

State agencies save energy in buildings

Illinois agencies have several methods to conserve energy in public buildings. One is making guaranteed energy-saving contracts with private firms. The firms design changes in buildings, and guarantee that energy savings will pay the costs over some time period. An interagency committee makes recommendations to state agencies for saving energy. For new construction, the Capital Development Board is required to use the best available technology to minimize energy costs.

State Buildings

The Government Buildings Energy Cost Reduction Act of 1991 (enacted in 1992 by S.B. 972, Welch—Steczo-Keane-Levin-Woolard) created an Interagency Energy Conservation Committee, whose main activity is making recommendations to state agencies to improve energy efficiency. It commissions surveys to find ways to reduce energy costs through projects with little or no cost. It also reviews capital projects and suggests ways to make them more energy-efficient. An example was the State of Illinois

Building at 160 N. LaSalle Street in Chicago. Initial plans were to heat it using only electricity, but the Committee suggested a combination of gas and electric energy.

In past years the Committee did energy surveys, and the surveyed



agencies implemented some measures it suggested. It then tracked utility bill savings for 1 to 2 years. A Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA) project manager says retrofitting lighting is a common efficiency measure because it takes less time and has a faster return than other measures.

Recouping costs of a project usually takes 3 to 8 years.

The Capital Development Board is required, to the “maximum extent feasible” and in consultation with DCCA, to use the “best available technologies” to minimize energy costs in buildings to be built or repaired under Board authority.

Guaranteed Energy-Saving Contracts

Local schools, community colleges, and public universities can make guaranteed energy-saving contracts. Such contracts allow facilities to pay a contractor over time, with a guarantee that savings from the energy conservation measures will at least equal the cost of those measures within 10 years after installation. The contractor must reimburse the institution for any shortfall in cost savings guaranteed in the contract.

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The Local Government Energy Conservation Act (1993, enacted by S.B. 34, Welch-Sieben—Novak-Granberg-Deering-Persico-Wojcik) authorizes local governments to make guaranteed energy-saving contracts. The Department of Central Management Services is authorized to make such contracts for state buildings. In a pilot program, DCCA oversaw implementation of \$20 million in capital improvements through guaranteed energy-saving contracts to seven agency or university facilities. The first 2 years brought \$2.6 million in annual savings.

State Aid to Other Entities

DCCA offers matching grants to schools, colleges, universities, and nonprofit hospitals, to help them

study and implement energy conservation opportunities. Grants to implement conservation are limited to \$40,000 per building and \$80,000 per institution.

The Energy Conservation Act authorizes DCCA to provide technical help, upon local request, to develop thermal and lighting efficiency standards and procurement programs. Examples of technical assistance to local governments include educating local officials, making grants, evaluating housing projects to improve energy efficiency, and advising local units on making energy performance contracts.

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Research Assistant

Annual report, FY 2000

Topics addressed by Department ranged from senior transportation and elder rights programs, to community care programs and public awareness. Major legislative actions helping seniors were expanding the Circuit Breaker and Pharmaceutical Assistance Program to higher income levels and a higher annual drug-cost amount, and setting higher income limits for medicaid users over age 64. Another new law requires assisted living and shared housing facilities to be licensed by the Illinois Department of Public Health. The Governor held the first Summit on Aging to discuss needs of seniors and formulate long-term plans and policies. (20 ILCS 105/7.09(2); Oct. 2000, 36 pp.)

Aging remapping task force report

The task force was created to study feasibility of redrawing the Department's Planning and Service Area boundaries. It recommends no changes in boundaries, saying that change would harm delivery of services with no counterbalancing benefits. (S. Res. 135 [1999]; Feb. 2001, 13 pp.)

Aging Council on

Annual report, FY 2000

The Council (an advisory body to the Department on Aging) addressed topics ranged from assisted living and money management, to grandparents raising grandchildren and "Circuit Breaker" expansion. Bills proposed in 2000 addressed disabled parking, property tax relief, elder abuse, advance directives, and Alzheimer's disease. (20 ILCS 105/7.09(2); Nov. 2000, 15 pp.)

Auditor General

Annual report, 2000

The Auditor General's office conducts at least biennial financial and compliance audits of each state agency. Major findings: Department of Corrections has not made efforts to collect

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.

Aging Department

Minority senior citizens, program participation and income, 1999

Gives statistical profile of Illinois' minority elderly and describes state and federal programs for them in 1995. Among whites over 65, 9.0% had poverty incomes; among blacks the number was 25.4%. Among people 55 or older, 1.7% of blacks and 1.7% of Hispanics received personal care services; 16.4% of blacks and 1.4% of Hispanics received home delivered meals; and 41.7% of blacks and 2.8% of Hispanics received community care program services. Gives many other data on this population and state programs to serve them. (20 ILCS 105/4.06; Oct. 1999, 52 pp.)

Long Term Care Partnership

Insurance report, 2000

This program encourages people who expect to need long-term care to shield their assets by buying private insurance for it. If they do so, and later need medicaid for their care, some or all of their assets will be protected (while they live) from being spent down. Over 400 copies of a program pamphlet were distributed, and 700 volunteer counselors statewide were trained. Information is also offered by a toll-free number and a Web site. But only 32 policies were sold by 2000 yearend. The Department planned to survey agents selling policies, and persons buying them, to try to improve marketing. (320 ILCS 35/55; Dec. 2000, 5 pp.)

costs of imprisonment from prisoners having outside funds; Department of Public Aid spent over \$3.5 million for “emergency” purchases, several of which the Auditor General believed could have been avoided with better planning; and various agencies failed to contest former employees’ unemployment benefits to which they were not entitled (such as due to having quit or gotten another job). The Auditor General is doing compliance audits of state universities’ tuition and fee waiver policies.

Performance audits at legislative direction looked at the Department of Public Aid’s Child Support State Disbursement Unit; Village of Robbins’ use of Municipal Economic Development Fund money; and Department of Human Services’ Office of Inspector General. Performance audits in progress address Chicago airports; use of state funds going to regional offices of education; vehicle emissions inspections; and the functions of the Health Facilities Planning Board.

Information systems audits were done on the security and accuracy of 16 agencies’ computer systems; all other agencies are to get such audits later. The Auditor General recommends that CMS and a number of other agencies review their ability to resume data processing after a disaster, and found computer security problems at several other agencies including the Illinois Commerce Commission, Department of State Police, University of Illinois, and Southern Illinois University. (30 ILCS 5/3-15; Feb. 2001, 28 pp.)

Banks & Real Estate, Office of *Report on effects of Banking on Illinois Act*

The Act promoted Illinois banking by, among other means, allowing Illinois-chartered banks to offer almost any service that banks in any other state

can offer. In the first 16 months under the Act, Illinois chartered 21 commercial banks—31.3% [percentage corrected by LRU] as many as the number chartered from 1990 until the Act took effect in 1999. This suggests that the Act has stimulated Illinois bank formation. Makes two legislative recommendations: (1) require state banks to give 30 days’ notice to Commissioner of Banks and Real Estate before offering a service adopted from another state, and (2) authorize the Commissioner to remove a director, officer, employee, or agent of a bank subsidiary or holding company for violation of a legal requirement or involvement in an unsound practice in that banking entity. (S. Res. 121 [1999]; Jan. 2001, 6 pp. + 3 appendices.)

Central Management Services Department

Small business report, FY 1999

In FY 1999 the Department designated 26 services as prime set-asides. They included building and grounds maintenance, landscaping, asphalt paving, carpentry, drywall, garbage services, drapery cleaning, data entry, and word processing. Awards for \$2.4 million were made by CMS, Prisoner Review Board, and Departments of Corrections, Human Services, Military Affairs, Public Aid, Transportation, and Veterans’ Affairs. (30 ILCS 500/45-45(f); undated, rec’d Dec. 1999, 3 pp.)

Small business report, FY 2000

Small business set-aside purchases totaled \$5.1 million. The agencies making the largest purchases were the Departments of Central Management Services (\$1.5 million), Corrections (\$1.0 million), and Natural Resources (\$1.0 million). (30 ILCS 500 45-45(f); undated, rec’d Jan. 2001.)

Annual report on state employee child care, 2000

The state oversees three privately run centers for employees’ children, in Chicago, Kankakee, and Springfield. Chicago’s Child Development Center with full-time care for ages 2 to kindergarten has 3 teachers per classroom, with an average room having 16 children. It has been managed by Corporate Daycare Services since May 2000. Springfield’s Bright Horizons Center in the Revenue building is licensed for 53 children from 15 months to 6 years. It is accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs in Washington, D.C. Kankakee’s Learning Milestones, Inc. serves 120 children from 6 weeks to 13 years. (30 ILCS 590/3; Jan. 2001, 4 pp.)

Bilingual needs and pay survey, 2000

The survey got responses from 52 agencies; half reported needing bilingual employees and had a total of 1,614 employees in bilingual positions. Most agencies reported having enough or nearly enough bilingual employees, but the Department of Human Services reported 1,057 bilingual employees (of whom 769 got bilingual pay) versus 548 bilingual positions needed. (20 ILCS 415/9(6); Dec. 2000, 7 pp.)

State report printing summary, 2000

Lists state agency annual reports done by outside printers through CMS Division of Printing. They totaled 24,900 copies, costing \$60,050 (averaging \$2.41 each). (30 ILCS 515/21-1(c); Jan. 2001, 2 pp.)

Report on flex-time positions, 2000

Among eligible employees, 14,493 (22.5%) used flexible work hours: 11,636 on nonstandard hours, 1,914 on compressed work weeks, 922 part-time over 20 hours a week, and 11 sharing jobs. The portion using flex-time was 2 percentage points

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higher than in 1999, but about equal to levels in the mid-1990s. (20 ILCS 415/9(13); undated, rec'd Apr. 2001, 4 pp.)

Children & Family Services Department

First report on child welfare employee licensure program

A 1998 law called for a child welfare employee license program to be developed by January 2000, and all direct-service child welfare employees to be licensed by January 2001. By November 15, 2000, 6,723 employees had passed the exam and 94 failed. All who passed are eligible for licenses. Remaining tasks included developing procedures to implement new licensure regulations. (20 ILCS 505/5c; Dec. 2000, 6 pp. + copy of licensure regulations.)

Inspector General's annual report, 2000

The Inspector General's office works to reform the child welfare system and help the children in it. In FY 2000 it received 1,114 requests for investigations and 102 reports of child deaths (including 97 who were or had been involved with DCFS within 1 year before dying). Of those deaths, 20 were ruled homicides. The Foster Parent Hotline received 722 calls, resulting in 46 investigations. Includes summaries of six death investigations of children involved with DCFS (or with private agencies to whom it had referred their families). The summaries show failures to obtain or to share information about criminal records, abuse investigation reports, use of alcohol or other drugs, and other important facts among DCFS investigators, private agencies, medical providers, and schools—resulting in missed opportunities to prevent the children's deaths. Also summarizes 36 non-death investigations. All summaries include the Inspector General's

recommendations to DCFS and its responses (it agreed to implement most recommendations). (20 ILCS 505/35.5(h); Jan. 2001, 155 pp. + 4 appendices.)

Commerce & Community Affairs Department

First Stop business information center report, 1999

The Center is a statewide resource for new or existing businesses with questions about state and federal business requirements, assistance, and regulatory processes. In 1999 it helped 15,696 clients, issued 6,611 startup kits, and answered questions for 112 clients on market research, 995 on licensing and registration, 944 on financing, 168 on government contracting, and 57 on international trade. First Stop examines every proposed state regulation and sends a weekly newsletter summarizing it to businesses and trade associations. (20 ILCS 608/15(q); Mar. 2000, 5 pp.)

Build Illinois Funds annual report, 2000

The Capital Revolving Fund increased from \$15.13 million to \$15.59 million; Equity Fund grew from \$1,115,277 to \$1,175,663. Capital Revolving Loan Fund provided \$4.5 million in loans; Equity Fund none. Large Business Attraction Fund received \$2.3 million in loan payment receipts but made no loans. (30 ILCS 750/9-9 and 750/10-9; Nov. 2000, 2 pp.)

Commerce Commission

Transportation regulatory fund annual report, FY 1999

Fund received \$6.93 million and spent \$6.25 million. Nearly \$3.8 million went to regulate motor carriers and \$2.4 million for railroads. Income from motor carriers was \$4.5 million, and from railroads \$2.4 million. Fund had 77 employees. (625 ILCS 5/18c-1604; undated, rec'd Sept. 2000, 8 pp.)

Comptroller

Comprehensive annual financial report, FY 2000

Income to general revenue, special revenue, capital projects, and debt service funds was \$36.8 billion—about 9% over FY 1999's \$33.8 billion. Income taxes collected about \$9.7 billion (up 5%) and sales taxes \$8.2 billion (up 12%). Spending was \$36.6 billion (nearly 12% over FY 1999's \$32.7 billion). Gives a comprehensive examination of the state's funds by type. Includes a financial statement compiled using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). (15 ILCS 405/20; Jan. 2001, 523 pp.)

Corrections Department

5-year plan for women prisoners

Women are now 6.2% of Illinois' adult prisoners. Most get short sentences, often for drug or theft crimes. But 80% are mothers; and unless their cycles of destructive behavior are broken, they (and their children) are apt to return. In May 1999 the Department created a Women and Family Services Division to address their needs. It offers many educational and training opportunities, up to and including 2- or 4-year programs from local colleges. Prisoners want Illinois Correctional Industries jobs, but due to scarcity only 6% of women (and 3.4% of men) got ICI assignments in fiscal 1999. ICI plans two additional shops that would employ women. The Department also offers programs of drug treatment, parent and family education, services for abuse victims, and medical screening and care for women. One recommendation in the 5-year plan is building a new women's prison with multiple security levels and numerous services on-site. (730 ILCS 5/3-5-3; May 2000, 63 pp.)

Impact incarceration program report, 2000

The program provides 4-6 months of "boot camp" for first- or second-time

offenders aged 17-35 and sentenced to up to 8 years. Three camps' capacity is 620 men and 50 women. Judges have referred a total of 24,577 persons to the program (69% from Cook County), of whom 17,495 were accepted. Of those, 12,167 have graduated so far and 4,733 dropped out (3,058 voluntarily and 1,675 for disciplinary reasons). A survey of graduates showed that 25.7% returned to prison within 3 years versus 35.7% of nonparticipants with similar histories. (730 ILCS 5/5-8-1.1; Mar. 2001, 44 pp.)

Education Funding Advisory Board

General state aid recommendations: first report

Recommends that (1) combined General State Aid and "hold harmless" appropriations for FY 2002 rise by at least \$135 million, for a foundation level of at least \$4,560; (2) the percentage of a district's students who must have low incomes for it to qualify for a poverty grant be lowered to 15%; (3) districts have the option to use the last 3 years' average ADA in their aid formulas; (4) the "hold harmless" provision remain, at least through FY 2002; (5) continuing General State Aid appropriations be re-enacted without sunset; and (6) added money be appropriated for the Early Childhood Block Grant. (105 ILCS 5/18-8.05g; Dec. 2000, 4 pp.)

Education, State Board of

School breakfast incentives report, 2000-01 school year

Lists number of students getting free or reduced-price breakfasts and lunches in each participating school. Each of 104 schools got \$3,500 to start a breakfast program, and 277 districts got 10¢ per meal to increase participation. Also lists 26 schools that dropped these programs, mostly due to school closure. (105 ILCS 125/4; Feb. 2001, 124 pp.)

Annual report 2000 & proposed budget, FY 2002

Illinois school districts decreased from 955 in 1990 to 894 in 2000; enrollment rose from 1.77 million to 1.98 million. Low-income students grew from 27.8% to 36.7%. The statewide operating cost per student was \$7,146 in 1999. Students gained on national and state achievement tests, but the gap between white students and African Americans and Hispanics remains large.

Schools get several block grants to increase flexibility and efficiency in using funds. A high priority of the State Board continues to be having enough good early-childhood education programs. Other concerns are more alternative schools for potential dropouts, and Hispanic student performance and dropout rate. Offers several approaches to increase numbers of teachers and administrators, and legislative proposals to improve student performance; test students with limited English proficiency; increase alternative programs for potential dropouts; ensure schools' safety; and improve their accountability. (105 ILCS 5/1A-4(E), 2-3.47, and 2-3.11; Jan. 2001, 261 pp.)

Catalogue of reports, 1999

The Board filed 18 reports, including a 1998 annual report; 1997 annual statistical report; charter schools annual report; and reports on visits to private businesses and vocational schools, educational mandates, adult education and literacy, mandate waivers (two reports), teacher certification, school dress codes, physical education, and instruction on the Holocaust, blacks, and women in history. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.87; Jan. 2000, 3 pp.)

Cumulative report on approved waivers and modifications, 2000

A summary chart classifies the 1,356 waiver or modification requests

approved by December 1999 into seven types. By then 652 districts (72.8%) had received waivers or modifications of School Code mandates or State Board regulations. Recommends amending School Code on school holidays and physical education requirements, and adding joint agreements and public university lab schools to the list of entities that can request waivers. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g; Jan. 2000, 13 pp.)

Cumulative report on approved waivers and modifications, 2001

A summary chart divides 1,696 waiver or modification requests approved by December 2000 into seven categories (numbers approved are in parentheses): calendar or instruction time issues (995), course offerings (377), employment issues (186), fiscal issues (71), health and safety (46), accountability (15), and governance (6). In all, 694 districts (77.5%) got waivers or modifications of mandates or regulations. Recommends amending School Code as to legal school holidays, nonresident tuition, criteria for waiver requests, waiver report submission dates, school calendar, physical education, substitute teacher service limits, and public hearings on proposed waivers or modifications. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g; Jan. 2001, 16 pp.)

Report on waiver of mandates

Lists 58 requests to the General Assembly to waive School Code mandates, and 131 requests approved by the Board to modify or waive its rules and School Code mandates. Also classifies all requests by Senate and House district. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g; Fall 2000, 61 pp.)

Complaints against private business schools, 1999

Gives names of complainants, names and addresses of institutions

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complained against, summary of complaints, and status of investigations. The Board resolved 7 complaints and had 5 pending. (105 ILCS 425/14.2; Jan. 2000, 21 pp.)

School dress codes report

The Board sent a form to each district seeking information on dress codes that have been adopted to ban inappropriate symbols and reduce violence. A total of 306 districts responded. Most had brief, general statements of what attire is proper; a smaller number listed specifically prohibited items. Gives examples of some codes. (H. Res. 266 [1999]; Dec. 1999, 9 pp.)

Report on native American students with disabilities

The Board was asked to assess special education needs of native American and Alaskan native children. It found 3,292 such students; 7.5% were classified as disabled. Major categories of disability among them were specific learning disabilities (51%); speech or language impairment (23%); and behavior disorders (13%). Lists number of students in each district. (H. Res. 204 [1999]; Jan. 2000, 6 pp.)

Physical education waiver report

The Board surveyed districts on exemptions from physical education. Responses from districts enrolling 64% of high school students showed that 10.4% were exempted: 4.8% for interscholastic sports, 2% to take courses needed for college, 1.9% for marching bands, 1.1% to take classes needed to graduate, and 0.5% for ROTC. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.97; Aug. 1999, 3 pp.)

Holocaust, black history, and history of women instruction

The Board surveyed districts on instruction in the Holocaust, black

history, and history of women. Responses from districts enrolling 75% of students showed average numbers of hours in each subject per grade rising from about 2.5 hours per subject in kindergarten to around 6 hours in the 8th grade. (105 ILCS 5/27-20.3, 5/27-20.4, and 5/27-20.5; Oct. 1999, 9 pp.)

Report on raising administrative costs

Lists 77 school districts that voted (by resolutions after public hearings) to increase their FY 2000 budgets for administrative expenses more than 5% from the last year. (105 ILCS 5/17-1.5; Dec. 2000, 4 pp.)

Report on teacher supply and demand, 2000

Illinois public schools had about 145,000 full- and 5,000 part-time teachers and administrators. Population data foretell continuing increases in students until 2003 in elementary schools and 2008 in high schools. Short-term, from 1999 to 2000 the number of teachers rose 2.6% and of administrators 2.7% but enrollment rose only 1%. Longer term, the percentage of teachers eligible to retire (55 or older with 20 years' service) will rise from its current 15% to about 40% within 3 years; a projected 56,000 to 72,600 new teachers and administrators will be needed during that time. Recommended remedies include expanding scholarships; increasing routes to certification; giving bonuses or other incentives to new teachers; creating mentoring programs for new teachers and administrators; letting substitutes work over 90 days per year; letting retired teachers work as subs over 100 days without losing benefits; and raising subs' pay. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.11c; Dec. 2000, 61 pp.)

Educational Facilities Authority

Annual report, FY 1999

The Authority aided 32 higher education institutions and 17 nonprofit

private institutions with cultural, scientific, or artistic activities. In FY 1999 it sold \$428 million in revenue bonds for loans to these institutions: University of Chicago (\$216 million), Illinois Institute of Technology (\$56 million), National-Louis U. (\$42 million), MJH Education Assistance Illinois I LLC for buildings to be leased to DePaul U. (\$31 million), Midwestern U. in Downers Grove (\$30 million), Lake Forest College (\$25 million), Augustana College (\$13.5 million), Lake Forest Open Lands Association (\$10 million), and Lincoln Park Society (\$5.4 million). It also gave final approval to four other institutions to start projects using existing bond issues and funding pools: Aurora University, Field Museum of Natural History, Lincoln Park Zoological Society, and University of Chicago Hospitals. The Authority's outstanding debt in June 1999 was about \$1.9 billion. (110 ILCS 1015/18; Aug. 2000, 98 pp.)

Guardianship & Advocacy Commission

Annual report, 1999

Commission protects rights of persons with disabilities through the Human Rights Authority, Legal Advocacy Service, and Office of State Guardian. In FY 99 the Authority handled 346 cases, of which 177 were new. It closed 209 cases affecting 6,881 persons with disabilities. Legal Advocacy Service assisted 7,400 persons. Over 6,000 were represented in trial proceedings on involuntary hospitalization or treatment. Office of State Guardian helped 6,064 disabled adult wards. It assessed guardianship needs of 5,666 mentally ill or developmentally disabled adults, and managed estates worth \$8.0 million. The Commission's budget was \$7.4 million. (20 ILCS 3955/5; May 2000, 23 pp.)

Health Facilities Authority

Annual report, FY 1999

Authority sold 14 issues of revenue bonds or notes for \$983 million to help qualified medical providers expand or maintain facilities. Lists all project bonds outstanding.

Authority's unrestricted assets on June 30, 1999 were \$5.9 million. (20 ILCS 3705/20; Oct. 1999, 24 pp.)

Annual report, FY 2000

Authority sold 20 issues of revenue bonds or notes for \$1.2 billion (up from FY 1999's \$983 million) to finance acquisition of new medical equipment and facilities and refinance existing debt. Lists all bonds outstanding. Authority's unreserved retained earnings were \$7.1 million in June 2000. (20 ILCS 3705/20; Feb. 2001, 24 pp.)

Insurance Department

Consumer health insurance office annual report, 2000

The Office of Consumer Health Insurance provides help and information to medical consumers in the state. It answered over 10,000 phone inquiries and provided outreach. Makes a number of legislative recommendations to deal with specific topics. (215 ILCS 134/90(a)(7); Jan. 2001, 17 pp. + 4 exhibits.)

Intergovernmental Cooperation Commission

Midwestern Higher Education Commission annual review, 1999

The Commission was formed to save money and exchange information on higher education in Illinois and eight nearby states. It gets discounts on utilities, insurance, telecommunications, and video equipment, and seeks to find or write software for interactive courses, distributed learning, and course scheduling. These programs help small public or private colleges more than state universities. The Commission's main value to Illinois is

as a forum for analyzing higher education problems. (45 ILCS 155/2a; Jan. 2000, 12 pp.)

Federal funds transactions detail, October-December 1999 and January-March 2000

Reports on federal grant applications and grants made to Illinois agencies. Information, arranged by receiving agency, includes amounts sought and given in each grant; state match if any; and duration of each grant. (25 ILCS 130/4-2(4)(h); Jan. and Apr. 2000, 8 and 5 pp.)

Annual report, FY 1999

Describes Commission's activities in three areas: (1) compiling information on federal aid programs including several annual, quarterly, and weekly publications and annual surveys; (2) promoting interchange of policy research and information, including sponsoring hearings and conferences and responding to legislators' information requests; and (3) providing intergovernmental liaison, including analysis of federal action and liaison with Illinois Congressional delegation by Commission's Washington office. Appendix updates activities through December 1999. (25 ILCS 130/4-7; Jan. 2000, 11 pp.)

Legislative Audit Commission

Annual report, 1999

Commission acted on 166 compliance audit reports, giving special attention to agencies' internal controls, monitoring computer systems, operating within statutory authority, and protecting the state's interests. It also directed Auditor General to audit admissions policies of Illinois Math and Science Academy; state medicaid spending on home health care; and regulatory control over home health care agencies. A management audit was also done of the State Fire Marshal's role in fire investigations.

The Commission adopted program or management audits of the reporting program for abused and neglected long-term-care residents by the Department of Human Services' Office of the Inspector General, and the prescreening activities of the Aging, Human Services, and Public Health Departments. It also proposed changes in laws on suspending drivers' licenses of delinquent child support payers, reporting university tuition waivers, and codifying current practices of various departments. It reviewed 285 emergency purchases by state agencies; monitored quarterly reports of the 10 travel control boards; and contracted for an audit of the Office of the Auditor General. (25 ILCS 150/3; Aug. 2000, 38 pp.)

Public Health Department

Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Task Force report

The task force was formed by joint resolution to study ways to reduce cardiovascular disease—the largest cause of death in Illinois. Gives Illinois and national statistics on this group of diseases, noting that they strike non-white persons even more heavily than whites. Makes seven recommendations: education of the public, more physical activity, prevention of repeat heart attacks, data management and surveillance by IDPH, providing more healthful food choices, community advocacy programs, and tobacco education and intervention. (S.J.R. 37 [1999]; June 2000, 4 pp.)

Health and Hazardous Substances Registry report, FY 2000

The Registry, formed in 1985 to collect and analyze data on selected public health concerns and hazardous exposures, released 6 epidemiologic reports in FY 2000; prepared 7 research grant proposals (all were funded); made 39 presentations; and

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answered 83 requests for general information, 109 for data, and 64 asking about perceived cancer or birth defect rates in specific areas. The Registry investigated 8 perceived cancer clusters and 2 perceived birth-defect clusters. In some the reported incidence was less than expected and in others more, but never by large percentages. The Registry took reports of 54,129 new cancer cases. Tables show activity measures, cancer in Illinois residents, and cancer cluster assessments. (410 ILCS 525/8; Dec. 2000, 32 pp.)

Availability of rural emergency medical services

A special committee requested by Senate resolution examined this problem and made recommendations for solutions. Its most basic recommendation was for a funded entity at the state level (an agency, university, or nonprofit organization) to do further research and planning. Its 45 more specific recommendations included finding ways to recruit and keep EMS personnel, deliver services in new ways, save on expenses, and promote use of the best practices found in Illinois or nationally. (S. Res. 146 [1999]; Mar. 2000, 71 pp.)

Alzheimer's disease assistance plan, 2000

An estimated 210,600 Illinoisans have Alzheimer's disease, and Illinois nursing homes have around 57,000 residents with some kind of dementia (including Alzheimer's). Unless a cure is found, an aging population and more-independent living patterns may swamp nursing homes within 25 years. Gives history and a current

description of the state's approach to the disease, including activities of its three regional Alzheimer's centers. (410 ILCS 405/5; Dec. 2000, 47 pp.)

State Fire Marshal

Annual report, 1999

Preliminary count of fire-related deaths was 186—down 3 from 1998. Three victims were firefighters. There were 915 arson investigations and 61 arrests. The Fire Marshal inspected 18,273 facilities including day-care centers, day-care homes, nursing homes, and hotels; responded to 741 underground storage tank incidents and followups; and did 41,976 boiler and pressure vessel inspections. (50 ILCS 740/13; Feb. 2000, 25 pp.)

FIRST READING

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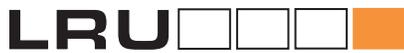
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