



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Harriet Tubman: “Moses of her people”

During about 10 years as a “conductor” of the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman escorted hundreds of slaves to freedom and came to be known as the “Moses of her people.” Over a century later, she still represents courage and persistence in the face of oppression.

Araminta Ross (she later changed her first name to Harriet, after her mother) was born a slave in Maryland around 1820. As a teenager, she suffered a serious injury when an overseer threw a weight at a field hand whom she was trying to protect, and the weight hit her in the head. She endured aftereffects of the injury throughout her life.

Around 1844, she married a free African American man named John Tubman and took his last name. In 1849, fearing that she would be sold, she ran away to Philadelphia, probably with help from the Underground Railroad—an elaborate secret network of safe houses designed to get slaves to freedom. The next year she returned to Maryland and brought her sister’s family to freedom. It was the first of many trips she would make to rescue family members and others. During one trip she contacted her husband to see if he would come with her, but he had taken another wife and preferred to remain in Maryland.

By 1860, Harriet had made the dangerous trip south over a dozen times, including one trip to rescue her parents. She devised techniques for success, such as using the plantation owner’s horse and buggy for the first leg of the journey; leaving on a Saturday night, since runaway notices could not be placed in



Harriet Tubman, H. Seymour Squye, c. 1885, Printing-out paper print National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

newspapers until Monday morning; turning around and heading southward if she encountered possible slave hunters; and carrying laudanum to put babies to sleep if their crying might put the fugitives in danger.

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Mary Flowers Biography and Interview

State Representative Mary E. Flowers has served in the Illinois House of Representatives since 1985, where she is currently an Assistant Majority Leader. She traces her inspiration and commitment to public service to witnessing her heroes in action while growing up in Chicago: seeing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. walk past her window leading a protest march as part of his Chicago campaign, and speaking with then-State Representative Harold Washington at his office and staying on to volunteer. She was also inspired by her mother, who stood up for human rights in Mississippi when doing so placed her life in danger.

Representative Flowers helped author and pass the Medical Patient Rights Act. She also helped pass the Illinois Patients' Right to Know Act, the Perinatal HIV Prevention Act, Hospital Report Card Act, and Fair Patient Billing Act.

She is married to Daniel Coutee. They have one daughter, Makeda, and a granddaughter, Madison. The Representative is the daughter of Lula Mary Flowers and Willie Flowers Sr. (deceased). She is the second eldest of seven children. She attended Kennedy-King College and the University of Illinois at Chicago. Before serving in the House, she worked at the University of Chicago.

Representative Flowers serves the 31st District, which includes

parts of Chicago, Burr Ridge, Chicago Ridge, Countryside, Hodgkins, Hometown, Palos Hills, and Willow Springs.

The LRU asked Representative Flowers to reflect on her career. Her responses are printed below.

Q: Were you born and raised in the City of Chicago? Could you tell us something about your parents and your childhood?

A: I was born in Inverness, Mississippi on July 31, 1951. My parents separated when my mother had to leave the South because of a lot of things going on in those days. When I was 4 or 5 years old, we moved to Chicago. We lived near 43rd and Wells. I went to a public elementary school for kindergarten, then to St. Cecelia's Catholic School. I've lived in Chicago ever since.

Q: What led you to politics? Did any particular person in your life encourage you to run for office?

A: Well, no one really encouraged me early on. I always knew I wanted to get involved, but I didn't know with what. When I was living at 720 South Lowe, I saw Martin Luther King Jr. marching down the street on his way to protest the "Willis Wagons" [portable school classrooms set up under Superintendent of Schools Benjamin Willis to



handle overcrowding] in Hamilton Park. I dashed across the street to catch up with him, but my mother caught up with me and brought me back. Another time I was looking out the window and saw Jesse Jackson in a group marching on the Sears Tower because no minorities were working on the Tower. I went running downstairs to catch up with him, but that didn't work either.

I had read in the newspaper about then-State Representative Harold Washington arguing about something with Mayor Daley. I asked my mother if she would take me over to Harold Washington's office to meet him and find out what the argument was about. My mom took me, and he talked with us. Then he said to my mom that if she didn't mind, she could leave me there to do some volunteer work and he would make sure I got home safely. That was the beginning of my volunteer work with him.

Q: You have served in the Illinois House for over 30 years,

since 1985. What changes have you observed?

A: When I first came to the House, I was intrigued and learned a lot. There were a lot of wise old people there. We used to have long debates on bills, and nobody tried to hurry us. We wanted to do it and do it right. There was more camaraderie then. We were able to argue and fight over issues, and after that we moved on, and even went out to dinner. Some of my best friends were Republicans. I was friends with Jane Barnes [a former Republican state legislator]. I remember when I was the minority spokesperson, I think in 1994, I was sure that one particular Republican woman would support me to vote against raising utility rates. She told me, “Mary, I’m going to have to vote yes.” I said I couldn’t believe it, and asked her why. She said, “You have your constituents, and I have mine. And some of mine have stocks and bonds in these utilities and they would want me to vote yes.” That’s when I began to understand that people who voted the opposite of how I would want them to vote aren’t necessarily bad—they’re just representing their districts.

We don’t have those types of conversations now and that camaraderie. But all the same, I can’t say anything negative about my 30-odd years in Springfield. I was blessed to have a lot of people around me with good advice, and who helped me understand what to do and what not to do. I felt comfortable in the House. I never had any problems going to

the Speaker. When I had my only child, I was back on the floor 4 days later. The Speaker sent an airplane for my husband; Dan Burke gave up his hotel room; Steve Brown gave up his car. A lot of people helped me then.

When Peter Fitzgerald ran against Carol Moseley-Braun, I saw him in the lunch room, and he said he was so glad he didn’t have to run against me. It took me awhile, but I decided that was a compliment.

Q: During your years in the House of Representatives, you have been particularly active on health care bills. What are your biggest legislative achievements in that area, and why is that topic important to you?

A: We established a patients’ bill of rights, making it so that HMOs couldn’t force patients to call first before going to the ER, and requiring HMOs to disclose their conflicts of interest. Patients were dying because medical decisions were being made by businesspeople instead of doctors. The patients’ bill of rights protected the patients of the state of Illinois.

Another bill I’m proud of helped more babies get tested and treated for AIDS.

In 2007 we passed a law to add Krabbe disease to the state’s newborn screening program. After some babies died, we found out that the state never implemented that requirement. We looked into it, and they are finally doing the testing now.

Q: Aside from health care, what other bills or issues have you been involved with that made the biggest impression on you?

A: The certificate of innocence bill was an important one. A lot of men were being found innocent after spending 20 or 25 years in prison. They didn’t know to go to the Court of Claims for their paperwork, and sometimes there was no record of their innocence despite the fact that a judge found them innocent. The bill made it so that a certificate of innocence is issued upon a finding being made that a person is innocent, instead of the person having to go to the Court of Claims and file paperwork. The bill also included job training and education for those people who have been incarcerated for such a long time.

Another important bill established pregnancy protection rights in the workplace. A lot of women were afraid to let their bosses know when they became pregnant for fear of losing their jobs. No one should have to choose between quitting their job or losing their baby.

Q: You received the 1993 “Legislator of the Year” award from the Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association. Can you describe how that honor was significant for you?

A: Back in those days, and even now, so many people are dying from drug overdoses and alcohol abuse, and many times people are quiet about it. No one says anything. I’m proud of the fact that I

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Mary Flowers Biography and Interview

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was able to make sure these organizations were funded, there were beds for treatment, and insurance companies are able to pay for it.

Q: Over the last 50-some years, a major change in Illinois and the United States has been the breaking down of racial barriers. What are the most significant changes that you've seen, and what do you think still needs to be done?

A: I think we have a long way to go. There was a time when I would have said we were getting there, but it's worse now than ever. With schools closing in Chicago, I'm reminded of *Brown v. Board of Education*, which was not about integration, but about access to equal education. Mr. Brown wanted to send his child across the street to a different school and he was forbidden. Today more schools are closing than ever before in minority communities. As a result, we live in a segregated city in Chicago. In the 21st century, the world really is a smaller place, except right here in Chicago. The south and west sides look the same as they did 50 or 60 years ago during the race riots. People in minority communities have no networking, no access to jobs or only low-wage jobs. That causes families to be separated or incarcerated. Fines, fees, and tickets cause people to lose their homes. People can't afford to live in Chicago, can't afford to work or buy gas. Racism is getting worse instead of better. It's not just about

the color of someone's skin, either. With health care, if you're not very, very poor, it's hard to get access. And as we've seen with Legionnaire's disease in veterans' homes, you can still be poor and not get quality of care. There are all kinds of forms of discrimination.

Q: Although he died at a very young age (39), Martin Luther King Jr. was the driving force behind the largest gains in racial equality that the United States has ever seen. Do you have any special memories of Dr. King?

A: The closest I came to Dr. King was running up behind him in Chicago. I did have the pleasure of meeting his wife Coretta in Washington, D.C., and we took a picture together. I also had the pleasure of visiting his boyhood home in Atlanta and visiting his museum and gravesite.

Q: On April 12, 1983, Harold Washington was elected the first African American Mayor of the City of Chicago. Can you tell us how you felt on that election night?

A: My daughter was so thrilled about Barack Obama, but I told her I wished she had been there in 1983. We had no cell phones, no e-mail. We all just knew to be down at McCormick Place when the election was over. We had been out volunteering all night. Then when the election was over, we met up at McCormick Place. When word got out that Harold was winning, people left their cars on the Outer Drive. The Dan Ryan wasn't drivable because

people were getting out their cars and leaving them there. Everyone just wanted to get to McCormick Place. I think I made it home by 7 a.m. that day, though I don't know how. We were all so happy and thrilled. It was a wonderful feeling. There were people of all races in that packed place that night. It was an experience like none other I've lived through.

Q: On November 4, 2008, Barack Obama became the first African American to be elected President of the United States. What recollection do you have of that day? What message did his election send to young African Americans in Chicago and the nation?

A: It was a very happy day. People had high hopes, the same way they had high hopes for Harold. I think Obama's victory opened the minds of young people and let them know that one day they can be President or whatever they want to be. Of course, Obama had a good education and lots of opportunities. I think he may have made it look easy, although it was a lot of hard work for him. When a lot of young people look for education like that nowadays, it's not affordable or attainable. We have more prisons than higher education facilities in Illinois now, and that's a problem.

Q: What has been the most challenging part of being a state representative? The most rewarding?

A: As for the most challenging, a lot of people think this job is easy

and anyone can do it. They don't understand the sacrifices you make as an elected official. To me, this is my calling.

Another challenge to the job is that there is a constant learning curve. You can't just get comfortable with one thing. You have to be a jack of all trades. You can't assume that a problem you worked on 10 years ago is going to be the same now. We had problems with HMOs, and then most of them left the state. But they quietly came back, and now the problems are different.

The hardest part is that your work is never done. You always want to do more, help more.

People will accuse you of being a career politician, like there's something wrong with that. There's nothing wrong with aspiring to be a doctor, a lawyer, an

entertainer, but for some reason people don't feel the same about aspiring to be a politician. But that's always been my aspiration.

The most rewarding part is being able to help people. Sometimes we help by the bills that we prevent from passing even more than by passing bills. Years ago a Republican colleague wanted to punish women who had abused their kids by forcing them to take some form of birth control. I was proud to stop that bill because there are various reasons why child abuse may occur, and forcing someone to take birth control can have an adverse effect in their lives because not everyone can take birth control. To say you're going to sentence a person to birth control is not an answer.

Q: What are the particular challenges you have faced as a legislator who, in addition to being

an African American, is also a woman?

A: We had a meeting about sexual harassment in the Democratic caucus and I said I have not knowingly been sexually harassed in the years I've been in the House. I can't say that I have not been discriminated against. I know of certain things that have happened to me that would not have happened if I had been a different race. I resented that and I let everyone know how I felt.

Q: For what do you hope to be remembered?

A: I hope that I would be remembered for standing up and fighting for the least of these. I hope someone could say that I helped.

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By 1856, her capture would have brought a \$40,000 reward in the South—roughly \$1 million in today's currency. Frederick Douglass said: "Excepting John Brown—of sacred memory—I know of no one who has willingly encountered more perils and hardships to serve our enslaved people than" Harriet Tubman. Abolitionist John Brown, who consulted with her about his plans to raid a federal armory in Harpers Ferry, reportedly called her "one of the bravest persons on this continent."

During the Civil War, Harriet worked for the Union as a cook, nurse, and spy. In 1863 she was part of an assault on several plantations along the Combahee River in which over 700 slaves were rescued. She spent the rest of her life after the war in New York, where she established a home for indigent elderly people. She died in 1913 and was buried with military honors. □

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Corneal A. Davis Biography

Corneal A. Davis served in the Illinois House of Representatives for 36 years, and was a leading proponent for establishing the Fair Employment Practices Commission.

Mr. Davis was born on a farm near Vicksburg, Mississippi in 1900. He graduated from Tougaloo College in Mississippi, which he would later describe as “a glorified high school” at the time. Immediately afterward he enlisted for military service in World War I, and fought on the front lines in France.

His family had moved to Chicago during the war, and he joined them there in 1919. He became an ordained minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Throughout his tenure in the General Assembly, he was often called on to act as chaplain. His fellow legislators fondly nicknamed him “Deacon.”

He became involved in politics in Chicago, and then ran for a seat in the Illinois House of Representatives in 1942. He won it and stayed for 36 years, serving at various times as Assistant Minority Leader and Assistant Majority Leader. His major legislative achievements were in the fields of civil rights and public aid. He was an outspoken supporter of the bill that created the Fair Employment Practices Commission. (It was later merged with other entities to create the Illinois Department of Human Rights.)

Mr. Davis left the legislature in 1979, but later resumed public service as a member of the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners. According to his obituary in the *Chicago Tribune*, the pastor at the church where he had served as associate minister said of him: “He was a tremendous person who stood tall for what he believed in. He was a giant in my eyes for what he accomplished for people of color in the Illinois state legislature and for being a humble, kind and affectionate person in the pulpit here.”

He died in 1995 at the age of 94, survived by a daughter, a grandson, and a sister.

Corneal Davis’s oral history was produced through the General Assembly Oral History Program of the Illinois Legislative Council (now called the Legislative Research Unit), in conjunction with the former Sangamon State University’s Oral History Office.

Corneal A. Davis Oral History (excerpts)

Boyhood

[A]s near as I can get it I was born on a farm . . . near Vicksburg. Now the farm was located . . . It was my grandfather’s farm I guess. Yes. Some parts of it was located in Tensas Parish, now that’s the part where Mississippi and Louisiana goes on the line. But my mother says I was born on the Mississippi part. That’s not in Vicksburg, Mississippi, but



Courtesy Illinois State Historical Library

it’s near Vicksburg, Mississippi, the farm that my grandfather owned.

I . . . oh, I guess when I was—near as I can guess—seven or eight years old, my mother took me to Vicksburg, Mississippi. Because out there on the farm they didn’t have any schooling. It was very little. They had a one-room schoolhouse. And of course where they went to school out there—one teacher—and they went to school when they laid the crops by, they called it, maybe about three months or something. There wasn’t much schooling to it I know. As near as I can recall there wasn’t much schooling out there because they only had one teacher and she taught everything that was to be taught. (chuckles)

. . . . Then my mother . . . took me to Vicksburg, Mississippi, and she married again. And really I remember my stepfather more than I do my father. My stepfather is my sister’s father. I remember him very well. He lived in Vicksburg, Mississippi. And he worked for years for a big department store there they call

http://www.ilga.gov/commission/lru/lru_home.html

Bear Brothers. And I was a little fellow. I ran around in the store there, delivered special—they called them special deliveries for the people. . . .

World War I Experience

I joined the army when I was 17 years old. I told them I was 18 but I was only 17. I spent . . . a year and 8 months in France. I was in one of the big major engagements, the Meuse-Argonne offensive. And in those days coming out of our section of the country so many of the soldiers had never been to school. Couldn't read or couldn't write. And they opened a school for them, me being . . . I left Tougaloo [school] in 1917. I'd been there from . . . 1914 to 1917. Left Tougaloo in 1917 and then got into the army.

And it's a funny thing how I got into the army. Most of the fellows—I was a quarterback on the team at that age, see. It was a big high school. . . . I guess the reason I was the quarterback was because I could call the signals, I was a pretty bright kid they said in those days. And the boys, they started drafting the boys. Started to drafting my team. I thought I was a man too and I went along with them. (chuckles) I drafted myself.

Q: When was this?

A: Well that was in the latter part of 1917. . . . I said I wanted to go with the team. Another thing was I just—I mean the truth of

the matter is I wanted to get out of Mississippi. . . . There was too much lynchings and burnings and I figured there would be something somewhere better than that. It was pretty rough in those days in the South, pretty rough. Youngsters now don't know anything about it. I'm glad they don't. I'm really glad they don't. I pick up the paper and see where a black man has been mayor of Birmingham, Alabama. I said, "Oh my God." (laughs)

Q: Quite a change.

A: . . . Isn't that quite a change. When in the old days you was afraid almost to walk down the street. You didn't know what was going to happen. You had—you didn't have any rights, any rights. Very few, if any, black people 21 were registered in the South or voted. They had a poll tax and they would—it would—it would accumulate and you'd have to pay that bill. That is, they would demand that you pay a big bill if you voted. So the end results were very few, if any, black people voted in the South. They didn't want them to vote and they made it difficult, most difficult, for them to vote. The poll tax was one of the things they used to keep them from voting. So I just figured it would—I would be better off in the army and that maybe my—the contribution I'd make to my country in the army would probably make it better for me.

Racial Barriers in Springfield

Q: All right sir. You said you'd like to continue on talking about

the hotels in Springfield and your movement in there.

A: Oh. We'll get back to the hotels in Springfield. Well I'll tell you that story. I was elected to—as a member of the House of Representatives in 1942. . . . At the time I was elected, a friend of mine was elected to the Senate by the name of Wimbish, C. C. Wimbish. Well C. C.—we called him C. C. but his name was Christopher C. Wimbish who was a lawyer, criminal lawyer, in Chicago. And we were good friends. Anyway he made all the reservations. We had reservations for the Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield, Illinois. The Abraham Lincoln Hotel was the newest hotel down there and I think the most—the most elaborate hotel. Because the other hotels like the St. Nick [Nicholas] and the Leland and all those, they were old hotels. But this was a beautiful hotel.

He had all the reservations. Wimbish was a native of Georgia—Atlanta, Georgia. Came from a very distinguished family there in Georgia. His father had been collector of customs or some sort of big federal job there. I think that's what they called him. Anyway, they were well known. And he had all the reservations and he was kidding me on our way down on the train by saying, "If it wasn't for me you wouldn't have any way of living in this town." You know, all that kind of stuff. So we kidded.

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Corneal A. Davis Biography *(continued from p. 7)*

Anyway when we got off the train in Springfield—and I'd only been to Springfield once before but I didn't stay. I went down there with Adelbert Roberts, the first black state senator. And it was during the time—I first went down there was during the time that Horner was Governor, Governor Horner's term. Because he had helped Governor Horner out on some bills and they was friends. The Republican committeemen had not endorsed Del Roberts for reelection. In fact he was running himself. And he went down there to get some help from Horner and I went with him. . . . I didn't know anything about the Jim Crow or the separate stuff in Springfield. . . .

But anyway when we got off the train that night with all of the members of the General Assembly—they usually rode a train that got in there around 8, 8:30 at night. And went over to the hotel. A big crowd was going over, representatives. Wimbish had all the reservations. I was with him. And when he walked up to the clerk, to the counter, everybody else was registering, getting their rooms, but when he walked up the man looked up and said . . . He kept looking at us. And he didn't give him the cards. I think they was using cards to register. Didn't give him the card to register with. He says, "You two fellows together?" "No," he says, "You boys." Wimbish didn't like to be called a boy. He says, "What do you mean boy?" or something like that. "Well I

want to know if you're together because you don't live here in Springfield do you? You must not live here." That's what he said. "Because if you lived here in Springfield you'd know better than to come up here to register." Now that's what we met in the hotel named after Abraham Lincoln. "You boys don't live here in Springfield. If you did you'd know better than to come up here to try to register."

Well Wimbish resented it and some pretty rough talk followed. And the guy came out from behind the desk and said to Wimbish and to me, "Before I would let any of you stay in here I would close this hotel down." Well I had to hold Wimbish because he called us boys and everything. Wimbish wanted to fight. I said, "Wait a minute, wait a minute, senator, wait a minute now. We haven't been sworn in yet. We can't"—I said, "We came down here to be sworn in. You're a lawyer. You know better than that. Wait till we're sworn."

And, man, he was talking—"Well I mean it," he said, "I mean it, every word." I said, "Now just a minute, mister. I tell you what I'm going to do. You said that you'll close this hotel up before you let us stay." "Yes," he said. I said, "I'm going to help you! Now remember this, I'm going to help you!" (laughs) I've seen that guy many times afterwards. He said—you know what he told me, he said, "You sure did help me." Well we got to be pretty good friends when I helped him. I kept him in all kinds of courts

because he—they kept their policy up.

But to make a long story short, the Abraham Lincoln Hotel wasn't the only hotel—it's just the hotel we happened to go to. None of them would accept us. Because we tried that night. And we hadn't made any reservations anywhere and didn't know anywhere to go get any place to stay. So we sat in the station that night and slept in the station our first night in Springfield. We slept—slept in the old G M & O—Gulf, Mobile & Ohio—station in Springfield, Illinois.

Well there was a long fight, but I lived to see that hotel not only boarded up and torn down, but I lived to see it blown down. It was dynamited and blown down. I lived to see that. That's the kind of discrimination we met in Springfield. There wasn't a hotel down there that would open its doors to us.

Q: How did you go about acting on that?

A: Now, we had a civil rights statute in Illinois then, but the—the maximum was \$1,000 fine. That was the maximum fine, \$1,000. And of course they asked for a jury trial. They wouldn't—you couldn't get a conviction against them anyway.

But anyway, we had [a member of the black Elks lodge in Milwaukee] to come down from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and when he showed up, he was black, they ushered him out like they had

done before. But we went into the federal court under . . . diversity of citizenship, claiming this man didn't live in Illinois, he was outside of the state of Illinois and he resided up in Wisconsin. And so under diversity of citizenship we went into the federal court. Well we sued them for a million dollars. (laughs) That suit was never tried. All the defense lawyers did was make dilatory motions . . . objecting, tried to keep us from going to court with the thing. They got all the continuances they could get, made all of the dilatory motions they could get. But the truth of the matter is we broke them with that lawsuit without getting a judgment.

Q: And were you able to stay in the hotel?

A: Yes. Yes, some of them—some blacks stayed in there before they closed but it was too late then, we had them broke. . . . But I was—we—I stayed at the St. Nick. Now I'll tell you the real true story how we got in the St. Nick. I left all the black fellows, my associates who was darker than I was—the black press was kind of on us, writing us up because we stayed around and out in the city and we didn't press—they said we didn't but we did press all we could—but the black press was on us. So I figured I'm going to try to get in there. When all of the members of the legislature and different ones was registering I got right in the crowd. Being a light-skinned Negro they didn't pay any attention to me.

Q: Oh?

A: No. And I registered. This was at the St. Nick Hotel. I registered and took a suite. And when I registered I put my friend Wimbish's name on there too. The suite was going to be occupied by two of us, put my name and his name. After I registered, the boy took my stuff up to the suite, I went down and got him and brought him up there.

And it wasn't long before somebody told them what had gone on. And the man that ran the St. Nick came up there, knocked on the door. We went to the door and he said, "Well now they made a mistake, they let you fellows in here. You know you fellows don't—blacks don't stay in any hotel. They didn't know who you was, they told me. They didn't know who you was, made a mistake. Now that you're in here I'm going to let you stay here tonight. But don't go down in the dining rooms and don't do all this other stuff."

Well everything he told us not to do that's exactly what we did. (laughter) That's exactly what we did. And we fought this just as hard as they did to keep us out of their places. And they didn't want—they decided they didn't want all that disturbance. It was a question of—we went on anyway, in the dining room, everywhere's else, Wimbish and I. And when we went on, others started to come along. (chuckles)

Now that's where you broke it up. I'd go and register, they wouldn't pay any attention to me. And then all of a sudden they'd wake up and find out I was in

there and I'm bringing the other blacks in there. That's the real true story of how we got in there, true story.

Q: Now the St. Nicholas was a kind of a headquarters for the Democrats I understand down there.

A: Absolutely. Yes, it was the headquarters.

Q: Did you get any help from the Democratic party in trying to solve this problem?

A: Well not of—now . . . some of them said I was right. "You're right. I don't blame you. Hell, I'd do the same thing. I'd stay." But that's about all. Didn't get any more help than that. Even Mayor Daley who was one of the Democratic leaders when I went down there, the mayor of Chicago. He says, "I don't blame you. I wouldn't let them push me around either." That's why I always liked Mayor Daley as Democratic leader in Springfield. He fought with me for FEPC [Fair Employment Practices Commission] and equal treatment for blacks.

Creation of the Fair Employment Practices Commission

Q: It was about the time of Kerner, then?

A: Yes, around Kerner's time it got more liberal. That's when FEPC went in, you know. Governor Kerner signed the first FEPC bill.

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Corneal A. Davis Biography *(continued from p. 9)*

I must say this though, the highest job any black had until Cecil Par-tee was elected president pro tem was Joe Bibb, a black man who was appointed director of public safety by Governor Stratton. He was over the state police and state prisons. I am a Democrat but I want to be honest, no other black or minority had ever had that title.

Now that was a pretty long fight. I'll tell you how that began. That fight began under Adlai Stevenson. Now Stevenson was there in the 1950's wasn't he? Yes. Right? Yes.

Q: Yes sir, up until 1952 I believe, 1948 to 1952.

A: Yes. It was 1948 to 1952. All right. We got Stevenson elected. I was in New York and I had a Republican friend who was a member of the General Assembly. He and I were pretty close. And talking to a couple of the black legislators in New York. In fact we went over there purposely. We went over there for—Congressman Dawson and I went over there because we had sworn in a man named Irvin Mollison who was a native Mississippian like I was. Irvin Mollison was sworn in—he had been sworn in as a judge of the maritime court. . . . And he went from town to town all the way down to New Orleans, all these seaboard courts. . . . And that's what we was over there for. Judge Mollison was sworn into that. And it was a federal job. Truman appointed him to a federal job.

Anyway, I heard all about this FEPC during the time I was over there. I heard all about this fair employment bill that they put over there and they'd finally passed it in New York. They had passed it, fair employment. And I was carried away with it. And I got a copy of it, the New York bill. And I got a copy. I was carried away with what it really was doing in New York. It was integrating those jobs over there, a lot of them. They had a few blacks working in banks and everything else. And we had put this black man on the maritime court with a federal job, judge. And we'd made Wendell Green, a black man, judge here in Chicago.

We wanted—naturally we wanted to outdo them fellows in New York. Looked like they was getting ahead of us, the blacks over there, because they had a fair employment practice bill. It was just instituted, just getting it in order. It hadn't been tried too much. But the little it was doing was great I thought.

So I brought the bill back. I had a Republican friend on the other side of the aisle. I think he was alone. His name was Ernest Greene, Representative Ernest Greene. I brought the bill back. And he was a lawyer. Ernest Greene was a lawyer. We sat down and we read it and we discussed it and we agreed, he and I agreed, that we would introduce the bill. See, a lot of people don't know how the bill was introduced. So I said—at that time the Republicans controlled both the House and the Senate. I

said, "Ernie, we're—lookie here. If we—if we got any chance of passing this bill, you can pass it better than I can," because we only had a small Democratic minority down there. And we had the minority in the House. I said, "If you would handle it, see, I would cosponsor it with you." I said, "We might get it through."

But we decided that we wouldn't raise too much sand, we wouldn't really—unless somebody would call us to explain it. And then we would try to explain it in an off-hand way because we knew if we explained that bill with all of its ramifications we'd never pass it.

So Ernie Greene and I cooked this thing up that he would handle it, I would cosponsor it, but we wouldn't tell anybody but the two of us. Only the two of us knew what the bill really did when it was first put in. The bill passed the House. I didn't say anything and he just a few words. It went on through. "It's just a little bill that says that everybody ought to be treated fair" and blah-blah-blah. And he being a Republican, bing, the bill passed. Now we still don't say anything. But it's the Fair Employment Practice Bill.

. . . [s]o it gets over in the Senate. And the same thing was going on over there in the Senate. Nobody paid any attention to it. And I went around—like I told him, I'd get the Democrats. And they did. I said, "This is a good bill. It has to do with employment. But, you know, we've got to do something about it, the Democrats." And they said, "All right. I

It passed the House.” So when it came up for Third Reading in the Senate, by that time the Illinois Manufacturers’ Association woke up. When it got over in the Senate they woke up on the bill. And when the bill came up over there it was defeated by one vote.

. . . . Well after that I introduced it every session because everybody knew about it then. . . . And I guess I must have sent a half a dozen or more bills over to the Senate, all to be defeated. The House passed it. Even when they knew what it was they passed it. Because the House was fairly liberal and I could get a—I could get a solid Democrat vote on the bill. And we could pick up a few Republicans and pass it in the House. And Clyde Choate had as much to do—if not more to do—about passing FEPC in the House. . . . [W]hen I was in trouble trying to get that FEPC passed and Clyde Choate from Anna, Illinois, got up on the floor and made a speech! Talk to old Clyde about it. He’ll tell you the speech he made. (laughs)

Q: For the FEPC.

A: Yes. Made a speech for it. And it passed the House like that (snaps fingers). And every time it came up we passed it in the House. . . . We’d pass it in the House. Send it over to the Senate. Senate would thumb their nose at it. You know. We never—I can’t tell you how many times they—sometimes they didn’t even hear the bill in the Senate. . . . Wouldn’t even consider it.

But the FEPC didn’t go in until I had that filibuster. I led the longest filibuster, for FEPC, that was ever led in Springfield.

Q: Could you describe what occurred in that filibuster?

A: Oh, yes. Now I’m going to tell you the whole story of the filibuster. Well I noticed what some of the whites was doing when they felt that they were being mistreated. They’d take advantage of the old Constitution. Now the Constitution of 1870 said all bills must be read in full. That means read three times in full. For instance, the University of Illinois’ appropriation is as large almost as this telephone directory here. Now to read a thing like that in full would take you a week. Two weeks. What would you get done? So they would take advantage of it and say, “Now, Mr. Speaker, that bill must be read in full three times, 1st Reading, 2nd Reading, 3rd Reading.” “Well, we just read it when it was introduced.” “No, no, no, no. It’s got to be read in full three times.” Now you got to read a bill like that in full three times how much would you get accomplished? Impossible. So it went along, went along like that.

I had a Republican friend, black friend, named Bill Robinson who was a pretty brilliant representative, Bill Robinson. . . . And he was a Republican. I said, “Bill, I’ve been trying to pass this FEPC.” He says, “Yes, it ought to be the law. New York’s got it”—he named other states that had it. Several states had it before we did. And Missouri was

getting ready to pass it. It come out of the House in Missouri, up in the Senate and the fellow from Missouri came, black fellows, said, “We’re going to pass it. We’ve got enough votes to pass it.” I said, “My God, now we can’t let Missouri here—I consider it a southern state—going to pass this thing before Illinois does.” So I said, “Bill, if I stage a filibuster will you help me?” He says, “Sure, I’ll help you. You better believe it.”

And Paul Powell was Speaker. I says, “I’m going to demand that every Senate bill that comes over here be read in full three times.” I showed him the old Constitution. I said, “Others do it when they feel like it,” I said, “and if ever a man—I’ve been—for 10 years I’ve been trying to get this thing and they kill it over in the Senate. And I’m going to do it.” And he says, “I’m with you.” And he was on the Republican side.

First Senate bill came over, I said, “Just a minute, Mr. Speaker. No, no, it’s got to be read in full.” “Well, we did. We gave the title.” I said, “Reading the title of the bill is not it. I want it read in full. I want the Constitution to be complied with, you’re ignoring the Constitution. I want you to live up to the Constitution and read that bill in full.”

They fooled around there and fooled around there and he, Paul Powell, sent for Dean Lee because he knew that that’s the one man he knew that I had respect

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Corneal A. Davis Biography *(continued from p. 11)*

for because he was my teacher. So he and Dean Lee went up there and they talked and they talked and talked and they figured on how to get me off the floor, see. Dean Lee came back and he got up on the floor and he told me he was surprised at me. “I’m surprised that you want to slow down the legislative process. You ought to know that we are the judge of all of our rules over here. We make all the rules here now.” And he made an argument, beautiful argument.

So when he sat down I said, “If I know anything about the law, Dean, you taught me and I have the greatest respect for you. But you never taught me that by one motion we could amend the Constitution.” I said, “That’s a long process, amending the Constitution.” I said, “Now, I don’t need to read it to you because you know. You taught constitutional law and know it, better than any man in here, but the Constitution says these bills must be read in full. Now how can we ignore it except we change the Constitution?”

He went back up there and I saw him and Paul. I guess he told Paul, “I have to let him alone.” He laughed and went over and sat down in his seat. (laughs)

. . . And so Paul Powell wouldn’t call any of the Senate bills. He called all the House bills. I didn’t bother the House bills. But every time he called a Senate bill, I’d jump up. All right.

. . . And that’s what happened. Now, they thought to embarrass me. My bill that I sent over there—oh, no, they wasn’t working on that, they worked on another one. . . . They took my bill and when the bill got back, it was not my bill but they amended it and did a whole lot of things to it so it didn’t look like my bill, see? And when it came back over to the House—they passed it and they sent it back over to the House and I looked at it. It . . . would not affect any business that hired less than 100 people. . . . Now that’s the first thing they knocked out of it. . . . Paul Powell sent for me. “Well, you’ve got that Senate bill back over here. What you going to do with it, Deacon? You going to pass it or what you going to do?” He said, “They’re betting over there you ain’t going to accept this bill with all the amendments.” I said, “I know they are. They’re saying I’m not going to accept this because it’s too weak.” I said, “I know they are, Paul.” I said, “Just give me a little time. I’m going to make a study of it.”

I took that bill, prayed over it, like I do over everything, and all that sort of thing and I got that feeling that I ought to accept it because if I didn’t accept it—if I took anything out that they’d put in there—it would have to go back to the Senate. And when it went back to the Senate they were not going to pass it. They were going to say that they passed an FEPC bill, sent it over there to me and I killed it. See, I prayed to the man up there upstairs, my God. But they weren’t

figuring I was going to do that with it, see.

. . . You see, I have always prayed to my God and I had been warned that the Senate was expecting me to amend the bill and send it back to them and they would not act on it and it would die again in the Senate.

I have always believed that the psalmist was right. The 91st Psalm essentially says, “Call on me and I will answer you. I will be with you. I will be with you in trouble.”

And I went back and I said, “Call the bill, Paul, when you get ready.” . . . And he . . . called it and I said—and the Illinois manufacturers almost fell dead when I did this—I got up and said, “I move that we concur in all the Senate amendments.” That’s all it took to pass it. And I moved. Nobody said a word. And we concurred in every Senate amendment and FEPC became a law.

Kerner was the Governor. And Kerner looked at it and he says, “Are you sure you want me to sign this?” I says, “Yes, your Honor, please sign it and give me the pen you sign it with.” And I told him what I was going to do and he laughed. I said, “This is all I can get out of these in the Senate people, but I’ve got support to make it a great law. I believe the Lord will answer me.” And I says, “You’re going to be down here. You’ve been elected for four years.” I says, “I’m going to put some amendments.”

And I amended it to death. Senator Partee will tell you. When he got to be the President of the Senate, he handled an amendment for me, two or three of them. Got them through. We made it one of the finest FEPC laws in the country. . . .

Reflections

. . . I know several of them said, “Look, we had black people down here long before you came. They got along.” And I said, “Well, that may be. But this is the way—what I believed in. That this is a country of laws, and if I have to respect the law then you ought to respect it. And there’s nothing in our statutes

that gives you the right to deny me the same privileges that you enjoy because of my race. Nothing here in the statutes in Illinois, I can’t find it if it is. In fact it’s against that. And I think you ought to live up to it.” And that’s what I would tell them.

. . . .

I didn’t have any money, I—just whatever I had to fight I fought. But I had something else, I had . . . a trust in God with all of my heart, that’s what I had, a great trust in the Lord. Because he had brought me a mighty long ways. I came from the bowels of Mississippi. I came up off the

sidewalks in Chicago . . . to be elected to a seat in the legislature of the State of Illinois and to stay there longer and elected more times than any other black person in the history—not only of this state but any other state. . . . And when I retired, I know some people who actually cried because I retired. And some women who were for equal rights asked me not to retire. “Please don’t leave us. We don’t know who’s going to fight for us like you fought for us.”

. . . I realized that I didn’t own that job, it was the people’s job. And that the people had so honored me, and that somebody else ought to have the same opportunity that I had. I wanted to do it.

Abstracts of Reports Required to be Filed With General Assembly

The Legislative Research Unit staff is required to prepare abstracts of reports required to be filed with the General Assembly. Legislators may receive copies of entire reports by sending the enclosed form to the State Government Report Distribution Center at the Illinois State Library. Abstracts are published quarterly. Legislators who wish to receive them more often may contact the executive director.

Aging Dept.

Older Adult Services Act report, 2017

Priority initiatives were refined to focus on health and human services transformation and ongoing rebalancing initiatives. Impediments to progress include increasing demand for community service infrastructure and adjusting state providers to work within federal rebalancing initiative guidelines. Successes included more care coordination

between managed care entities for the long-term-care population, better institution-to-community transitions, and review of effective housing initiatives. Committee recommends hospital deflections be expanded, and person-centered-planning and customer satisfaction be used to measure quality of life. (320 ILCS 42/15(c); undated, rec’d Sept. 2017, 29 pp.)

Attorney General

Collection Statistics, CY 2016

State agencies referred to the Attorney General 22,751 collection cases (97% from Healthcare and Family Services Department). Total collections, including settlements, were \$989.9 million. Reports referrals by agency. (30 ILCS 205/2(j); issued & rec’d Feb. 2017, 2 pp.)

Board of Higher Education

Annual report on new, consolidated, closed, and low-producing programs at Illinois public universities, academic year 2015-2016

In the last academic year, 23 bachelors’, 15 masters’, and 2 doctoral programs were opened at Illinois public universities; 10 bachelors’ and 7 masters’ programs were closed. All of the bachelors’ and 1 of the masters’ programs were consolidated with new programs.

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Programs “flagged” as low producing were 13% of bachelors’, 19.3% of masters’, and 5.3% of doctoral programs. Tables and appendices give details by university. (110 ILCS 205/7; Feb. 2017, rec’d March 2017, 6 pp. + 27 tables, 14 appendices)

Annual report on public university revenues and expenditures, FY 2015

Illinois public universities received \$6.93 billion (down from \$6.94 billion in FY 2014) and spent \$6.98 billion (up from \$6.91 billion). Tuition remained the largest revenue source, expanding from 26.5% to 27.4% of total revenues; state support declined from 17.9% to 17.5%. Adjusted for inflation, total spending rose 1.4% over last 5 years. One of fastest growing spending components was student services, rising 7.5% to some \$910.7 million in 2015 dollars. Tables give extensive data on each institution. (30 ILCS 105/13.5; Oct. 2015, rec’d March 2017, 2 pp. + 7 tables, 9 figures, 5 appendices)

Budget recommendations for FY 2018

Gives recommended amounts for operations, grants, and capital improvements. Minimum recommendations for higher education operations and grants from general funds were: U of I, \$647 million; SIU, \$199 million; NIU, \$91 million; ISU, \$72 million; WIU, \$51 million; EIU, \$43 million; Northeastern, \$37 million; Chicago State, \$36 million; Governors State, \$24 million; community

colleges, \$288 million; and Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, \$22 million. Capital recommendation was \$1.4 billion. Also describes impact of budget impasse on public universities; capital needs; and historical Illinois higher education budget data. (110 ILCS 205/8; Dec. 2016, rec’d Jan. 2017, 55 pp. + 9 appendices)

Higher Education Commission on the Future of the Workforce report, 2016

Illinois has committed to having 60% of working-age adults hold a college degree or high-quality credential by 2025. To accomplish that, the Commission had three findings: (1) A coordinated effort is needed to define “high-quality” postsecondary credentials—including statute changes and outside funding sources. (2) A statewide data system for tracking employer demand and supply of available workers will require coordination of several state agencies. (3) More needs to be done to establish regional, cross-sector education programs—in other words, including businesses, community colleges, and private institutions in the plan. (2015 H.J.R. 52; issued & rec’d Aug. 2016, 10 pp.)

Underrepresented Groups in Illinois Higher Education, 2016 report

Enrollment of underrepresented groups at Illinois colleges and universities decreased by 3.3% from 2011 to 2015. Enrollment of students with disabilities at Illinois public universities and community colleges rose by 27% since 2012. African American enrollment declined 25% since 2011; Hispanic enrollment rose 11.8%. Has recommendations and institutional summaries of Illinois public universities. (110 ILCS 205/9.16;

undated, rec’d June 2017, 13 pp. + 2 appendices)

Central Management Services Dept.

African American Employment Plan, 2017 (covering CY 2016)

In 2016, 21.4% of state employees under the Personnel Code were African American, down 3.8% from 2015. About 14.5% of Illinois’ population is African American. The 5 agencies with the most African American employees were the Departments of Human Services (4,655), Corrections (1,388), Children and Family Services (974), Healthcare and Family Services (342), and Employment Security (327). In 2016, 65.1% of African Americans who took open competitive exams for state employment got passing grades; 72.5% of all other applicants got a passing grade. CMS continues to conduct outreach programs to increase state employment among African Americans. Gives employment statistics by county. (20 ILCS 30/15(b); Feb. 2017, rec’d April 2017, 27 pp. + appendices)

Asian American Employment Plan, 2017 (covering CY 2016)

In 2016, 2.7% of state employees covered by the Personnel Code were Asian American, up from 2.6% in 2015. About 5.2% of Illinois’ population is Asian American. The 5 agencies with the highest numbers of Asian Americans employed were the Departments of Human Services (625), Public Health (80), Corrections (76), Revenue (59), and Children and Family Services (57). In 2016, 69% of Asian Americans who took an open competitive exam for state employment got a passing grade; the passage rate for all other applicants was 70.9%. CMS will continue to work with Asian American community organizations

to increase Asian American state employment. Statistics by county provided. (20 ILCS 405/405-120; Feb. 2017, rec'd April 2017, 23 pp. + appendices)

State printing report summary, 2016
Lists annual reports printed by state agencies or outside printers through Printing Unit, Bureau of Strategic Sourcing, CMS, or reporting agencies. The 1,548 copies of reports printed cost \$2,016.06. Fewer agencies have reports printed through CMS because it recommends printing digitally in-house or through other state agencies. (30 ILCS 500/25-55; Jan. 2017, rec'd Feb. 2017, 2 pp.)

State-owned & surplus real property, 2016
Abandoned railroad right-of-way was transferred to City of Arcola. Former agriculture education center was transferred to Kaskaskia College. Rides Mass Transit Subdivision was transferred to Rides Mass Transit District. No new installment/lease purchases to report. (30 ILCS 605/7.1(b) and 20 ILCS 405/405-300; issued & rec'd Feb. 2017, 2 pp.)

Commerce and Economic Opportunity Dept.

Angel Investment Tax Credit Program, 2016
Program encourages interested persons and firms to invest in qualified Illinois new businesses. Claimants got \$10 million in tax credits. There were 94 businesses registered as qualified with 235 registered investors in 2016. This was the final year for the program. (35 ILCS 5/220(h); issued & rec'd March 2017, 14 pp.)

Business Information Center report, 2016
First Stop Business Information

Center answers businesses' questions on federal and state requirements, regulatory processes, and aid. It handled 9,157 inquiries in 2016, including 5,071 questions on incentives and 2,286 general business questions. Also, Regulatory Flexibility Program staff recommend ways of making proposed state regulations more flexible for small businesses. In 2016, they reviewed 319 proposed state regulations and did 55 small business impact analyses for JCAR consideration. (20 ILCS 608/15(q); issued & rec'd March 2017, 6 pp.)

Coal Development program report, 2017
Executive Order 17-3 transfers functions of Office of Coal Development to Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The Office of Coal Development had been suspended because of lack of state budget. (20 ILCS 1105/8(c); June 2017, rec'd July 2017, 1 p.)

Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) Tax Credit Program Annual Report, 2016
Program gives tax credits to eligible firms to expand or retain jobs. Eligibility is based on investment and new jobs; minimums may be waived. In 2016, 84 projects were approved for nearly \$2.6 billion in private investment and a projected 13,118 new and 602 retained jobs. Profiles approved projects; updates tax status of past ones. (20 ILCS 620/5(c); June 2017, rec'd July 2017, 55 pp.)

Employment Opportunities Grant Program, CY 2016
Program seeks to help targeted populations (minorities, women, homeless, long-term unemployed, veterans, youth leaving foster care, and ex-offenders) enter

building trades, apprenticeships, and jobs. It had no appropriation in FYs 2016 or 2017. FY 2014 grants were reviewed and closed out; currently there are no active grants. In the most recent grant period, 507 persons completed the program. Lists program highlights and future goals if program is funded. (20 ILCS 605/605-812(f); Dec. 2016, rec'd Jan. 2017, 4 pp.)

Energy conservation technical assistance update, 2016
Lack of appropriation limited activities for the first 6 months of 2016, but full activities resumed during the second half of the year. DCEO's Energy Performance Contracting Program helps fund building improvements for state and local governments, schools, housing authorities, and nonprofit groups. Three projects were finished in 2016 with expected savings of \$4 million. DCEO worked with International Energy Conservation Consultants LLC to train 610 professionals on Illinois Energy Conservation Code. Smart Energy Design Assistance Center provided technical help to 226 local governments, energy assessments to 11, and additional cost-analysis to 10. Center provided retro-commissioning services for 20 local government buildings. (20 ILCS 1115/5; undated, rec'd Feb. 2017, 7 pp.)

High Impact Business Designation
Bishop Hill Energy III, LLC was designated to be a high impact business. This allows for a business material tax exemption for up to 20 years. (20 ILCS 655/5.5(h); issued & rec'd Sept. 2017, 2 pp.)

Renewable Energy Resources Program report, 2016
Program has promoted over \$390 million of investments in renewable energy projects in Illinois
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since 1999. It provided 242 grants and 2,021 rebates worth over \$65 million by December 2015. Due to lack of funding, no grants or rebates were issued in 2016. If funding becomes available, DCEO may use a finance program—instead of rebates and grants—to meet increasing demands. (20 ILCS 687/6-3(e); undated, rec'd Feb. 2017, 12 pp.)

Urban Weatherization report, 2016
DCEO urban weatherization initiative program is designed to increase work opportunities and reduce impact of high-energy costs in low-income households. Program received no appropriation in FY 2017, leading to decreases in training and weatherization performance metrics. All UWI grants ended in 2016. Lists recommendations for 2017. (30 ILCS 738/40-40(h); Dec. 2016, rec'd Jan. 2017, 2 pp.)

Commerce Commission

Cable & Video Services Access Annual Report, 2017

Adding 5 companies made a total of 16 seeking video and cable service authority since 2007. In 2016, AT&T offered access to 2.4 million households (28.9% low income); WideOpenWest Illinois to 435,569 (35% low income); Highland Communication to 3,840 (29% low income); Mediacom Illinois, LLC to 195,126 (40% low income); MCC Illinois LLC to 64,428 (43% low income); US Sonet, LLC's territory acquired by Wabash Independent Networks; Comcast to 100% of low-income households in Chicago (399,850 households); Computer Techniques, Inc. to 4,647

(43% low income); Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative to 1,444 (14% low income); Mediacom Southeast, LLC to 184 (49% low income); RCN Telecom Services of Illinois to 4,304 (18% low income); Co-Mo Comm, Inc. to 2,921 (29% low income); iTV-3, LLC d/b/a iTV-3 of Central Illinois submitted first report, offered access to 5,700 households (5% low income). Frontier North, Inc., Wabash Independent Networks, Inc., and Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc., were not yet required to report. (220 ILCS 5/21-1101(k); June 2017, rec'd July 2017, 14 pp. + 13 attachments)

Office of Retail Market Development, 2017 Annual Report

ICC has certified 98 alternative (not electric utility) suppliers for retail electric customers; 89 were certified to serve residential and small commercial customers. On May 31, 2017 they provided 73% of ComEd customers' electricity, and 78% to 81% for Ameren customers (varying by zone)—declining in ComEd and Ameren Zone III service territories, rising in Ameren Zone II, and remaining unchanged in Ameren Zone I. ICC anticipates new rulemaking to address disclosure requirements for residential suppliers. (220 ILCS 5/20-110; June 2017, rec'd July 2017, 50 pp.)

Community College Board

Adult Education and Literacy report, FY 2016

Adult education programs served 81,661 students: 40,263 English as a Second Language students, 22,303 in Adult Basic Ed., 15,203 in Adult Secondary Ed., 1,869 earning high school credit, and 2,023 vocational students. Adult Ed. providers were community, junior, or technical colleges (39); community-based organizations (23); local education

agencies (16); faith-based organizations (3); a 4-year institution (1); and Department of Corrections. (105 ILCS 405/2-4; undated, rec'd March 2017, 3 pp.)

Corrections Dept.

Illinois Correctional Industries, FY 2016 report

Correctional Industries had operating revenue of \$41.9 million and expenses of \$39.5 million. Of 960 positions available, 707 were filled. Reports production and recycling by correctional facility, job assignments by industry, and sales. Study found a reduction of recidivism in program participants from 27.8% in 2015 to 18.3% in 2016. (730 ILCS 5/3-12-11; undated, rec'd Feb. 2017, 21 pp.)

Electronic Driver's License Task Force

Task Force Report, 2016

Task Force examined feasibility of electronic drivers' licenses. Recommended that Secretary of State (SoS) continue monitoring technology advancements, anticipated costs, and available funds. Also recommended that SoS monitor Iowa's pilot program, Illinois' Enterprise Licensing and Permitting Working Group, and American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, as they develop requirements. (2015 S.J.R. 11; April 2016, rec'd Aug. 2016, 8 pp.)

Environmental Protection Agency

Landfill Disposal Capacity Report, 2017

Illinois' 38 landfills received nearly 47 million cubic yards of solid waste. These landfills have remaining combined available disposal capacity of nearly 984 million cubic yards. Cumulative life expectancy of these landfills, based on current disposal rates,

is approximately 21 years. (415 ILCS 20/4; issued & rec'd July 2017, 9 pp.)

Governor

Gubernatorial Boards and Commissions Act demographic composition report, FY 2016

Governor's office collects self-reported demographic data on each board, commission, and task force appointment. In FY 2016, Governor made 513 appointments. The gender and racial demographics of these appointments were: 65.5% male; 34.5% female; 79.18% white; 10.12% African American; 7.59% Hispanic; 2.92% Asian American; 0.19% Native American. Almost 6% of appointments have a disability. Report also includes self-reported demographic data on applicants for appointment and current board, commission, or task force members. (15 ILCS 50/25; Sept. 2016, rec'd Oct. 2016, 4 pp.)

Healthcare and Family Services Dept.

Payments for services from past years and changes in liabilities, FY 2016

DHFS paid about \$418 million in FY 2016 for medical services provided in earlier years. A 2012 act limited the amounts of charges for Medicaid services, payable from most state funds, that can be deferred to a later fiscal year to \$100 million starting in FY 2014. Payments for services billed in previous fiscal years were \$5.6 million. DHFS collected over \$204 million in fraudulent, abusive, restitution, or global settlement payments. Also discusses factors affecting Medicaid costs. (30 ILCS 105/25(e) and (g); Nov. 2016, rec'd Dec. 2016, 1 p. + attachments)

Human Rights and Human Services Depts.

Interagency Committee on Employees with Disabilities annual report, FY 2016

Among state employees, 6.8% had disabilities. Committee membership expanded to include constitutional officers, Council on Developmental Disabilities, and additional state employees. Committee met three goals in 2016: (1) offered webinars on state employment programs for people with disabilities; (2) issued annual report to legislative leaders; and (3) issued newsletter *ICED NEWS* and maintained website with employment information. (20 ILCS 415/19a; issued & rec'd Jan. 2017, 13 pp. + appendices)

Human Services Dept.

Williams consent decree report, 2016

Reports efforts under *Williams v. Rauner* decree to de-institutionalize the mentally ill. By December 7, 2016, 1,764 persons had transitioned out or had signed leases with transition imminent. In FY 2016, 366 transitions were achieved; however, this was 34 less than expected. This year 12 recently transitioned members returned to long-term care. Since 2011, there have been 48 member deaths, 20 of which occurred in the last year. University of Illinois College of Nursing conducted review of post-transition deaths and made recommendations that led to development of training for provider staff. (20 ILCS 1705/73(a); undated, rec'd Feb. 2017, 134 pp. + 4 appendices)

Illinois Housing Development Authority

Housing Plan for 2017

Lists four focus areas: (1) help

communities develop affordable homeownership and rental opportunities, and expand reuse of foreclosed properties; (2) provide community-based and supportive housing services for people with special needs; (3) use innovative resources and strategies to reduce the cost of affordable housing services, and research the value of sustainable design techniques in the development of such housing; and (4) enhance collaborative planning efforts to foster housing policy changes. Summarizes programs to meet goals. (30 ILCS 345/7.5 and 310 ILCS 110/15(c); undated, rec'd Jan. 2017, 72 pp. + 3 appendices)

Illinois Power Agency

Annual report, FY 2016

IPA conducted its first procurement events for MidAmerican and for Renewable Energy Credit (REC) from distributed renewable energy generation devices. The IPA concluded Supplemental Photovoltaic Procurement Plan's scheduled procurement events. Annual Report was consolidated with IPA's annual report on cost and benefits of renewable resource procurements. P.A. 99-906, effective June 2017, made changes to IPA operations which will be documented in future annual reports. Report includes audited financial statement. (20 ILCS 3855/1-125; Feb. 2017, rec'd Aug. 2017, 46 pp. + 2 appendices)

Juvenile Justice Dept.

Quarterly report, January 2017

On November 30, 2016 there were 392 youth in all juvenile facilities, below capacity of 915. Additionally, 526 youth were served by Aftercare. Enrollment in general education program was 297—including 119 in special education and 41 in vocational programs.

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Ratio of youth to security staff was 3.8 from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.; 4.1 from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.; and 7.1 from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. (730 ILCS 5/3-2.5-61(b); issued & rec'd Jan. 2017, 7 pp.)

Labor Relations Board

Illinois Police Training Act report, July-Dec. 2016

Board had no verified complaints, investigations, hearings, or officers decertified under Illinois Police Training Act in this period. (50 ILCS 705/6.1(r); issued & rec'd Jan. 2017, 1 p.)

Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board

Mobile Team Training Units report, FY 2016

Fourteen Mobile Team Training Units trained 43,746 officers at an average cost of \$195.23 per person, and provided 32,984 total hours of instruction. Units received roughly \$8.54 million in state and local funds. Sixty-three mandatory firearms training courses were offered which trained 345 officers. (50 ILCS 720/6; issued & rec'd Jan. 2017, 14 pp.)

Mid-Illinois Medical District Commission

Biennial report, 2015-2016

Activities of the Commission included starting discussions on a long-term project to enhance health and wellness; surveying medical institutions; and creating a new website. Plans for 2017-2018 include updating strategic plan; reporting on economic activities; and identifying and implementing

outreach to targeted medical-related industries. (70 ILCS 925/10(f); issued & rec'd Feb. 2017, 5 pp.)

Natural Resources Dept.

Coal Annual Statistical Report, 2016

Nineteen underground or surface mines in 13 Illinois counties produced over 43 million tons of coal—down around 12 million tons from 2015. The 19 mines employed 3,221 people, 3,000 of whom were employed by underground mines. Franklin County had 399 mine employees and produced the most coal (over 11 million tons). (225 ILCS 705/4.18; undated, rec'd July 2017, 23 pp.)

Public Health Dept.

Diabetes Commission progress report, FY 2016

Some 10% of adults in Illinois have been diagnosed with diabetes. Prevalence by age range in 2014 was: 25-44, 2.9%; 45-64, 13.6%; and 65+, 23.7%. Rates were 9.3% for whites, 14.2% for African Americans, 12.7% for Hispanic/Latino, 9.7% for non-Hispanic/Latino, and 11.5% for other minorities. Gives other statistics and goals of the Commission. (20 ILCS 2310/2310-642(b); undated, rec'd Sept. 2016, 11 pp.)

Hospital Capital Investment Program report, 2015

Program made grants to hospitals to improve safety; build, renovate, or maintain structures; improve technology and medical equipment; and maintain or improve patient safety and care. Grants were disbursed in 2012 and 2013 for 123 projects. Grantees have completed 118 projects; 3 more are completed, but completion notices have not been submitted; and 2 are uncompleted, but are scheduled

to finish by June 2016. (20 ILCS 2310/2310-640(d); Dec. 2015, rec'd Feb. 2017, 7 pp. + 2 appendices)

Report under Nursing Home Care Act and Abused and

Neglected Long-Term Care Facility Report, 2016

Illinois had 1,141 long-term care facilities in 2016. There were 7,413 claims processed by the Central Complaint Registry of abuse, neglect, assault, and other allegations. Among all allegations (15,288), IDPH found 3,806 (24%) valid. Violation levels of allegations were: "AA" (most serious) fell from 6 in 2015 to 4 in 2016; "A" rose from 69 to 76; "B" fell from 376 to 328. (210 ILCS 45/3-804; July 2017, rec'd June 2017, 64 pp. + appendices)

State Board of Education

Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Elementary and Secondary Education: Progress Report, 2017

Lists seven main goals: (1) all kindergartners assessed for readiness, (2) 90% or more of third-graders reading at grade level, (3) 90% of fifth-graders reading at grade level, (4) 90% of ninth-graders on track to graduate with cohort, (5) 90% of students graduate from high school ready for college and career, (6) students are supported by highly prepared, effective teachers and schools, and (7) every school offers safe, healthy environment for students. Includes key focus areas, ways to meet goals, and ongoing efforts. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.47a(b); June 2017, rec'd July 2017, 56 pp.)

Illinois education funding recommendations, 2017

Report reviews current education funding formula. Current statutory foundation level is \$6,119, but Board recommends increasing

foundation level to \$9,204. This would require about \$4.6 billion in additional education funding. In FY 2016, funding shortfall was \$397 million, resulting in schools receiving around 92% of amounts owed. Adds that schools have been underfunded for many years. (105 ILCS 5/18-8.05(M); issued & rec'd Dec. 2016, 9 pp.)

School mandate waiver requests, fall 2017

Provides summaries of 40 waiver requests and classifies each by topic, General Assembly action, and lists status: driver education (4 approved, 3 transmitted); general state aid (1 transmitted); funds (1 transmitted); limitation of administrative costs (3 transmitted); non-resident tuition (22 transmitted, 2 withdrawn or returned); physical education (2 transmitted); school improvements/in-service training (7 transmitted, 1 withdrawn or returned); statement of affairs (1 transmitted); school food sales (1 approved). (105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g; issued & rec'd Sept. 2017, 11 pp.)

Schools administering opioid antagonist, FY 2017

Public and private schools must report opioid antagonist (antidote) used for overdoses. One Illinois school reported one use of antidote. (105 ILCS 5/22-30(j); issued & rec'd Sept. 2017, 2 pp.)

State Employees' Retirement System, Social Security Division
Social Security biennial report, 2016

At yearend 2016, 4,444 local governments extended Social Security benefits to employees; of those, 3,082 were also under the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund. Chicago and Cook County are under

other retirement systems, and not in Social Security. (40 ILCS 5/21-120; undated, rec'd Feb. 2017, 11 pp.)

State Fire Marshal

Annual Report, 2016

Reports on arson investigations; boiler, pressure vessel, and elevator safety inspections; fire prevention and safety; Division of Personnel Standards and Education; Division of Petroleum and Chemical Safety; special projects, such as small firefighting and ambulance service equipment grant and revolving loan programs; technical services; advisory boards and commissions; and office's budget. Reports 1,044 arson incidents investigated; 44,861 boiler and pressure vessel inspections; and 2,954 storage tank facilities audited. (50 ILCS 740/13; Feb. 2017, rec'd March 2017, 19 pp.)

State Police Dept.

Juvenile Justice Reform Quarterly Report, Oct.-Dec. 2016

Department reported 9,154 juvenile charges in fourth quarter, with a yearly total of 40,216 such charges in 2016. The yearly total included: 68 murders; 981 Class X felonies; 9,645 lesser felonies; 20,713 misdemeanors; 2,802 ordinance violations; 1,494 petty crimes; and 4,513 unidentified charges. Of those charged, 31,702 were male, 8,506 female, and 8 unidentified. By race, they were 22,551 black, 10,117 white, 6,775 Hispanic, 334 Asian, 28 Indian, and 411 unidentified. (20 ILCS 2605/2605-355; issued & rec'd Jan. 2017, 2 pp.)

Missing Children Report, 2016

In CY 2016, 21,017 Illinois minors were reported missing; 20,304

were found, but 713 remained missing at yearend CY 2016. One Amber Alert was issued for one child, who was recovered. Lists numbers of children reported missing and cleared (located, returned home, arrested, or found deceased), and whose cases are still pending in each Illinois county. (325 ILCS 40/8; undated, rec'd July 2017, 17 pp.)

Non-consensual eavesdropping device use, 2015

Department reported 3 nonconsensual eavesdrops in 2015, all from DuPage County. Naperville Police Department investigated all 3, which involved 2 investigations for drug-induced homicide, and 1 for delivery of a controlled substance (in which DEA assisted). Trials were pending in each case at time of reporting. (725 ILCS 5/108B-13; undated, rec'd Feb. 2017, 4 pp.)

Statewide 9-1-1 Advisory Board annual report, 2017

Of 13 counties that did not have enhanced 9-1-1 (E911) service, 2 have it now; 2 are implementing it; 5 are consolidating with other counties; and 4 are working on consolidation plans or are evaluating options. Vendor for feasibility study on the transition to statewide Next Generation 9-1-1 network described three phases, with full implementation in 2020. Actual 2016 E911 surcharge collections are projected to be \$4.9 million (3.7%) below original projections. Recommendations include repealing the law's June 30, 2017 sunset date; increasing statewide surcharge from \$0.87 to \$1.05; providing continuing appropriations authority; and adding "no sweep" provision to help get

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federal grants. (50 ILCS 750/19(e); issued & rec'd March 2017, 18 pp.)

State Universities Retirement System

Certification of required state contribution, FY 2018

Board of Trustees of State Universities Retirement System certified \$1.75 billion as total required state contribution for FY 2018. State Actuary found that SURS' actuarial assumptions are reasonable for the June 30, 2016 valuation. (40 ILCS 5/15-165; issued & rec'd Jan. 2017, 2 pp. + enclosures)

State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor

Annual report, FY 2016

Agency filed 903 main briefs and responded to 1,841 advice calls. Labor Unit represented 4 client counties and 3 contractual counties. Local Drug Prosecution Support Unit obtained 2,584 criminal convictions and 838 forfeiture judgments; seized \$3.6 million in assets; and recovered \$1.1 million. Continuing Legal Education Unit sponsored or co-sponsored 8 training seminars. Tax Objection Division handled 68 matters for 19 counties. Special Prosecution Unit helped on 758 cases in 92 counties. (725 ILCS 210/4.06; Dec. 2016, rec'd Feb. 2017, 28 pp.)

First Reading

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