

SB3977



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB3977

Introduced 10/28/2024, by Sen. Jil Tracy

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

30 ILCS 5/3-2.5 new

Amends the Illinois State Auditing Act. Provides that, in calendar years 2025, 2030, 2035, 2040, and 2045, the Auditor General shall conduct a performance audit of (i) the programs and procurement activities administered by the Illinois Power Agency to implement the Renewable Portfolio Standard and (ii) the Adjustable Block program established under the Illinois Power Agency Act. Provides that the performance audits shall address several questions related to renewable energy, solar vendors, and other issues. Provides that performance audits shall each include physical inspections of 3 random solar sites funded through the Adjustable Block program. Provides that the Auditor General shall consult with energy experts in the audit process and may employ an energy consulting firm. Provides for the Auditor General to report findings and recommendations. Repeals the provisions added by this amendatory Act on July 1, 2046. Effective immediately.

LRB103 42829 BDA 76079 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning finance.

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

4 Section 5. The Illinois State Auditing Act is amended by
5 adding Section 3-2.5 as follows:

6 (30 ILCS 5/3-2.5 new)

7 Sec. 3-2.5. Illinois Power Agency performance audit.

8 (a) In calendar years 2025, 2030, 2035, 2040, and 2045,
9 the Auditor General shall conduct a performance audit of (i)
10 the programs and procurement activities administered by the
11 Illinois Power Agency to implement the State's Renewable
12 Portfolio Standard and (ii) the Adjustable Block program
13 established under the Illinois Power Agency Act.

14 (b) The performance audits required under this Section
15 shall address the following questions in addition to any other
16 matters statutorily required to be included in the performance
17 audit:

18 (1) Is the State meeting the percentage-based
19 renewable energy goals set forth in the Illinois Power
20 Agency Act?

21 (2) What is the average annual price of renewable
22 energy credits under contracts entered into by electric
23 utilities in the State since June 1, 2017, for each year?

1 (3) What is the average annual price of renewable
2 energy credits under the renewable energy credit programs
3 administered by the Illinois Power Agency compared to
4 neighboring states and the State of Arizona?

5 (4) Is the Illinois Power Agency maximizing the use of
6 moneys appropriated to it to increase progress toward the
7 State's Renewable Portfolio Standard goals?

8 (5) Is the Illinois Power Agency able to demonstrate
9 that the funds awarded through the audited programs are
10 being spent efficiently and that the vendors receiving
11 contract awards through those programs are being fully
12 vetted?

13 (6) What is the cause of the high rates of bankruptcy
14 filings of the solar vendors participating in the
15 Adjustable Block program?

16 (7) What further steps can be taken to shield solar
17 customers from vendors who are not meeting their
18 obligations to those customers?

19 (8) How can affected solar customers be reimbursed by
20 the Illinois Power Agency for actions by vendors in the
21 rooftop solar industry who are not meeting their
22 obligations to customers?

23 (c) The performance audits required under this Section
24 shall each include physical inspections of 3 random solar
25 sites funded through the Adjustable Block program.

26 (d) When conducting the performance audits required under

1 this Section, the Auditor General shall consult with energy
2 experts and may employ an energy consulting firm as needed to
3 complete the required audits.

4 (e) The Illinois Power Agency and any other entity having
5 information relevant to any performance audit required under
6 this Section shall cooperate fully and promptly with the
7 Auditor General's Office in the conduct of the performance
8 audit.

9 (f) Upon completion of each performance audit required
10 under this Section, the Auditor General shall report its
11 findings and recommendations in accordance with the provisions
12 of Section 3-14 of this Act by no later than December 31 of the
13 year in which the performance audit is required to be
14 conducted.

15 (g) This Section is repealed on July 1, 2046.

16 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
17 becoming law.