

# ABSTRACTS OF STATE REPORTS

FEBRUARY 2022

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

## Reports Filed with the General Assembly

The CGFA staff is required to prepare abstracts of reports required to be filed with the General Assembly (25 ILCS 130/10-6). Legislators may receive copies of entire reports by emailing the form that was delivered to their Springfield office to [isinfo@ilsos.net](mailto:isinfo@ilsos.net) or by mailing it to the State Government Report Distribution Center at the Illinois State Library. This report is posted monthly on our website.

### **Central Management Services, Dept. of**

*Bilingual needs and pay survey, FY 2021*

In FY 2021, 1,960 state employees received bilingual pay, including 1,437 employed by the Department of Human Services. There were 222 job postings with bilingual designations. Agencies reported hiring 200 employees to bilingual positions, of whom 23 were hired with bilingual pay (determined by collective bargaining agreements). Thirty-one agencies had not yet translated their websites into other languages. CMS will continue seeking to strengthen agencies' abilities to provide services to populations with limited English proficiency. (20 ILCS 415/9(6); undated, rec'd Jan. 2022, 17 pp.)

*Hiring of formerly incarcerated persons by state vendors, FY 2021*

All state bid invitations must encourage state vendors to hire formerly incarcerated persons, and vendors must self-report on those employed. CMS e-mailed all vendors registered

in the state's electronic procurement system and received 96 responses. Four vendors reported hiring 16 formerly incarcerated persons. CMS continues to explore alternative ways to gather data and encourage vendors to self-report. (30 ILCS 500/45-70; undated, rec'd Jan. 2022, 2 pp.)

*Hiring of veterans by state vendors, FY 2021*

State bid invitations must encourage state vendors to hire veterans, and vendors are required to self-report on those employed. CMS e-mailed all vendors registered in the state's electronic procurement system and received 96 responses. Thirty-three vendors reported hiring 1,264 veterans. CMS continues to explore alternative ways to gather data and encourage vendors to self-report. (30 ILCS 500/45-67; undated, rec'd Jan. 2022, 2 pp.)

*State employee child care centers annual report, 2021*

Illinois has two on-site child care centers for employees'

children (in Springfield and Chicago). The Chicago center, in the Bilandic building, cares for children aged 2 to 12. In addition to year-round care, it offers a summer camp for school-aged children. Average enrollment is 57, and there is a waiting list. The Springfield center, in the Willard Ice Building, cares for children from 6 weeks to 5 years. Average enrollment is 35 and there is a long waiting list. Both centers closed for about 2 months in 2020 due to COVID-19; enrollments continue to rise as employees return to workplaces. State employees can use flexible spending accounts for the costs. About 2,128 state employees contributed over \$5.8 million to such accounts in 2021. (30 ILCS 590/3; undated, rec'd Jan. 2022, 4 pp.)

### **Central Management Services, Dept. of; Human Rights, Dept. of; and Human Rights Commission**

*Final report on Executive Order 2018-08*

Executive Order 2018-08 required these agencies to

eliminate the backlog of cases at the Human Rights Commission within 18 months. By implementing stricter timelines, modernizing the case management system, and temporarily adding staff, the agencies resolved a backlog of 2,558 cases in 15 months. The Commission continues to monitor its caseload. It resolved all cases in 2020 within 12 months. (Exec. Ord. 2018-08; Dec. 2021, rec'd Jan. 2022, 13 pp.)

**Children and Family Services, Dept. of**

*Administration of psychotropic medications to children, FY 2021*

DCFS reports annually on prescriptions by doctors, and administration by facilities, of psychotropic drugs to children in foster care without the DCFS Guardian's consent (in violation of the law). There were 108 violations in FY 2021, involving 139 medications that were out of compliance. Among 21,190 psychotropic medication requests in FY 2021, the compliance rate was 99.3%. Some 75.4% were approved as written, 12.6% approved as modified, 8.3% rescinded by providers, and 3.7% denied. (20 ILCS 535/15; Dec. 2021, rec'd Jan. 2022, 2 pp.)

*Inspector General's report, FY 2021*

In FY 2021, 122 child deaths met review criteria, leading to 23 full investigations. Eighteen other cases were referred for Child Welfare Employee

License investigations; 6,000 searches for criminal background information were conducted; and 69 investigation referrals were received from the Executive Inspector General. The hotline took 599 calls, including 165 requests for investigations. This report summarizes the child death investigations, circumstances of all reported deaths, and general investigations conducted. It also makes recommendations on discipline and systemic change; provides updates on past recommendations; and describes efforts to reduce errors and address employee misfeasance. (20 ILCS 505/35.5(h); issued & rec'd Jan. 2022, 150 pp. + appendix)

**Commerce Commission**

*Electricity, gas, water, and sewer utilities annual report, 2021*

Major electric utilities' 2020 average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) were: Commonwealth Edison, 12.03¢; MidAmerican Energy, 7.19¢; Ameren Illinois, 9.16¢; and Mt. Carmel Public Utility Company (MCPU), 14.32¢. Major gas utilities' 2020 average prices per therm were: MidAmerican Energy, 44.74¢; Nicor Gas, 54.88¢; North Shore Gas, 65.37¢; Peoples Gas Light and Coke, 93.71¢; Ameren Illinois, 90.22¢; Consumers Gas, 65.91¢; Illinois Gas, 61.95¢; Liberty Utilities, 83.91¢; and MCPU, 95.55¢.

The report includes a review of Commission activities, examinations of the utility industry and energy planning,

and information on the effects of federal actions on state utility services. It makes no legislative recommendations. (220 ILCS 5/4-304; issued & rec'd Jan. 2022, 64 pp. + 2 appendices)

**Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Dept. of**

*Build Illinois revolving funds, FY 2021*

On June 30, 2021 the Illinois Capital Revolving Loan Fund had over \$2.1 million; the Large Business Attraction Fund had \$265,347; and the Illinois Equity Fund had almost \$1.6 million. (30 ILCS 750/9-9 and 750/10-9; issued & rec'd Dec. 2021, 6 pp.)

*Enterprise Zone Loan Fund, FY 2021*

DCEO reports that it never received an appropriation for the Enterprise Zone Loan Fund and the Fund does not exist in the State Comptroller's Office. Thus it has no fund operations to report. (20 ILCS 655/12-9; issued & rec'd Dec. 2021, 1 p.)

**High-Cost Special Education Funding Commission**

*Report, 2021*

The Commission was created in 2021 to make recommendations for an alternative funding structure for high-cost special education students aligned with the principles of the state's evidence-based school funding system, in which districts with the least adequate funding get the most state aid. It discussed six funding models, and recommended one that would send more funds to districts

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with the least resources. A number of documents used by the Commission in its research are included. (105 ILCS 5/14-17(f); Nov. 2021, rec'd Dec. 2021, 14 pp. + 15 appendices)

## **Housing Development**

### **Authority**

#### *Comprehensive Housing Plan for 2021*

The report identifies four focus areas: (1) identify and address emerging housing needs in Illinois; (2) refocus on difficult-to-house and at-risk households; (3) create policies better addressing the housing needs of all Illinois residents; and (4) continue work on the Housing Blueprint for Illinois. It summarizes programs to meet those goals. (30 ILCS 345/7.5 and 310 ILCS 110/15(c); undated, rec'd Jan. 2022, 40 pp. + 3 appendices)

#### *Comprehensive Housing Plan for 2022*

The report identifies five policy priorities: (1) support economic resiliency; (2) advance housing access for priority populations; (3) promote environmental sustainability in housing; (4) address inequities in housing; and (5) build partnerships and leadership capacity to maximize the impact of new housing resources and programs. It summarizes actions and timelines for achieving those goals. (30 ILCS 345/7.5 and 310 ILCS 110/15(c); issued & rec'd Jan. 2022, 26 pp. + 4 appendices)

## **Illinois PANDAS/PANS**

### **Advisory Council**

#### *Report, 2021*

The Council makes recommendations for standard practice guidelines for, and increasing awareness of, Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) and Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS). The report estimates that 1 in 200 children are affected by PANDAS/PANS. It gives background on the conditions and their incidence in Illinois; diagnostic criteria; treatment guidelines; current research; and efforts to increase clinical awareness of them. It also discusses potential effects of COVID-19 on children with PANDAS/PANS and calls for more research on such effects. It makes recommendations on adoption of standard practice guidelines and public education on both conditions. (20 ILCS 2310/2310-676(e); undated, rec'd Jan. 2022, 27 pp.)

### **State Board of Education**

#### *Charter school biennial report, school years 2019-20 and 2020-21*

Illinois' 58 charter schools serve 63,018 students. In school year 2020-21, charter schools served a population that was 97% students of color, about twice the percentage served by all public schools in Illinois that year. ISBE's survey of charter schools found that they want more funding for facilities, and incentives for local districts

to approve charter schools. ISBE received waivers of federal testing requirements for both school years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so this report contains fewer data on academic performance of charter school students than previous reports. It gives some assessment results, and describes operations at individual campuses. (105 ILCS 5/27A-12; issued & rec'd Jan. 2022, 98 pp.)

### **State Police, Illinois**

#### *Juvenile charge report, Oct.-Dec. 2021*

The State Police received 3,421 juvenile charge reports in the fourth quarter, for a 2021 total of 11,760. The report lists charges by disposition, type of charge, gender, race, age, and county. (20 ILCS 2605/2605-355; Jan. 2022, rec'd Feb. 2022, 4 pp.)

#### *Metropolitan Enforcement Groups annual report, FY 2021*

Metropolitan Enforcement Groups (MEGs) were authorized in 1977 to enforce state drug laws and investigate gang activity. Illinois has 9 MEGs covering 20 counties (including 1 in Iowa). They have 104 staff: 47 local officers, 24 State Police officers, 10 federal officers, and 23 administrative staff. They received \$1.17 million in funding in FY 2021. They opened 1,404 cases, closing 618 by arrest and 513 administratively. MEGs arrested 68 gang members and seized 258 weapons. The

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report lists drugs seized and drug arrests by type; weapons seized by type; and gang arrests by gang name. It also includes statistics for each MEG. (30 ILCS 715/6; undated, rec'd Jan. 2022, 34 pp. + 1 appendix)

*Nonconsensual eavesdropping, 2020*

ISP reports no counties with nonconsensual eavesdropping requests. Among Illinois counties, 46 submitted reports to ISP and 56 failed to respond. (725 ILCS 5/108B-13; undated, rec'd Dec. 2021, 4 pp.)

*Report on use of eavesdropping devices, 2020*

State's attorneys in 46 counties filed eavesdropping reports with ISP; 23 of them reported no eavesdropping. The other 56 did not report. The counties reported 262 consensual eavesdropping applications to judges (243 original and 19 extensions). Crimes investigated were reported as 82% drugs, 7% sex-related, 4% murder-related, 0.5% theft-related, and 6% other; 0.5% were not reported. Eavesdropping brought 128 arrests with 38

convictions; 53 arrests and 109 trials were pending. (725 ILCS 5/197A-11(c); undated, rec'd Dec. 2021, 8 pp.)

**State Universities Retirement System**

*Emerging Investment Managers, FY 2021*

On June 30, 2021, 30 of SURS' 81 investment managers (37%) were owned by minorities, women, or persons with disabilities. SURS assets managed by such firms were \$9.8 billion (41.6% of its portfolio, up from 36.9% in FY 2020). The report also lists goals to continue to increase participation by such managers. Appendices report on SURS board policies, and names of and amounts managed by such investment managers. (40 ILCS 5/1-109.1; Nov. 2021, rec'd Dec. 2021, 15 pp. + 9 appendices)

**Teachers' Retirement System**

*Final state funding certification, FY 2023*

The TRS Board certified two state funding amounts for FY 2023: \$5.9 billion based on law or \$9.1 billion

based on actuarial standards. These certifications include assumptions on the impact of the accelerated pension benefit programs in P.A. 100-587 as extended by P.A. 101-10. (40 ILCS 5/16-158(a-5); issued & rec'd Jan. 2022, 2 pp. + 2 attachments)

**Treasurer, Office of the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund financial audit, FY 2021**

By June 30, 2021, 6,060 employers had registered with the Program and 2,837 had begun submitting payroll deductions. The number of active accounts rose from 65,933 to 90,404 during the fiscal year, and average balances from \$401 to \$742. The Fund's net value rose from \$26.5 million to \$67.1 million; contributions exceeded distributions by \$28.7 million, and investment income totaled \$12.2 million. Administrative fees exceeded \$299,000. (820 ILCS 80/80(a); Sept. 2021, rec'd Jan. 2022, 32 pp.)

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