



## 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB3952

Introduced 2/22/2021, 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, 2022 (instead of December 1, 2020). Provides that the water rates report for the remainder of Illinois must be issued no later than December 1, 2023 (instead of December 1, 2021). Changes the repeal date of the Section to January 1, 2024 (instead of January 1, 2022). Effective immediately.

LRB102 04300 CMG 14318 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8 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2022)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 2022 ~~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, 2023 ~~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  
20 areas:

21 (1) The components of a water bill.

22 (2) Reasons for increases in water rates.

23 (3) The definition of affordability throughout the

1 State and any variances to that definition.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           (7) One member who is a representative of an  
2 environmental justice advocacy organization, appointed by  
3 the Director of the Government Finance Research Center.

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

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

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

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

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

25           (d) No later than 60 days after August 23, 2019 (the  
26 effective date of Public Act 101-562) ~~this amendatory Act of~~

1 ~~the 101st General Assembly~~, the Government Finance Research  
2 Center must provide an opportunity for public comment on the  
3 questions to be addressed in the report, the metrics to be  
4 used, and the recommendations that need to be issued.

5 (e) This Section is repealed on January 1, 2024 ~~2022~~.

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

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