



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB4379

Introduced 1/29/2020, by Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 305/115

Amends the University of Illinois Act with respect to a Section requiring the Government Finance Research Center to issue a water rates report. Provides that the water rates report for the Lake Michigan service area of northeastern Illinois must be issued no later than December 1, 2021 (instead of December 1, 2020). Provides that the water rates report for the remainder of Illinois must be issued no later than December 1, 2022 (instead of December 1, 2021). Changes the repeal date of the Section to January 1, 2023 (instead of January 1, 2022). Effective immediately.

LRB101 16040 CMG 65402 b

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The University of Illinois Act is amended by
5 renumbering and changing Section 105, as added by Public Act
6 101-562, as follows:

7 (110 ILCS 305/115)

8 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2022)

9 Sec. 115 ~~105~~. Water rates report.

10 (a) Subject to appropriation, no later than December 1,
11 2021 ~~2020~~, the Government Finance Research Center at the
12 University of Illinois at Chicago, in coordination with an
13 intergovernmental advisory committee, must issue a report
14 evaluating the setting of water rates throughout the Lake
15 Michigan service area of northeastern Illinois and, no later
16 than December 1, 2022 ~~2021~~, for the remainder of Illinois. The
17 report must provide recommendations for policy and regulatory
18 needs at the State and local level based on its findings. The
19 report shall, at a minimum, address all of the following areas:

20 (1) The components of a water bill.

21 (2) Reasons for increases in water rates.

22 (3) The definition of affordability throughout the
23 State and any variances to that definition.

1 (4) Evidence of rate-setting that utilizes
2 inappropriate practices.

3 (5) The extent to which State or local policies drive
4 cost increases or variations in rate-settings.

5 (6) Challenges within economically disadvantaged
6 communities in setting water rates.

7 (7) Opportunities for increased intergovernmental
8 coordination for setting equitable water rates.

9 (b) In developing the report under this Section, the
10 Government Finance Research Center shall form an advisory
11 committee, which shall be composed of all of the following
12 members:

13 (1) The Director of the Environmental Protection
14 Agency, or his or her designee.

15 (2) The Director of Natural Resources, or his or her
16 designee.

17 (3) The Director of Commerce and Economic Opportunity,
18 or his or her designee.

19 (4) The Attorney General, or his or her designee.

20 (5) At least 2 members who are representatives of
21 private water utilities operating in Illinois, appointed
22 by the Director of the Government Finance Research Center.

23 (6) At least 4 members who are representatives of
24 municipal water utilities, appointed by the Director of the
25 Government Finance Research Center.

26 (7) One member who is a representative of an

1 environmental justice advocacy organization, appointed by
2 the Director of the Government Finance Research Center.

3 (8) One member who is a representative of a consumer
4 advocacy organization, appointed by the Director of the
5 Government Finance Research Center.

6 (9) One member who is a representative of an
7 environmental planning organization that serves
8 northeastern Illinois, appointed by the Director of the
9 Government Finance Research Center.

10 (10) The Director of the Illinois State Water Survey,
11 or his or her designee.

12 (11) The Chairperson of the Illinois Commerce
13 Commission, or his or her designee.

14 (c) After all members are appointed, the committee shall
15 hold its first meeting at the call of the Director of the
16 Government Finance Research Center, at which meeting the
17 members shall select a chairperson from among themselves. After
18 its first meeting, the committee shall meet at the call of the
19 chairperson. Members of the committee shall serve without
20 compensation but may be reimbursed for their reasonable and
21 necessary expenses incurred in performing their duties. The
22 Government Finance Research Center shall provide
23 administrative and other support to the committee.

24 (d) No later than 60 days after August 23, 2019 (the
25 effective date of Public Act 101-562) ~~this amendatory Act of~~
26 ~~the 101st General Assembly~~, the Government Finance Research

1 Center must provide an opportunity for public comment on the
2 questions to be addressed in the report, the metrics to be
3 used, and the recommendations that need to be issued.

4 (e) This Section is repealed on January 1, 2023 ~~2022~~.

5 (Source: P.A. 101-562, eff. 8-23-19; revised 10-21-19.)

6 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
7 becoming law.