

# ABSTRACTS OF STATE REPORTS

JANUARY 2024

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

## Reports Filed with the General Assembly

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### **Board of Higher Education**

*Public university tuition and fee waivers and tuition quartiles, FY 2022*

In FY 2022, public universities granted 40,755 tuition and fee waivers worth \$487.9 million. By value, 23.2% of the waivers went to undergraduates, while 76.8% went to graduate students. Most of the graduate student waivers were for teaching and/or research assistants. About 88% of the total waivers were discretionary; the rest were mandatory. Public universities waived \$23.66 million in tuition and fees for military veterans that was not reimbursed by the state. In FY 2022, 29.2% of public university students paid no tuition or fees. Some 32% of in-state students paid no tuition or fees, and 11.3% of out-of-state students paid none. Among students eligible for Pell grants, over 61% paid no tuition or fees. (110 ILCS 205/9.29; Jan. 2023, rec'd Jan. 2024, 57 pp.)

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

*African Descent—Citizens Reparations Commission annual report, 2023*

The Commission was formed in 2022 to study measures, including reparations, to ensure equity for African American descendants of slavery. In 2023, the Committee developed a website and established two subcommittees. Through an intergovernmental agreement with the Commission, the University of Illinois Chicago will begin research in early 2024 on policies such as reparations. Commissioners participated in community events in 2023, and will continue to meet monthly in 2024. (20 ILCS 405/405-540(f); undated, rec'd Jan. 2024, 3 pp.)

*Bilingual needs and pay survey, FY 2023*

In FY 2023, 1,892 state employees received bilingual pay, including 1,361 employed by the Department of Human

Services. There were 559 job postings with bilingual designations. Agencies reported hiring 141 employees to bilingual positions, of whom 88 were hired with bilingual pay (determined by collective bargaining agreements). Twenty agencies had not yet translated their websites into other languages. CMS will continue trying to strengthen agencies' abilities to provide services to populations with limited English proficiency. (20 ILCS 415/9(6); undated, rec'd Jan. 2024, 20 pp.)

*Hiring of formerly incarcerated persons by state vendors, FY 2023*

All state bid invitations must encourage state vendors to hire formerly incarcerated persons, and vendors must self-report on those employed. CMS emailed all vendors registered in the state's electronic procurement system and received 20 responses, in which 20 vendors reported hiring 51 formerly incarcerated persons. CMS continues to gather data and

encourages vendors to self-report. (30 ILCS 500/45-70; undated, rec'd Dec. 2023, 1 pp.)

*Hiring of veterans by state vendors, FY 2023*

All state bid invitations must encourage state vendors to hire veterans and self-report on those employed. CMS emailed all vendors registered in the state's electronic procurement system and received 85 responses. The 85 respondents reported hiring a total of 1,828 veterans. CMS continues to explore alternative ways to gather data and encourage vendors to self-report. (30 ILCS 500/45-67; undated, rec'd Dec. 2023, 1 pp.)

*State employee child care centers annual report, 2023*

Illinois has two on-site child care centers for employees' children, one in Chicago and one in Springfield. First Steps of Learning Centers of Illinois, Inc. began managing the Chicago center (in the Bilandic Building) on August 1, 2023. The center cares for children ages 2 through 12, provides year-round care, and offers a summer camp for school-aged children. The center currently has vacancies. The Springfield center (in the Willard Ice Building) cares for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years and takes annual field trips in the fall. Enrollment capacity is 43 and there is a long waiting list. State employees can use flexible spending accounts to pay for the

costs. (30 ILCS 590/3; undated, rec'd Dec. 2023, 4 pp.)

*State-owned & surplus real property, 2024*

No surplus real property was conveyed by CMS in 2023. (30 ILCS 605/7.1(e); issued & rec'd Jan. 2024, 1 pp.)

*State Use Program annual report, FY 2023*

This program promotes the employment of people with disabilities by contracting with nonprofit organizations for goods and services. State agencies spent over \$68 million on such contracts in FY 2023, employing 1,552 people with disabilities for 793,449 hours. The report lists 48 approved program vendors. (30 ILCS 500/45-35(c)(4); undated, rec'd Dec. 2023, 3 pp.)

**Children and Family Services Dept.**

*Administration of psychotropic medications to children, FY 2023*

DCFS reports annually on the prescription by doctors, or administration by facilities, of psychotropic drugs to children in foster care without the DCFS Guardian's consent (in violation of the law). There were 87 violations in FY 2023, comprising 103 medications that were out of compliance. For the 23,074 psychotropic medication requests in FY 2023, the compliance rate was 99.6%. Some 73.3% were approved as written, 13.0% were approved

as modified, 8.4% were rescinded by the provider, and 5.4% were denied. (20 ILCS 535/15; Dec. 2023, rec'd Jan. 2024, 3 pp.)

*Inspector General's report, FY 2023*

In FY 2023, 160 child deaths met review criteria, leading to 17 full investigations. Fifty-three other cases were referred for Child Welfare Employee License investigations; 7,276 criminal background searches were done; and 103 investigation referrals were received from the Executive Inspector General. The hotline took 717 calls, including 191 requests for investigations. The report summarizes child death investigations, circumstances of reported deaths, and general investigations conducted. It gives updates on past recommendations and describes efforts to reduce errors and address employee malfeasance. (20 ILCS 505/35.5(h); Dec. 2023, rec'd Jan. 2024, 222 pp. + appendix)

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

*Build Illinois revolving funds and Enterprise Zone Loan Fund, FY 2023*

On June 30, 2023 the Illinois Capital Revolving Loan Fund had \$2.2 million; the Large Business Attraction Fund had \$200.9 million; and the Illinois Equity Fund had \$2.3 million. The Department has never received an appropriation for

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the Enterprise Zone Loan Fund and the fund does not exist in the State Comptroller's system, so there is nothing to report on the fund's operation. (20 ILCS 655/12-9, and 30 ILCS 750/9-9 and 750/10-9; issued & rec'd Dec. 2023, 7 pp.)

**Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability**

*Wagering in Illinois, 2023*

State tax revenues from wagering totaled \$1.992 billion, an increase of 5.1% from FY 2022. The increase is due to moderate growth in all wagering categories except horse racing, as well as implementation of new components of the gaming package enacted in 2019 and 2020. Total gaming revenues were 43.8% lottery, 40.8% video gaming, 7.9% casinos, 7.2% sports wagering, and 0.3% horse racing. Lottery transfers to the Common School Fund were \$726 million in FY 2023, a slight decrease from the all-time high of \$820 million in FY 2022. Video gaming generated \$141 million in tax revenues to local governments and over \$818 million to the Capital Projects Fund. Video gaming terminals have steadily increased to over 45,000, with the largest amount in Cook County (over 8,400). Adjusted gross receipts from casinos increased 9.3% from FY 2022, following a recovery from the pandemic and the opening of a permanent casino in Danville and a temporary casino in

Waukegan. While gaming-related revenues from casinos have consistently fallen the past decade, when combined with video gaming totals, revenues have increased to almost \$4.3 billion in FY 2023. Illinois' horse racing handle decreased 14.2% in 2022 from the previous year; and that is 23.6% below levels from 10 years ago. Sports wagering generated \$949 million in adjusted gross receipts and \$142 million in tax revenues in its third full year of operations. (S.R. 875 (1991); Sept. 2023, rec'd Dec. 2023, 92 pp.)

**Human Services, Dept. of**

*Autism progress report, 2023*

The report describes the Autism Task Force's work and progress in these areas: (1) addressing early intervention services for children with autism; (2) improving family support mechanisms; (3) increasing adequate transition services; and (4) getting Section 1915c waivers. The early intervention committee drafted a guidance document for use when a child is referred for autism indications to help develop treatment goals. The transition subcommittee began a survey in September 2023 to assess families' knowledge of services available to autistic students during their high school transition years. It has received 225 responses and will remain open through March 2024. The insurance subcommittee is collecting voluntary data on provider

waiting lists and capacity to analyze statewide needs. In FY 2023, the Children's Support Waiver had 997 participants, and the Children's Residential Waiver had 159 participants. (20 ILCS 1705/57; issued & rec'd Jan. 2024, 11 pp.)

*Homelessness prevention annual report, 2023*

The DHS Office to Prevent and End Homelessness and Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness launched Home Illinois, the state's strategic plan to address homelessness. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reported 9,212 homeless people in Illinois in 2022, of which 1,901 were unsheltered; 54% of the 9,212 were in Cook County. An analysis showed that approximately 19,607 additional temporary and permanent housing beds are needed to make homelessness rare in Illinois by the end of 2024. The report describes progress of the Task Force and its partners toward implementing the Home Illinois plan. (20 ILCS 1305/10-75(e); issued & rec'd Dec. 2023, 40 pp. + appendix)

*Youth Transitional Living Housing Program report, 2023*

DHS is to report on the number of homeless minors referred to youth transitional housing programs. A 2018 law allowed homeless youth between ages 16 and 18 years to join such programs without parental consent in some circumstances,

even if they are not emancipated. There are no providers with Youth Transitional Housing Licenses now; only two agencies ever had them. Neither of them served any emancipated or partially emancipated youth under the program, and neither has renewed its license. Separately, DHS's Emergency and Transitional Housing program served 14,890 adults and 5,208 children in FY 2021 with beds, meals, and supportive services; data for later years is not reported. Emancipated minors and unaccompanied youth were counted as adults. (750 ILCS 30/2(g); Dec. 2023, rec'd Jan. 2024, 9 pp. + appendix)

**Insurance, Dept. of**  
*Working Group Regarding Treatment and Coverage of Substance Abuse Disorders and Mental Illness annual report, 2023*

The working group met twice in 2023, hearing from the Departments of Insurance and Healthcare and Family Services on relevant issues. The working group made no legislative recommendations. (215 ILCS 5/370c.1(h)(2); issued and rec'd Dec. 2023, 3 pp.)

**Public Health, Dept. Of**  
*Food deserts annual report, FY 2023*

The report provides statistics on census tracts that meet the definition of a food desert. Measurements are based on how

many people in a tract are low-income and how far they have to travel to a supermarket. The data is based on 2019 estimates by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that have not been updated, so new data is not available. In one measure from 2019, the percentage of tracts that were low-income and in which urban residents had to travel more than a mile and rural residents more than 10 miles to the nearest market was 10.2%; most of those tracts were in Cook County. (20 ILCS 2310/2310-22; Oct. 2023, rec'd Jan. 2024, 11 pp.)

*Used Tire Fund status report, Jan. 2024*

A 1989 law established the Used Tire Management Fund to help regulate the disposal of used tires, which are used as a breeding site for the Asian tiger mosquito. IDPH receives money from the Fund, along with other agencies. The money helps fund IDPH's Vector Control Program, which trains local health departments in surveillance and control of mosquitoes and other vectors of disease, and tests animals for West Nile virus and St. Louis Encephalitis. Some 176 dead birds and 19,523 mosquito samples were tested in 2022; 179 dead birds and 21,096 mosquito samples were tested in 2023. (415 ILCS 5/55.6(d); issued & rec'd Jan. 2024, 6 pp. + 3 appendices)

**State Board of Education**

*Charter school biennial report, school years 2021-22 and 2022-23*

In the 2022-23 school year, Illinois' 58 charter schools served 60,102 students, down slightly from 61,061 the year before. No new charter schools opened during the two years covered by the report, and none are planned. Illinois charter schools had 97% students of color in the 2022-23 school year, nearly twice the percentage served by Illinois public schools. Charter schools in Chicago served 88.1% low-income students and 19.7% English Learner students. The report includes a discussion of charter school laws, closures, demographics, graduation rates, and student performance. Recommendations include more state funding for capital projects and student transportation reimbursement for charter schools. (105 ILCS 5/27A-12; issued & rec'd Jan. 2024, 69 pp.)

*Educator supply and demand, 2023*

Illinois retained 96,954 full-time teachers in 2023 (down from 111,345 in 2022). K-12 enrollment is expected to increase slightly from 2023 to 2024. The report includes data on how many teachers and administrators completed preparation programs in 2021, 2022, and 2023; teacher retention by subject area; age

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distribution of teachers; and other license and endorsement information. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.11c; Dec. 2023, rec'd Jan. 2024, 47 pp. + appendices)

*Preschool for All report, FYs 2020-21*

The Preschool for All (PFA) program served 79,058 students at an average cost of \$4,567 per student in FY 2020, and 61,792 students at a cost of \$5,823 per student in FY 2021. Performance on the FY 2021 Illinois Assessment of Readiness (by former PFA students in grade 3) showed about 43.27% approached, met, or exceeded expectations in math, compared to about 39.7% in English language arts. The report includes student demographics, statewide need, program quality measures, and budget and service levels. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.71(a)(6); issued & rec'd Jan. 2024, 46 pp.)

*State Education Equity Committee report, 2023*

P.A. 102-458 (2021) created the Committee to make recommendations for increasing equity in education for elementary and secondary students. P.A. 103-422 (2023) added two members to the Committee. Subcommittees in the areas of learning conditions, student learning, and educators made recommendations, including funding implicit bias training; identifying ways to help schools improve their

exclusionary discipline policies; and using public and private organizations to diversify and strengthen the educator workforce in Illinois. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.182; issued and rec'd Dec. 2023, 15 pp.)

**State Universities Retirement System**

*Economic Opportunity Investments, FY 2022*

As of June 30, 2022, the value of SURS investments was \$22.78 billion. The report lists how those funds are invested in and by Illinois-based companies and managers. Approximately \$2.06 billion (11.06% of the fund total) was in Illinois investments: \$135.6 million (0.60%) was public equity holdings in Illinois-based companies; \$16.5 million (0.07%) was fixed income holdings in such companies; \$217.7 million (0.96%) was in Illinois-based real estate investments; and \$1.69 billion (7.41%) was invested in Illinois-based private equity partnerships. SURS employed 12 Illinois-based investment managers, who managed \$3.7 billion (16.2% of the fund total). In FY 2022, SURS paid \$468,809 in equity trade commissions to Illinois-based brokers (33.08% of all commissions); the market value of fixed income trades by those brokers was \$1.2 billion. SURS also paid \$958,334 in fees to one Illinois-based vendor. (40

ILCS 5/1A-108.5(c); Aug. 2022, rec'd Dec. 2023, 1 p. + 4 exhibits)

*Economic Opportunity Investments, FY 2023*

As of June 30, 2023, the value of SURS investments was \$23.07 billion. The report lists how those funds are invested in and by Illinois-based companies and managers. Approximately \$1.89 billion (8.2% of the fund total) was in Illinois investments: \$165.9 million (0.72%) was public equity holdings in Illinois-based companies; \$20.8 million (0.09%) was fixed income holdings in such companies; \$151.2 million (0.66%) was in Illinois-based real estate investments; and \$1.55 billion (6.73%) was invested in Illinois-based private equity partnerships. SURS employed 11 Illinois-based investment managers, who managed \$3 billion (12.99% of the fund total). In FY 2023, SURS paid \$464,006 in equity trade commissions to Illinois-based brokers (30.45% of all commissions); the market value of fixed income trades by those brokers was \$2.7 billion. SURS also paid \$875,350 in fees to one Illinois-based vendor. (40 ILCS 5/1A-108.5(c); Aug. 2023, rec'd Dec. 2023, 1 p. + 4 exhibits)

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*Emerging Investment Managers,  
FY 2023*

On June 30, 2023, 35 of SURS' 87 investment managers (40%) were owned by minorities, women, or persons with disabilities. SURS assets managed by such firms were \$10.2 billion (44.3% of its portfolio, up from 40.9% in FY 2022). 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; Dec. 2023, rec'd Jan. 2024, 15 pp. + 9 appendices)

**Teachers' Retirement System**  
*Final state funding certification,  
FY 2025*

The TRS Board certified two state funding amounts for FY 2025: \$6.2 billion

based on law or \$10.1 billion based on actuarial standards. The certifications include assumptions on the impact of the accelerated pension benefit programs in Public Act 100-587 as extended by Public Act 102-718. (40 ILCS 5/16-158(a-5); issued & rec'd Jan. 2024, 2 pp. + attachment)

**Veterans Affairs', Dept. of**  
*Locally-held benefit funds  
quarterly report, Oct.-Dec.  
2023*

For each state veterans' home, the report describes monetary and nonmonetary donations received for residents' benefit; how and when they were disbursed; and fund balances at quarter-end. (20 ILCS 2805/2.01a; issued & rec'd Jan. 2024, 31 pp.)

*Semiannual reports on staffing,  
resident complaints, and  
communicable diseases, July-  
Dec. 2023*

The staffing report gives numbers of staff providing direct patient care at the five state veterans' homes. They had 31 resident complaints filed on official grievance forms or requiring follow-up: 12 in LaSalle, 12 in Manteno, 7 in Chicago, and none in Anna or Quincy. Most were resolved. The report also has statistics on communicable diseases requiring antibiotic treatment by type, month, and facility, and COVID-19 diagnoses. (20 ILCS 2805/2.07 and 2.13(b); Dec. 2023, rec'd Jan. 2024, 14 pp.)

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