

ABSTRACTS OF STATE REPORTS

AUGUST 2021

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Abstracts of Reports Required to be Filed With the General Assembly

The CGFA staff is required to prepare abstracts of reports required to be filed with the General Assembly. Legislators may receive copies of entire reports by emailing the form that was delivered to their Springfield office to 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.

Broadband Advisory Council *Studying the Costs of Providing Free and Affordable Service for all Residents*

The Council commissioned a study of technology and Internet adoption in Illinois, including cost estimates for providing free and “affordable” broadband access to all residents. The short-term costs of providing free Internet to those without devices or service (without infrastructure upgrades) would be \$389 million to \$867 million per year; the annual cost for all residents would be \$3.4 to \$4.3 billion. Upgrading all housing units to high-speed Internet connections would cost \$1.4 to \$1.9 billion. The long-term cost (after infrastructure upgrades) to provide free service to all residents would be \$3.3 billion; the cost of subsidies so households pay only \$10 monthly for Internet would be \$2.8-\$3.7 billion (\$2.0-\$2.8 billion if households paid \$25 monthly). Estimated annual costs to provide

subsidies to those in poverty are \$237-\$481 million. The study gave 6 recommended steps for promoting universal broadband. (220 ILCS 80/25(c); Dec. 2020, rec’d March 2021, 40 pp.)

Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Dept. of *Bilingual employees report, 2021*

As required by the State Services Assurances Act, DCEO reports the names, job titles and descriptions, and languages spoken by its frontline bilingual employees. Of 6 such employees, 5 speak Spanish and 1 Polish. (5 ILCS 382/3-20, issued & rec’d March 2021, 2 pp.)

Business Information Center report, 2020

The First Stop Business Information Center answers questions on federal and state requirements, regulatory processes, and aid. In 2020 it provided the Illinois COVID-19 business assistance

helpline; thus requests for assistance soared almost 1,800%. The Center took 73,271 inquiries—57,536 by phone and 15,735 by email. Requesters sought information on COVID-19 loans and grants; Restore Illinois guidelines; and startup and regulatory guidance. (20 ILCS 608/15(q), issued & rec’d March 2021, 3 pp.)

Community College Board *Adult Education and Literacy report, FY 2020*

Adult education programs served 53,629 students: 32,458 English as a Second Language students, 12,970 in Adult Basic Education, 5,372 in Adult Secondary Education, 1,896 earning high school credit, and 933 vocational students. Adult education providers were community, junior, or technical colleges (37); community-based organizations (21); local education agencies (13); faith-based organizations (3); 4-year institutions (3); and the Department of Corrections

(1), totaling 78 providers. (105 ILCS 405/2-4; undated, rec'd March 2021, 5 pp.)

Comptroller, Office of the Receivables report, 2020

Gross receivables due to the state at the end of calendar 2020 were \$16.114 billion, down \$1.776 billion from 2019's \$17.890 billion. Net receivables (believed to be collectible) were \$4.530 billion. Child support claims were the largest group available for collection (31%), followed by other (licenses, fees, federal reimbursement, university activities, etc.) (27%), public assistance recoveries (16%), taxes (14%), contributions (8%), interest and investment income (3%), and current loan and note repayment (1%). Gross General Funds receivables were \$1.911 billion, including \$706 million for taxes. Receivables and past-due receivables are listed by agency. (30 ILCS 210/4(d); issued & rec'd March 2021, 26 pp.)

Corrections, Dept. of

Quarterly report, Jan. 2019

On November 30, 2018, adult facilities had 40,199 residents—21% below bed space of 50,966. The number was projected to fall to 39,144 by December 2019. Nearly all inmates were double-celled (72%) or multi-celled (24%), with about 43 square feet each. The ratio of inmates to security staff was 4.5, and to total staff was 3.4. Adult transition centers had 880

residents—28 below bed space. November participation in educational programs (persons enrolled in two programs would be counted twice) was 5,273 (348 completed) and in vocational programs 1,130 (170 completed). No current capital projects were funded. (730 ILCS 5/3-5-3.1; Jan. 2019, rec'd July 2021, 16 tables)

Quarterly report, April 2019

On February 28, 2019, adult facilities had 39,595 residents—12% below bed space of 44,773. The number was projected to fall to 38,946 by March 2020. Nearly all were double-celled (72%) or multi-celled (24%), with about 43 square feet each. The ratio of inmates to security staff was 4.2, and to total staff was 3.2. Adult transition centers had 880 residents (28 below bed space) and work camps had 290 (below bed space of 848). February participation in educational programs was 4,615 (434 completed) and in vocational programs 1,378 (236 completed). In January and February 2019, there were 313 resolved instances of sexual misconduct and 34 staff were injured by inmates. No current capital projects were funded. (730 ILCS 5/3-5-3.1; April 2019, rec'd July 2021, 23 tables)

Quarterly report, July 2019

On May 31, 2019, adult facilities had 39,185 residents—12% below bed

space of 44,773. The number was projected to fall to 38,750 by June 2020. Nearly all were double-celled (71%) or multi-celled (24%), with about 43 square feet each. The ratio of inmates to security staff was 4.2, and to total staff was 3.2. Adult transition centers had 897 residents (11 below bed space) and work camps had 272 (below bed space of 848). May participation in educational programs was 4,672 (289 completed) and vocational programs was 1,493 (298 completed). This quarter had 515 resolved instances of sexual misconduct and 72 staff injured by inmates. No current capital projects were funded. (730 ILCS 5/3-5-3.1; July 2019, rec'd July 2021, 23 tables)

Quarterly report, Oct. 2019

On August 31, 2019, adult facilities had 39,107 residents—13% below bed space of 44,773. The number was projected to fall to 38,579 by September 2020. Nearly all were double-celled (71%) or multi-celled (25%), with about 43 square feet each. The ratio of inmates to security staff was 4.3, and to total staff was 3.2. Adult transition centers had 891 residents (17 below bed space) and work camps had 257 (below bed space of 848). August participation in educational programs was 4,458 (427 completed) and in vocational programs was 1,615 (426 completed). This quarter had 343 resolved instances of

sexual misconduct and 93 staff injured by inmates. No current capital projects were funded. (730 ILCS 5/3-5-3.1; Oct. 2019, rec'd July 2021, 32 tables)

Housing Development Authority

Annual report, FY 2020

The Authority received a total of 5,881 applications seeking \$1.4 billion in federal and state resources for all of its programs. That included \$1.3 billion for direct financing and \$103 million of tax credit allocations for low-income housing. The report describes each type of financing and amounts of it awarded; exhibits list each applicant and recipient. The report also describes the Authority's FY 2021 projections by type of financing. (20 ILCS 3805/5; Feb. 2021, rec'd March 2021, 14 pp. + 21 exhibits)

State Board of Education

School mandate waiver requests, spring 2021

The report summarizes the 49 waiver requests transmitted to the General Assembly. It provides information on them, including

citations and legislative districts, and on the 10 that were withdrawn or returned and the 6 approved by the State Board. Waiver topics were: administrative cost limitations (13 transmitted to the General Assembly, 2 withdrawn or returned); alternative schools (1 approved); calendar (1 withdrawn or returned); driver's education (1 approved, 5 transmitted, and 1 withdrawn or returned); nonresident tuition (29 transmitted, 6 withdrawn or returned); physical education (1 approved); school improvement days (3 approved); and statement of affairs (2 transmitted). (105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g; issued & rec'd Feb. 2021, 14 pp. + 1 table)

State Fire Marshal

Annual report, 2020

The report gives information on the Office's activities, including fire service outreach; arson investigations; boiler and pressure vessel safety; elevator safety; fire prevention; petroleum and chemical safety; personnel standards and education; technical services support; the life safety award

recipients; advisory boards and commissions; and the Office's budget. The Office did 1,051 arson investigations; 41,583 boiler and pressure vessel inspections; and 11,325 fire safety inspections (including 1,336 at schools). It processed 10,904 elevator operation certificates; registered 19,009 active petroleum or chemical tanks; and included 185 fire departments from 61 counties in its smoke alarm installation program. It is following a 10-year strategic plan issued in 2018, with 4 goals and 21 objectives and courses of action. (50 ILCS 740/13; undated, rec'd March 2021, 27 pp.)

State Police, Illinois

Juvenile charge report, July-Sept. 2020

ISP received 3,634 juvenile charge reports (up from 2,944 in the previous quarter). The charges are listed by county. (20 ILCS 2605/2605-355; Nov. 2020, rec'd April 2021, 3 pp.)

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