicago. The report is based on reports prepared by the State Actuary, an actuarial and consulting firm called Cheiron. Actuarial assumptions used to calculate state contributions to the systems were found to be reasonable, but Cheiron recommended TRS lower its interest rate assumption to 6.75%. The firm also made recommendations related to disclosures, future valuations, and other topics. The proposed state contributions for FY 2022 are \$5.70 billion to TRS, \$2.47 billion to SERS, \$2.11 billion to SURS, \$0.15 billion to JRS, \$0.03 billion to GARS, and \$0.26 billion to CTPF—totaling \$10.72 billion. That is an increase of about \$0.8

billion from the \$9.95 billion required in FY 2021. (30 ILCS 5/2-8.1(c); Dec. 2020, rec’d March 2021, 260 pp. + 3 appendices)

Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Dept. of

Build Illinois revolving funds, FY 2020

On June 30, 2020, the Illinois Capital Revolving Loan Fund had almost \$2.1 million; the Large Business Attraction Fund had \$264,381; and the Illinois Equity Fund had \$359,652. (30 ILCS 750/9-9 and 750/10-9; Dec. 2020, rec’d Jan. 2021, 6 pp.)

Enterprise Zone Loan Fund, FY 2020

DCEO reports that it has never received an appropriation for the Enterprise Zone Loan Fund and that the Fund does not exist within the State Comptroller’s Office; thus it has no Fund operations to report. (20 ILCS 655/12-9; Dec. 2020, rec’d Jan. 2021, 1 p.)

Live Theater Tax Credit quarterly report, Oct.-Dec. 2020

Some \$3.4 million was spent on qualified live theater productions. Hires included 224 production office, technical crew, and support jobs. There were no talent job hires. Some 16% of crew hires were white females; 30% were minorities. (35 ILCS 17/10-50(b); undated, rec'd. Feb. 2021, 1 pp.)

Insurance, Dept. of

Front-line bilingual employees annual report, 2021

The Department of Insurance does not have any bilingual frontline employees. The Department has been unable to fill open positions through repeated postings. The Department has established lower-level positions and created new positions in Cook County to help recruit qualified candidates. (5 ILCS 382/3-1; issued & rec'd Apr. 2021, 1 pp.)

Labor, Dept. of

Child Labor Law annual report, FY 2020

The Department administers the Law by maintaining a toll-free hotline and a paperless permitting process. During the COVID-19 pandemic the Department published an emergency rule allowing remote application for child employment certificates rather than requiring in-person interviews. In FY 2020 schools and their agents issued 13,176 employment certificates (down 37.4% from the previous year due to the pandemic). The

Department received and approved 1,736 requests for hour restriction waivers for children working in motion picture or related entertainment productions (down 22% due to the pandemic). The Department held four informal settlement conferences, collecting \$12,200 in penalties. The Department continued outreach and educational efforts. (820 ILCS 205/18.2; undated, rec'd Jan. 2021, 3 pp.)

Equal Pay Act report, 2020

In 2020, the Department received 22 new equal pay complaints and investigated 42 (including some from 2019). The total amount of back wages paid in 2020 was \$10,428.76, and the Department collected \$1,334.78 in penalties. Seventeen complaints were dismissed—8 because no violations were found after investigation, 8 because they did not concern wage discrimination based on gender or racial status, and 1 because the complainant could not be located. (820 ILCS 112/50; Dec. 2020, rec'd Jan. 2021, 2 pp.)

Legislative Information System

Biennial report, 2019-2020

LIS provided 20 information technology services to the General Assembly, including systems for bill drafting, tracking, voting, and enrolling and engrassing; audio and video services for each chamber; posting journals and debate transcripts online; hosting the Illinois Administrative Code;

and tracking federal grants. In FY 2019, LIS had \$5.04 million in expenditures, and \$4.95 million in FY 2020. For FY 2021, LIS was appropriated \$7.31 million. LIS continues to develop information technology for the General Assembly. (25 ILCS 145/5.07; issued & rec'd April 2021, 30 pp.)

Public Health, Dept. of

Diversity in Health Care Task Force annual report, 2020

The task force was created to make recommendations on diversifying Illinois' healthcare workforce. It made a number of recommendations including appropriating funding to build outreach programs for minority and/or low-income students to consider healthcare as a career path; and building partnerships with regional, state, and local stakeholders to form a statewide diversity in healthcare coalition. The task force's next steps include engaging with stakeholders and think tanks and acquiring data to guide leadership development in healthcare. (20 ILCS 2310/2310-213(f); undated, rec'd Feb. 2021, 13 pp.)

State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor

Annual report, FY 2020

The agency filed 1,070 main briefs and responded to 1,277 advice calls. The Labor Unit served two counties. The Continuing Education Unit sponsored or co-sponsored 6 CLE programs and 2 violent crime conferences. The Special Prosecution Unit helped on

1,023 cases in 93 counties. The Tax Objection Division handled 68 matters for 30 counties. (725 ILCS 210/4.06; issued & rec'd Apr. 2021, 28 pp.)

State Board of Education

Attendance Commission report, 2020

The Attendance Commission, created to study chronic school absenteeism, issued the following recommendations: (1) continue using the standard for chronic absenteeism in P.A. 100-156 (2017); (2) continue using the 2019 definition of a school day in the School Code; (3) restore funding for truancy programs, such as the Truants Alternative Optional Education Program; (4) continue using Ed360 to track patterns of chronic absenteeism; (5) continue expanding collection of attendance data for preschool students and those not enrolled; (6) continue to use chronic absence data as an accountability factor in determining school quality; (7) use Illinois Multi-Tier Systems of Support Network for tiered support of any type; and (8) increase communication with families to address chronic absenteeism. The report also has a "note" on ISBE's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.163(d); Dec. 2020, rec'd March 2021, 54 pp. + 15 appendices)

Educator supply and demand, 2020

The Illinois teacher retention rate was 86% in 2020 (down from 93% in 2017). K-12 enrollment is expected to increase slightly from 2020 to 2021. The report includes data on how many teachers and administrators completed preparation programs in 2018 and 2019; teacher retention by subject area; public teacher counts by subject area; and other license and endorsement information. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.11c; Dec. 2020, rec'd Jan. 2021, 29 pp. + appendices)

State Police, Illinois

Juvenile charge report, Jan.-March 2020

ISP received 5,242 juvenile charge reports for the first quarter of 2020: 344 ordinance violations; 225 petty offenses; 2,462 Class A to C misdemeanors; 1,661 Class 1 to 4 felonies; 192 Class X felonies; and 20 murders. An additional 338 charges were not identified. When available, the report also lists gender, race, and age at arrest. (20 ILCS 2605/2605-355; April 2020, rec'd April 2021, 4 pp.)

Juvenile charge report, April-June 2020

ISP received 2,944 juvenile charge reports (down from 5,242

in the previous quarter). The charges are listed by county. (20 ILCS 2605/2605-355; Nov. 2020, rec'd April 2021, 3 pp.)

Teachers' Retirement System

Final state funding certification, FY 2022

The TRS Board certified two state funding amounts for FY 2021: \$5.7 billion based on law or \$8.9 billion based on actuarial standards. The certified contributions both include \$400,000 in minimum benefit reimbursements. The certifications include assumptions about the impact of the accelerated pension benefit programs in Public Act 100-587 and extended by Public Act 101-10. (40 ILCS 5/16-158(a-5); Jan. 2021, rec'd Feb. 2021, 2 pp. + 2 attachments)

Veterans' Affairs, Dept. of

Semi-annual report on resident complaints and communicable diseases, June-Dec. 2020

Some 33 resident complaints at the four state veterans' homes were received on grievance forms or through verbal complaints that required follow-up; most were resolved. The report also lists statistics on communicable disease cases that required antibiotic treatment by month per facility. (20 ILCS 2805/2.13(b); Dec. 2020, rec'd March 2021, 6 pp.)

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