

## “Moment of Silence” Laws Are Common — and Controversial

A 2007 Illinois law requires a “brief period of silence” at the start of each school day. The law has been challenged in a federal court, where a judge issued a preliminary injunction barring the State Board of Education from implementing it. At least 32 other states require or permit public schools to have a moment of silence during each school day.

### *History of Illinois Law*

A 1969 Illinois law said a public school teacher could observe a brief period of silence at the start of each school day with the participation of all students. The law added that the period of silence “shall not be conducted as a religious exercise but shall be an opportunity for silent prayer or for silent reflection on the anticipated activities of the day.” A section added in 2002 allowed public school students to voluntarily engage in prayer that is not endorsed by the school. The 2007 law (enacted over a veto) made a period of silence mandatory and took effect October 11, 2007.

In November 2007, Robert Sherman sued on behalf of his daughter in Chicago federal district court for a preliminary injunction to prevent her school district and the State Board from implementing a mandatory period of silence. He argued that the law is unconstitutionally vague, and that it violates the Establishment of Religion clause of the First Amendment. A judge granted a preliminary injunction, and the case remains pending.

House Bill 4180 (Fritchey-Eddy-Black-Pritchard), introduced in November 2007, would amend the law to say that a public school teacher “may conduct” rather than “shall observe” a period of silence, and that such a period may be used for silent reflection as desired by each student. The statement that the period of silence may be used for silent prayer would be removed, and the law would be renamed the “Student Silent Reflection Act.” House Bill 4186 (W.Davis) would change the law’s title to the “Student Silent Reflection Act” but make no substantive change. Neither bill has been assigned to a substantive committee.

### *Other States’ Laws*

At least 32 other states permit or require public schools to have a moment of silence in each school day. The provision is mandatory in 14 of them:

Alabama	Nevada	Tennessee
Connecticut	New Jersey	Texas
Georgia	Oklahoma	Virginia
Indiana	Rhode Island	West Virginia
Massachusetts	South Carolina	



The laws of New Jersey and West Virginia were held unconstitutional, but have not been repealed.

The other 18 states permit a moment of silence at teachers’ or school officials’ discretion:

Arizona	Louisiana	New York
Arkansas	Maine	North Carolina
Delaware	Maryland	North Dakota
Florida	Michigan	Ohio
Kansas	Mississippi	Pennsylvania
Kentucky	New Mexico	Utah

Among the 32 other states with “moment of silence” laws, 16 specify its length as 1 minute or up to 1 minute. Delaware and Florida permit up to 2 minutes. Laws of the remaining 14 states, like Illinois, do not say how long the moment should be. Twelve states list prayer among the acceptable uses of a moment of silence; the others either list activities such as meditation or reflection, or do not specify any purpose. □

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# 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.

## **Administrators' Academy Review Task Force**

*Report, 2007*

Task Force was created to examine Illinois Administrators' Academy and recommend ways to improve professional development of school administrators. Recommends: (1) create a statewide mechanism to educate administrators on professional development expectations and communicate available courses and the process for approving new courses; (2) support a statewide system that adequately funds high quality professional development for educational leaders; (3) create a statewide expectation for high quality professional development for all administrators; and (4) develop an accountability system that ties course offerings to characteristics of high quality professional development. (105 ILCS 5/21-7.15; July 2007, 24 pp. + 3 appendices + executive summary)

## **Administrative Office of the Courts** *Court-annexed mandatory arbitration annual report, FY 2006*

This program, created by the Supreme Court and General Assembly to reduce civil case backlogs and resolve complaints faster, began in 1986 and operates in 15 counties. Cases with "modest" claims (up to \$30,000 in Cook County; and \$50,000 in Boone, DuPage, Ford, Henry, Kane, Lake, McHenry, McLean, Mercer, Rock Island, St. Clair, Whiteside, Will, and Winnebago) are automatically assigned to arbitration. If it fails, they may go to trial. There were 28,100 cases referred to arbitration

in FY 2006. Among cases on the pre-hearing calendar, 57% were settled or dismissed before hearing. In 51% of cases, one or both parties rejected the arbitration decision. Only 1.6% of referred cases went to trial. (735 ILCS 5/2-1008A; undated, rec'd March 2007, 70 pp. + 3 appendices)

## **Administrative & Regulatory Shared Services Center**

*Summary of results of Executive Order 06-6 (2006)*

No major reorganizations or consolidations have taken place so far. Positions of Center Director, Administrative Director, Chief Fiscal Officer, and Human Resources Director have been filled by current state employees. Center had no recommendations for changes in law. (15 ILCS 15/11; Nov. 2006, 2 pp.)

## *Older Adult Services Act report, 2007*

Describes Department's plans to implement Older Adult Services Act (P. A. 93-1031). Accomplishments in 2006 included: improving coordinated point of entry services to seniors, including a "no wrong door" policy; increasing transportation rate for adult day service; increasing funding for Senior HelpLine and Home Delivered Meals program; increasing hourly rate for homemaker services by \$1.00; and expanding the availability of alternative respite services for family caregivers. (320 ILCS 42/15(c); Jan. 2007, 54 pp.)

## **Agriculture, Dept. of**

*Farmland conversion, FY 2006*

State agencies purchased or affected 94,179 total acres of land between

July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006. IEPA converted most land (65,960 acres) due to facility planning area boundary changes in 15 counties. Other major acre conversions: Commerce and Economic Opportunity (19,231), Commerce Commission (4,918), Natural Resources (2,539), and Transportation (1,531). Lists conversions by county. (505 ILCS 75/6; March 2007, 13 pp.)

## **Attorney General**

*Lead poisoning cases, 2006*

The Attorney General is required to annually report to the General Assembly the number of lead poisoning cases that have been referred to the Attorney General by the Illinois Department of Public Health. No cases were referred between June 20, 2006 and January 1, 2007. (410 ILCS 45/12.1; Feb. 2007, 1 p.)

*State collection statistics, 2006*

State agencies referred 23,718 cases to the Attorney General, with \$130.5 million owed to the state. Attorney General collected \$279.3 million on referred cases, including cases referred in past years. The Department of Healthcare and Family Services referred nearly 92% of the cases. (30 ILCS 205/2(j); Feb. 2007, 2 pp.)

## **Auditor General**

*Annual report, 2006*

Auditor General conducts financial and/or compliance audits for every state agency, completing 153 in 2006. Major findings: DFPR's Division of Banks and Real Estate did not have adequate controls over its revenue processing; DHS's Central Office did not bill residents in a timely manner; IDOT contract files lacked basic information; RTA did not have adequate internal controls over its Transit Benefit Program; Department of Agriculture did not have adequate control over gate/parking admissions at the Illinois State Fair; Secretary of State lacked adequate procedures over its state vehicles; IDES had several weaknesses in the control procedures relating to Social Security number

verification for new claimants; CMS lacked an adequate system to track savings achieved by vendors for efficiency initiatives; ISAC did not obtain independent reviews of an externally controlled computerized system; DNR did not accurately prepare and submit year-end accounting reports; Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (ISTHA) did not complete timely reconciliations for some of its significant general ledger accounts; ISTHA lacked proper internal controls to classify I-PASS transactions properly; ISTHA's practices and procedures for recording and maintaining capital asset records need improvement; and ISTHA did not maintain a detailed record of outstanding violation penalties receivable. Performance audits, which are done at legislative direction, looked at state employee travel (between Chicago and some downstate cities); DCEO's administration of its economic development programs; IDOT's traffic safety programs; CMS's business enterprise program and IDOT's disadvantaged business enterprise program; DFPR's disciplining of physicians; Village of Robbins' use of Municipal Economic Development Funds; flu vaccine procurement and I-SaveRx program; DHS's Office of the Inspector General; and use of funds paid to regional offices of education. Information system audits were done on 20 agencies' computer systems. Computer security problems were found at several agencies, including DFPR, DHS, and IDPH. (30 ILCS 5/3-15; March 2007, 36 pp.)

**Central Management Services Dept. Bilingual needs and pay survey, 2006**  
Of 28 responding agencies, 20 reported having cases requiring bilingual assistance in 2006. For all 28 agencies, a total of 842 bilingual positions were needed, with 867 employees in bilingual positions. Agencies reported 853 employees received bilingual pay. Department of Human Services

reported needing the most bilingual employees at 386. (20 ILCS 415/9(6); Dec. 2006, 8 pp.)

*Business Enterprise Program annual report, FY 2006*

State agencies and universities awarded over \$395 million in contracts to businesses under the Business Enterprise Program, for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities, surpassing its goal of \$219 million. Minority-owned businesses received nearly \$238 million (60%) in state contracts, non-minority women-owned businesses received \$134 million (34%), and disability-owned businesses received \$22 million (5%). Number of contracts awarded under this program rose from less than 7,000 in 2005 to more than 17,000 in 2006. Total value of the contracts under this program rose \$41 million since FY 2004. Also lists individual agencies' and universities' goals, and value and number of contracts to firms under the program. (30 ILCS 575/8f; Mar. 2007, 23 pp.)

*Results of Executive Order 04-2 (2004)*

CMS identified 60 people responsible for media relations and/or public information duties. Of these, 26 were transferred to CMS, Office of Communication and Information, saving the state \$1.8 million in FY 2005. Eleven graphic designers were also consolidated in this reorganization. Financial benefits from this have not been reported yet. (15 ILCS 15/11; Sept. 2006, 2 pp.)

*State employee child care centers, 2006*

The state oversees 3 daycare centers for employees in state facilities in Chicago, Kankakee, and Springfield. Chicago's Child Development Center in the Michael A. Bilandic Building is managed by Early Child Care Services, Inc., and has been accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. It is licensed for

78 children, but chose to raise standards by limiting the number to 66. The Center has 3 full-time teachers for 4 classrooms with a 1:5 ratio in all rooms. The Bright Horizons Daycare at the Willard Ice Building in Springfield is staffed by 4 teachers and a director, but seeks to add part-time staff. The Shapiro Learning Milestones daycare in Kankakee provides services for children from 6 weeks to 13 years of age. It offers before- and after-school programming for children aged 6-13. The Dependent Care Assistance Program (DCAP) administered by the Department allows parents to set aside up to \$5,000 in flexible spending accounts for child care. In calendar year 2006, 1,597 employees participated with contributions totaling \$5,751,807. (30 ILCS 590/3; Dec. 2006, 3 pp.)

*State-owned and surplus real property report, 2006*

Agency now publishes report on CD-ROM only. Disc contains spreadsheets for 30 state agencies and universities listing building names, locations, square footage, square footage used, date of acquisition and cost, and tax index number, among other things. Included with disc is a list of 8 surplus properties, location, description, value, and current disposition. (30 ILCS 605/7.1; Dec. 2006, 2 pp. + CD-ROM)

*State-owned and surplus real property report, 2006*

CMS Bureau of Property Management assisted in four non-monetary conveyances. Two parcels of unimproved land from the former Stateville Correctional Center were transferred to the Department of Natural Resources (588 acres) and to the Department of State Police (170 acres) to be used as forest preserve districts. One portion of the former Department of Human Services Horner Complex, the Read Mental Health Center in Chicago (4 acres, including Buildings A & B), was transferred to Maryville Academy to be used for therapeutic programs

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for children. A 33,115-square-foot lot, including a 2,880-square-foot building, was transferred to the Illinois Commerce Commission offices. (30 ILCS 605/7.1; Feb. 2007, 1 p.)

### *State-owned and surplus real property report, 2007*

An unimproved parcel of 1 acre adjacent to the State of Illinois Regional Office Building in Marion has been declared surplus and is available for transfer to state agencies. (30 ILCS 605/7.1; Apr. 2007, 1 p.)

### **Children and Family Services Dept.**

#### *Inspector General's report, 2006*

Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigates child deaths and serious injuries, investigates child welfare system complaints, investigates and prosecutes licensure complaints, helps with criminal history checks, operates a complaint hotline, acts as the ethics officer for DCFS, reviews and comments on proposed rule changes, and develops best-practices training models for caseworkers and supervisors. In FY 2006 it received 86 reports of child deaths; 19 were ruled homicides. The hotline received 1,327 calls resulting in 141 investigations. Includes death and serious injury investigation summaries and recommendations and general investigation summaries and recommendations and DCFS's responses. Lists recommendations to DCFS for improvements and previous year's recommendations and status. Discusses OIG initiatives for FY 2006. Summarizes cases of disciplined employees. (20 ILCS 505/35.5(h); Jan. 2007, 214 pp. + 2 appendices)

#### *Report on the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act, 2007*

Parents are immune from criminal prosecution if they safely abandon their child at a hospital, emergency medical facility, or police or fire

station within 7 days of birth. Since the Act's inception in 2001, 28 infants have been relinquished under the law, while 43 were illegally abandoned. Of those illegally abandoned, 21 were found dead. Illinois joined the multi-state Newborn Lifeline Network; the Department continues to educate the public on safe alternatives to abandonment. (325 ILCS 2/65(c); Jan. 2007, 5 pp.)

### **Commerce Commission**

#### *Crossing Safety Improvement Program: FY 2008-2012 Plan*

Lists \$151.5 million in proposed grade crossing safety improvements on local roads and streets for FYs 2008-2012 using funding from Grade Crossing Protection Fund (GCPF). Includes projects totaling over \$35 million for FY 2008 and over \$116 million for FYs 2009-2012. Subject to local matching funds, Commission plans to initiate 25 new or reconstructed grade separations; install automatic warning devices or upgrade circuitry at 257 crossings; and make progress payments for two bridge projects previously ordered by the Commission. Lists types of improvements for which GCPF funds are used. Public crossings had 138 collisions in 2006, a 5% decrease from 2005. (35 ILCS 505/8(c); Apr. 2007, 8 pp. + 4 appendices)

#### *Railroad accidents involving hazardous materials, 2006*

Commission inspectors checked 16,978 railcars carrying hazardous materials. It found violations in 698 (4.1%) in 2006; in 2005, 3.4% of inspections found violations. Six derailments released hazardous materials; 12 did not release hazardous materials; and 95 hazardous releases occurred without derailment. Tables show location, railroad, material, suspected cause, amount involved and released, and date of each incident. (625 ILCS 5/18c-1204(3); Apr. 2007, 17 pp. + tables and attachments)

### **Commerce and Economic Opportunity Dept.**

#### *Renewable Energy Resources Program, 2006*

The Renewable Energy Resources Program (RERP) has facilitated \$248.1 million of total investments in renewable energy projects in Illinois since 1997. Program awarded 124 grants and 399 rebates, totaling \$28.6 million in 2006. Grants and rebates were distributed to the following projects: wind, \$1,075,000 (48%); solar thermal, \$913,124 (41%); and photovoltaic, \$245,512 (11%). (20 ILCS 687/6-3(e); undated, rec'd Apr. 2007, 11 pp.)

#### *Summary of results of Executive Order 03-11 (2003)*

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) addresses the final results from the reorganization and consolidation of workforce development and job training programs. The annual cost savings from Workforce Program Consolidations were \$19.8 million. In March 2006, DCEO organized Trade-Affected Workers Policy Guidelines Conference. DCEO created the Critical Skills Shortages Initiative to align regional workforce programs with critical skill shortage occupations. Department has obligated \$13 million for the Initiative. DCEO's Bureau of Workforce Development Reorganization has created a Policy Unit and a Planning Unit to improve services. (15 ILCS 15/11; Jan. 2007, 5 pp.)

### **Comptroller**

#### *Fee imposition report, FY 2006*

State received \$5.599 billion from 1,349 fees collected by 80 agencies. The largest fee collector was the Secretary of State, which reported fee revenue of \$1.8 billion (33.5%). Most of the fees collected went to restricted funds, such as the 29% deposited into Special State Funds and 24% deposited into Highway Funds. Only \$473 million of the fee revenue went into the General Funds. Describes number

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and types of fees; number and amount collected by agency; and disposition of revenues. (15 ILCS 405/16.2; Apr. 2007, 11 pp. + 5 appendices)

*Receivables report, 2006*

Gross receivables due to Illinois at 2006 yearend were \$13.8 billion, up 9% from 2005. This is partly due to increased student loan activity at ISAC, higher child support claims and public assistance recoveries at DHFS, and increased loan activity at the Illinois Housing Development Authority. Net receivables (estimated collectible receivables) were \$2 billion, up \$340 million (20%) from 2005. Child support claims are the largest category of collectible receivables (43%); other categories include taxes (14%), public assistance recoveries (11%), current loan and note repayments (5%), and contributions (2%). About 25% are classified as "other receivables," which include licenses and fees, federal government reimbursements, university activities, etc. Receivables listed by agency and age. (30 ILCS 210/4 (d); Mar. 2007, 28 pp.)

**Corrections, Dept. of**

*Quarterly report to the legislature, January 1, 2007*

As of November 30, 2006, there were 45,484 inmates in all adult facilities, 3% lower than the 46,893 projected by FY 2005 data. By December 2007, the total adult population is expected to rise to 46,270. The total population in adult transition centers was 1,323 (3.3% over the total capacity of 1,280); 10,225 inmates (22.5%) were participating in educational and vocational programs. The ratio of security staff to inmates was 0.184. A majority of inmates (66%) were double-celled, with an average 37 square feet of living area per inmate. Current capital projects are minimum-security work camp at Thomson; maximum-security correctional center at Thomson; and male medium-security correctional center at Sheridan. (730 ILCS 5/3-5-3.1; Jan. 2007, 15 pp.)

*Quarterly report to the legislature, April 1, 2007*

As of February 28, 2007, there were 44,980 inmates in all adult facilities, 4.64% lower than the 47,169 projected by FY 2005 data. By December 2007, the total adult population is expected to rise to 46,270. Total population in adult transition centers was 1,309 (29 over the total capacity of 1,280). Enrollment in educational and vocational programs was 10,334 (nonduplicated). Ratio of security staff to inmates was 0.184. A majority of inmates (65%) were double-celled, with approximately 38 square feet of living area each. Five capital projects are being currently funded: (1) minimum-security work camp at Thomson (200 beds, occupancy expected in winter 2007); (2) maximum-security correctional center at Thomson (1,600 beds, occupancy date unknown); (3) male medium-security correctional center at Sheridan (200 beds, occupancy expected in fall 2007); (4) male medium-security correctional center at Pinckneyville (217 beds, occupancy expected in fall 2007); and (5) male minimum-security impact incarceration program at Dixon Springs (25 beds, full occupancy expected in fall 2007). (730 ILCS 5/3-5.31; Apr. 2007, 8 pp.)

**Criminal Justice Information Authority**

*Annual report, FY 2006*

In FY 2006 the Authority administered federal grants under Anti-Drug Abuse Act (\$20.3 million); Victims of Crime Act (\$16.3 million); Justice Assistance Grants Program (\$8.5 million); Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth-in-Sentencing Grant Program (\$5.5 million); Violence Against Women Act (\$4.3 million); Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Program (\$3.8 million); Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program (\$1.8 million); National Criminal History Improvement Program (\$1.05 million); Project Safe Neighborhoods (\$784,271); National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act (\$274,889); Rural Domestic Violence

and Child Victimization Enforcement Grants (\$258,109); and Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program (\$28,166). Additional programs supported by CJIA included the 2006 Task Force on Domestic Violence Training and Curricula, Clandestine Lab Reporting Information System, Illinois Integrated Justice Information System Implementation Board, and Illinois' Evidence-Based Practices Initiative. (20 ILCS 3930/7; Mar. 2007, 45 pp.)

**Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission**

*Annual report, FY 2006*

Projects sponsored by the Commission include distributing 600 manuals to parents, operating a lending library, co-sponsoring the Fingerspelling Bee, providing guidance to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in improving communication access, and co-sponsoring an Annual Deaf Awareness Day in Chicago. Commission hosted its first conference in 2006. Appropriation for FY 2006 was \$627,000, of which \$526,804 was spent. (20 ILCS 3932/25; Jan. 2007, 19 pp.)

**Education, State Board of**

*Annual statistical report, 2005*

Statistics for the 2004-2005 school year on pupils, staff, facilities, finance, and programs. Specific areas include the following: enrollment by race, sex, grade, and geographical boundaries; number of graduates and high school dropouts; student distribution and attendance among elementary and secondary schools; enrollment for bilingual and special education services; school district receipts and expenditures; number of personnel; teacher certificates issued; bond and tax referenda; transportation expenses; teacher orders; tax rates; and state aid claims. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.11; Oct. 2006, 354 pp., 29 tables and 2 appendices)

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## Abstracts of Reports Required to be Filed With General Assembly

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### *Annual report, 2006*

Illinois public school districts decreased from 879 in 2005 to 873 in 2006, and public school enrollment rose from 2.09 million in 2005 to 2.1 million in 2006. In 2006, the chronic truancy rate was 2.2%; dropout rate, 3.5%; average teacher salary, \$56,640; average administrator salary, \$100,431; statewide operating expenditure per pupil, \$9,099 (2005); elementary pupil-teacher ratio, 19.1:1; secondary pupil-teacher ratio, 18.9:1; and average teaching experience, 13.0 years. Total funding for Illinois schools for 2004-2005 was \$20.6 billion (\$11.45 billion local, \$6.96 billion state, and \$2.21 billion federal). (105 ILCS 5/1A-4(e); Jan. 2007, 59 pp.)

### *Capital needs assessment survey, 2006*

School districts responding to the survey (450 of 873) reported \$8.2 billion in needs for new schools, building additions, and general repairs. Consolidation is being considered by 45 school districts. Districts are using 724 temporary classrooms to ease overcrowding and 1,637 new classrooms are needed for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes. Of the districts that responded, 98 (21%) stated they would need to exceed their general obligation debt limit to finance construction over the next two years. Overall, districts need \$5.2 billion to upgrade 13,100 buildings, with over \$2.9 billion of this need to meet current health, life, and safety requirements. (105 ILCS 230/5-60; Dec. 2006, 5 pp.)

### *Catalogue of reports, 2006*

The Board filed 21 reports with the General Assembly in calendar year 2006. Reports include 2005 annual report and annual statistical report, plus reports on educator supply and demand (preliminary); mandates and mandate waivers; "Preschool For

All" funding; class size; capital needs assessment; and school breakfast incentives. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.87; Jan. 2007, 6 pp.)

### *Charter schools annual report, 2005-2006*

Illinois had 29 charter schools in 2005-2006, serving nearly 17,000 students. Twenty-six of the schools serve primarily low-income students, ranging from 54%-91% of the student population. Seven schools did not make adequate yearly progress (AYP). Fifteen schools made AYP while the districts they were in did not. Six schools were identified by the state for "academic watch" and three for "academic early warning." Suggested statutory changes include providing state grants to all schools, providing facilities financing, and allocating operating funds beyond per-capita assistance from the authorizing district. (105 ILCS 5/27A-12; Mar. 2007, 29 pp.)

### *Class size survey, 2006-07*

Survey to determine state assistance needed to reduce class sizes to maximum 20 students in kindergarten through grade three. Of 772 districts surveyed, 619 (with 18,058 classrooms) reported class sizes exceeding 20 students in those grades. Total students beyond 20 per classroom were 78,550. To achieve goal, 5,409 additional classrooms would be needed at a cost of \$2.694 billion for additional physical classroom space, \$308 million for personnel, and \$85 million for equipment, books, supplies, etc., totalling \$3.087 billion. (H. Res. 1148 (2006); Dec. 2006, 5 pp.)

### *Complaints against private businesses and vocational schools, 2006*

Gives the name, address, and date(s) of visitation by the State Board of Education for each institution; a summary of complaints; and the status of investigations. The Board resolved 4 complaints and had 12 cases still open. (105 ILCS 425/14.2; Jan. 2007, 39 pp.)

### *Cumulative report on waivers and modifications, 1995-2006*

Summary chart classifies 4,001 approved waivers and modifications into seven general categories for school districts: accountability (18); calendar or instructional time (2,603); course offerings (773); employment issues (228); fiscal issues (228); governance (10); and health and safety (47). To date, waivers or modifications were approved for 907 school districts (104%); 37 special education cooperatives (38.2%); 44 regional education offices (53.3%); and 8 vocational centers (28%). Recommendations include authorizing local control for legally mandated school holidays; allowing school districts more flexible use of parent-teacher conference days; and increasing the driver's education fee from \$50 to \$250 per student. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g; Feb. 2007, 20 pp.)

### *Education mandates annual report, 2006*

Eleven laws enacted in 2006 imposed 15 mandates on schools. Each mandate is estimated to impose no additional cost to school districts. In general, these mandates require: allowing students' self-administration of epinephrine auto-injectors; FFA (Future Farmers of America) approval of agriculture programs; peer review of revised improvement plans; testimony for public hearings on proposed waivers or modifications during a regular board meeting to be separate from public comment on other matters; public availability of statements of affairs; claims for transportation reimbursement to be made by Aug. 15; school board responsibility for superintendent's employment; quarterly reporting of attendance rolls to Secretary of State; additional subjects in consumer education courses; educating students on Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act; notifying parents about the Statewide Sex Offender Database; checking new hires against the Child Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Database; creating 'survey of

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progress' form for New Principal Mentoring Program; creating evaluation plan for principals; and quorum at both open and closed meetings. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.104; Feb. 2007, 4 pp.)

*Educator supply and demand, 2006*  
Illinois had 127,130 full-time teachers, 3,608 principals, and 841 superintendents in 2006. The total full-time teacher workforce decreased 1.0% in 2005-2006. New teaching certificates rose from 19,411 to 20,945, a 7.9% increase in the last year. Total Illinois public school enrollment for school year 2006 was 2,033,609, up 10,014 students (0.4%) over 2005. High school enrollment is projected to increase less than 1% a year, peaking at nearly 645,000 in 2009; elementary enrollment peaked in 2003 and is expected to continue decreasing nearly 9,000 students a year. As of October 1, 2005, Illinois school districts had 1,540 unfilled positions, with 56% in Chicago, 24% in Cook County and collar counties, and 20% in the rest of the state (downstate unfilled positions have increased 62% since 2004). Districts ranked special education, mathematics, and Spanish as the subjects most in need of staffers. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.11c; March 2007, 21 pp.)

*Re-enrolling dropouts task force, interim report 2007*  
Task Force held public hearings in Aurora, Carterville, Edwardsville, Forest Park, and Springfield. Over 27,000 Illinois high school students dropped out in 2005. High school dropouts had a 13% higher unemployment rate than graduates and, on average, earn \$9,245 less annually than graduates. Initial recommendations include developing multiple re-enrollment programs, reconciling performance outcomes with federal No Child Left Behind requirements, improving data collection, and developing and financing a statewide system to encourage re-enrollment. A final report is due January 2008. (2006 H.J.R. 87; Jan. 2007, 11 pp.)

[Round Lake Area School District] *School Finance Authority annual report, 2007*

Round Lake Area School District 116 comprises five villages and uses 8 buildings for K-12 students. Long-term debt has increased 19% since 2001, from \$88.1 million to \$104.9 million. Short-term debt of \$14.5 million in 2001 has been paid off. In 2006, \$17 million in building bonds were approved to build a new middle school, repair a high school, and install HVAC systems to elementary schools. Operating levy for 2005 totaled \$19.6 million, providing \$3,063 per pupil. (105 ILCS 5/1E-130; March 2007, 200 pp.)

*School breakfast incentives report, 2006*

The report lists the schools, total enrollment, and number of children eligible for free, reduced-price, and paid breakfast and lunches. During the 2005-2006 school year, 136 schools started a school breakfast program, of which 60 used the \$3,500 startup grants for that year. In addition, 467 schools received an additional 10¢ per meal as increased participation incentive; 35 schools dropped the national breakfast and/or lunch program; and 24 schools participated in the USDA Provision 2 or Provision 3 programs. (105 ILCS 125/4; March 2007, 116 pp.)

*Strategic plan progress report, 2007*

Strategic plan focuses on early childhood education, higher education preparation, teacher support and recruitment, and increased use of technology. Accomplishments include creation of Spanish language arts standards; training for parents, teachers, and administrators on working with young children; working to expand Advanced Placement courses; funding teacher and principal mentoring programs; and beginning work on databases to centralize administrative data and improve grant tracking. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.47a(b); June 2007, 18 pp.)

*Waivers of school code mandates, spring 2007*

Summary chart classifies 277 requests for waivers into 12 categories and lists their status: Content of Evaluation Plans (4 transmitted to GA); Debt Limitation (1 transmitted); Driver Education (13 transmitted); Kindergarten (1 transmitted); Legal School Holidays (198 approved, 5 withdrawn or returned); Limitation of Administrative Costs (11 transmitted); Nonresident Tuition (4 transmitted); Parent-Teacher Conferences (12 transmitted, 1 withdrawn or returned); Physical Education (18 transmitted, 1 withdrawn or returned); Prairie State Achievement Examination (1 withdrawn or returned); School Improvement/In-service Training (5 transmitted); Substitute Teachers (2 transmitted). Section I describes the 71 requests transmitted to the General Assembly. Section II describes the 198 legal school holiday requests approved by the State Superintendent of Education. Section III describes the 8 requests withdrawn or returned. Section IV shows all the requests submitted, organized by Senate and House districts. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g; March 2007, 75 pp. + executive summary)

**Educational Labor Relations Board**  
*Annual report, FY 2006*

Board handled 118 representation cases in FY 2006, was involved through mediation in the settlement of 5 strikes, and considered 346 unfair-labor-practice cases. Lists biographical details on current board members and selected agency personnel. Summarizes major Board decisions and court rulings. Board's FY 2006 budget was \$1.4 million. (115 ILCS 5/5(j); Feb. 2007, 21 pp.)

**Employment Security Advisory Board**

*Report, 2007*

Board held two public hearings in March 2007 to discuss the state's progress in restoring the Unemployment Trust Fund (UTF) to solvency. At the end of 2006, UTF had a balance

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of \$1.265 billion with benefit payments lower than expected and federal penalty taxes avoided from 2004 through 2006. Includes testimony from Department of Employment Security legal counsel and chief financial officer. Also includes testimony from representatives of Illinois Chamber of Commerce, Illinois AFL-CIO, and Center for Tax and Budget Accountability. (820 ILCS 405/1511.1; April 2007, 67 pp. + appendix)

### **Government Forecasting and Accountability, Commission on Illinois' Certificate of Need (CON) Program**

Recommends: (1) extending CON program 3 years with a review of CON effect on safety-net providers; (2) evaluating non-CON-related support for safety-net providers; (3) adding a blueprint for health facilities development in Health Facilities Planning Board's charter; (4) increasing size of the Board and recruiting people with direct expertise in acute and long-term care; (5) providing compensation to Board members; and (6) focusing Board's workload on new hospitals or nursing facilities, major expansions, volume-sensitive service offerings, and closure of inner city hospital components. (2006 H. Res. 1497; Feb. 2007, 34 pp. + appendices)

### *Legislative capital plan analysis, FY 2008*

Governor's capital budget proposal for FY 2008 included \$4.5 billion in new appropriations and \$8.1 billion in reappropriations. Proposed new appropriations were from various revenue funds (\$2.269 billion), bond funds (\$2.082 billion), and federal or trust funds (\$160.5 million). New appropriations were proposed for the following purposes: capital development, \$775.7 million; and school construction, \$560 million. General

obligation bond authorization for new projects is \$16.9 billion. Debt service from general obligation bonds is expected to cost \$1.213 billion, up \$33 million (2.8%). Including pension obligation bonds, debt service is expected to cost \$1.759 billion, up \$83 million (5.0%). Describes capital projects of agencies recommended for new appropriations. (25 ILCS 155/3(8); Apr. 2007, 33 pp. + 2 appendices)

### *Liabilities of State Employees' Group Insurance Program, FY 2008*

Commission projects program will cost \$1.984 billion, Department of Healthcare and Family Services projects \$1.957 billion. In FY 2008, a projected 346,332 participants will cost an average of \$5,651 each, up 7.5% from FY 2007. The state's managed care plans (HMO and OAP) cause 54.8% of total costs; the Quality Health Care Plan 31.7%; and dental care, life insurance, vision care, and other miscellaneous charges 13.5%. The payment cycle for both preferred and non-preferred providers is 28 days. (25 ILCS 155/4(b)(2); Mar. 2007, 21 pp. + 4 appendices)

### **Higher Education, Board of** *Annual report, FY 2006*

In fall 2005, over 805,764 students were in 181 public and private colleges and universities, up 0.5% over 2004. The Board received \$2.2 billion for FY 2007, up \$26.6 million (1.2%) over FY 2006 appropriations. Board approved 211 applications for new programs in FY 2006. Financial aid to students in FY 2005 totaled \$5.3 billion (federal, \$1.34 billion; state, \$859 million; institutional aid, \$1.32 billion; and other, \$1.81 billion). (110 ILCS 205/9.04; Oct. 2006, 41 pp. + figures)

### *Public university tuition and fee waivers, FY 2006*

Public universities issued 43,705 waivers worth \$283.4 million (compared to 44,684 worth \$257.7 million in FY 2005). Of that, 17.3% was

for undergraduates and 82.7% was for graduates; 91% was discretionary (such as graduate teaching and research assistantships). (110 ILCS 205/9.29; Dec. 2006, 8 pp. + 2 appendices)

### **Housing Development Authority** *Housing plan, 2007*

State must coordinate resources to address special needs; preserve, plan, and target development; and develop sustainable home ownership. For FY 2007, \$402 million in federal, state, and private funds was targeted for multi-family developments to provide 1,770 units for low-income households and families; 1,060 for low-income seniors; 530 for the disabled; and 175 for the homeless. Nearly \$249 million was targeted for single-family developments to assist 2,730 low-income households and families; 620 disabled persons; and 495 low-income seniors. (30 ILCS 345/7.5 & 310 ILCS 110/15; undated, rec'd Jan. 2007, 55 pp.)

### **Human Rights, Dept. of & Human Services, Dept. of**

#### *Interagency Committee on Employees with Disabilities annual report, FY 2006*

The Interagency Committee on Employees with Disabilities (ICED) promotes a nondiscriminatory environment in state government for employees with disabilities. Of all state employees, 2,734 (5.19%) are disabled, an increase of 173 employees since FY 2005 but below 10.8% goal. Committee recommends: (1) designating permanent full-time executive director and support staff to ICED; (2) increasing funding to address underutilization hiring issues; and (3) increasing agencies' recruitment efforts. (20 ILCS 415/19a; Mar. 2007, 8 pp.)

### **Human Services, Dept. of**

#### *Autism Task Force report, 2006*

Discusses implementing a service system for persons affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Priorities include applying for a Children's

Waiver; funding community integration; requiring insurance to cover ASD; examining feasibility of extending Early Intervention through age 5; improving interagency work on transition from school to adult services; supporting evidence-based practices; and establishing an Autism Information Clearinghouse. (20 ILCS 1705/57; Dec. 2006, 12 pp.)

#### *Child care, FY 2006*

In FY 2006 the Department spent \$674.2 million on employment-related child care programs and served 299,478 children; \$616.2 million went to subsidized child care. Average monthly payment per full-time child was \$328 (including subsidy & co-pay). To qualify (but not be guaranteed service) a family had to earn less than 50% of the state median income. In FY 2006 the maximum income level for a family of four was \$36,192. The average family size for child care assistance participants is 3.3. Participants are primarily single-parent families (96.6%) and at or below the federal poverty threshold (54.6%). (20 ILCS 505/5.15; Apr. 2007, 41 pp.)

#### *Homeless Prevention Program, FY 2006*

In FY 2006, Program received \$3.04 million from State General Revenue Fund and \$1.99 million in federal TANF funds. Funds were divided among 21 continua of care centers. Program served 8,984 households, of which 71% were families with children. An average of 428 households per center received benefits, averaging \$561 per household. Eighty-six percent of all participants remained housed at least 6 months after FY 2006; approximately 75% of those were families. (310 ILCS 70/13; April 2007, 39 pp.+ graphs)

#### **Illinois Community College Board** *Adult education and family literacy, FY 2006*

Adult education programs served 132,266 students in FY 2006. Of

those, 58.9% were in English as a second language classes; 22.6% in adult basic education; 13.7% in GED classes; 2.4% in vocational training; and 2.1% in high school credit. In all, 18,693 students were employed in the first quarter following their program exit, and 83% of those were still employed in the third quarter. The Internet-based GED Illinois Online system had 3,500 participating students. There are currently 101 providers, primarily community colleges (39); public schools/regional offices of education (30); and community-based organizations (30). (105 ILCS 405/2-4; Feb. 2007, 3 pp.)

#### *Biennial report, 2005-2006*

Illinois Community College Board oversees 48 public community colleges in 39 districts. In FY 2005, 36,020 students earned career and technical degree certificates. In FY 2006, 14,737 students earned baccalaureate/transfer degrees. A task force developed a model Associate in Applied Science degree to help the state meet employment requirements under No Child Left Behind. During the 2005-2006 program years, \$3.5 million in state funds was dedicated to expand student access to higher education through programs such as dual credit. (110 ILCS 805/2-10; Feb. 2007, 16 pp.)

#### **Illinois Delegation to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws**

##### *Report, 2006*

NCCUSL proposed eight new laws and modifications in 2006: (1) Uniform Anatomical Gift Act revises organ donation acts of 1968 and 1987; (2) Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act authorizes courts to consider probability of child abduction in child custody cases; (3) Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act authorizes recognition of another state's licenses for healthcare practitioners who volunteer to provide assistance in emergency situations; (4) Uniform Limited Liability Company

Act replaces Uniform Act of 1969 and authorizes filing a certificate of registration to create a limited liability company; (5) Uniform Power of Attorney Act replaces Uniform Act of 1969 and provides a form power of attorney that must be accepted by any third party; (6) Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act adds charitable institutions to Act, no matter how they are organized, which was not included in earlier Uniform Act; (7) Model Registered Agents Act allows a state to use the same rules when registering agents for partnerships, limited liability companies, and corporations; (8) Uniform Representation of Children in Abuse, Neglect, and Custody Proceedings Act attempts to answer the question of who represents a child in custody or support proceedings. (25 ILCS 135/5.07; Dec. 2006, 17 pp.)

#### **Insurance, Dept. of**

##### *Insurance cost containment report, 2006*

Direct written premiums (premiums charged to policyholders) totaled \$20.8 billion in 2005, 4.2% of total written premiums nationwide. Direct pure loss ratio (losses divided by direct earned premium) declined to 56.5% (62.1% in 2004). The HHI, a measure of market concentration and market share, indicates that the market for medical malpractice insurance is highly concentrated (4471 HHI); HHI above 1800 indicates that the market could be approaching anti-competitive behavior. HHI's for other insurance lines (homeowners, private passenger automobile, commercial auto liability, and other liability) were below 1800. (215 ILCS 5/1202(d); July 2006, 36 pp. + appendices)

#### **Joint Committee on Administrative Rules**

##### *Annual report, 2006*

In 2006, JCAR considered 370 general rulemakings, 65 emergency rulemakings, and 37 peremptory and exempt rulemakings. JCAR actions

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on general rulemakings included 23 objections, 18 recommendations, and 5 prohibitions; actions on emergency rulemakings included 10 objections and 4 recommendations; there was 1 objection on a peremptory rulemaking. Summarizes some rulemakings and related court decisions, lists rulemakings and JCAR action by agency, and lists historical data on rulemakings since 1978. (5 ILCS 100/5-140; Feb. 2007, 98 pp.)

### Joint Task Force on Rural Health and Medically Underserved Areas

*Final report, 2006*

Task force has 5 priority recommendations: (1) resolve Medicaid provider payment issues; (2) increase funding for programs and services authorized by the Rural/Downstate Health Act; (3) increase basic grants for local public health departments; (4) increase telemedicine capabilities; and (5) increase access to specialty and sub-specialty care through a combination of more prompt payment, adjusted Medicaid reimbursement, and incentives to specialty providers. (2005 H.J. Res. 5 and 2006 H.J. Res. 83; Jan. 2007, 38 pp.)

### Juvenile Justice, Dept. of

*Quarterly report on adult and juvenile facilities, January 2007*

There were 1,468 youth in all juvenile institutions in November 2006, which is below the rated capacity of 1,754. There were 1,310 juveniles in educational and vocational programs. Juveniles in single cells are 48% of the population; double cells, 46%; and multi-cells, 6%. (730 ILCS 5/3-5-3.1; Jan. 2007, 10 pp.)

### Labor Relations Board

*Annual report, 2006*

In FY 2006 the Board handled 338 unfair labor practice charges, 298 representation cases, 288 mediation/arbitration cases, 14 grievance arbitration,

and 2 strike investigations, and issued 1 declaratory ruling. Contains an overview of the Board's function and major case summaries. The Board's budget for FY 2006 was \$1.9 million (5 ILCS 315/5(e); undated, rec'd Feb. 2007, 45 pp.)

### Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board

*Mobile Team Training Units annual report, FY 2006*

The 16 units trained 53,380 police officers and criminal justice professionals at an average cost of \$145.49. Total expenditures of \$7.76 million came from federal, state, and local funds. The units offered 85 mandatory firearm courses to 580 officers. A 10-year review of mobile team unit operations is provided. (50 ILCS 760/6; Jan. 2007, 12 pp.)

### Medical District at Springfield Commission

*Biennial report, 2005-2006*

Commission accomplishments include completing a master plan that was approved by the Springfield City Council; establishing a marketing plan to be implemented when funding is available; collaborating on a Medical District Expo; meeting with private and public groups to plan for real estate needs; maintaining a Web site; giving presentations to increase public awareness; and obtaining a grant to analyze the transportation infrastructure within the District. Commission received \$308,468 in funding and spent \$307,219. (70 ILCS 915/2; Feb. 2007, 4 pp. + 3 addendums)

### Property Tax Appeal Board

*Annual report, 2006*

Board hears property tax assessment appeals for residential, commercial, industrial, and farm property and decides on assessment. Lists by county total reduction request of at least \$100,000, total cases decided, and total change in assessed value from 2000 through 2005 (industrial and commercial appeals only). On assessments

made from 2000 to 2005, the Board decided 29,676 commercial and industrial cases (4,781 of which requested more than \$100,000 in assessed value reduction). The resulting change in assessed value was \$1.09 billion (\$849.1 million in total change based on stipulations and \$247.8 million based on Board decisions excluding stipulations). The Board also closed 6,331 residential appeals in calendar year 2006. (35 ILCS 200/16-190(b); Jan. 2007, 13 pp.)

### Public Safety Shared Services Center

*Summary of results of Executive Order 06-6 (2006)*

Executive Order reorganized human resources and fiscal offices within Department of Corrections, Department of Juvenile Justice, State Police, Emergency Management Agency, State Fire Marshal, Criminal Justice Information Authority, Police Merit Board, Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, and Prisoner Review Board. The Center has held planning meetings and set a timeline for reorganization with plans to transition approximately 144 employees. Recommends regulation change to allow electronic approval and submittal of vouchers. (15 ILCS 15/11; May 2007, 2 pp.)

### Redeploy Illinois

*Annual report, FY 2007*

Redeploy Illinois pilot program, created in 2004, gives financing to counties to provide services to delinquent youths at risk of being sent to Department of Corrections. In 2005, four pilot programs began to reduce juvenile commitments by at least 25%. In the first two years of implementation, the Redeploy Illinois pilot sites, on average, reduced commitments to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice by 44% (226 youth), saving \$7.97 million. (730 ILCS 110/16.1(g)(1)(ii)(F); May 2007, 11 pp.)

### School Wellness Policy Task Force

*School nutrition standards recommendations, Jan. 2007*

Task Force recommends that, at a

minimum, Illinois should ensure that (a) all food and beverages available during the school day are consistent with the recommendations of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans; and (b) food and beverages available to students through school-sponsored events, classroom parties, classroom snacks, and rewards meet the district's nutrition standards as stated in its local wellness policy. The Task Force suggests that these standards be implemented by each local education agency by July 1, 2009. These recommendations, if adopted, should also be reviewed at least every 2 years by a nutrition standards work group convened by the State Board of Education. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.137; Jan. 2007, 10 pp.)

#### **Social Security Number Protection Task Force**

*Report, 2006*

The task force recommends that: (1) state and local governments implement Social Security Number (SSN) policies that include employee training; (2) laws that apply to the business community, when possible, should also apply to all governmental entities; and (3) a Unique Identification System should be explored to move from SSNs as a method of identification. (20 ILCS 4040/10(c); June 2006, 8 pp.)

#### **State Fire Marshal**

*Annual report, 2006*

Illinois fire-related deaths were 124. There were 1,501 arson investigations with 365 canine assists, which led to 168 arrests. The Office performed 45,583 boiler and pressure vessel inspections and 15,118 fire prevention inspections; and inspected 2,703 self-service petroleum facilities, issuing 1,296 notices of violation. The Office administered 12,086 examinations and issued approximately 9,926 firefighter certifications. The first phase of the fire truck revolving loan program began in 2006, with 63 fire departments receiving 0% interest loans. The Fire Equipment Exchange Program

received 300 items, allowing over 45 departments to receive needed equipment. (50 ILCS 740/13; Feb. 2007, 23 pp. + fact sheet requested by LRU)

#### **State Employees' Retirement System**

*Social Security biennial report, 2006*

At 2006 yearend, 4,571 local governments extended Social Security to employees; 3,181 (70%) of them were also under the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund. Chicago and Cook County are under other retirement systems, and are not in Social Security. (40 ILCS 5/21-120; rec'd April 2007, 10 pp.)

#### **State Employees Suggestion Award Board**

*Annual report, 2006*

Certificate of Merit sent to one employee for suggestion to install weather stripping on the entrance door of an unspecified building. The Committee voted to remove Social Security numbers from suggestion forms. (20 ILCS 405/405-130(b); July 2007, 2 pp.)

#### **State Police, Dept. of**

*Use of eavesdropping devices, 2006*

Reports from 62 counties on 792 applications (708 original + 84 extensions) for eavesdropping with the consent of one party. Types of crimes investigated were: 76% drug-related, 8% sex-related, 7% not reported, 4% other, 3% theft-related, and 2% murder-related. Eavesdropping brought 1,395 arrests with 288 convictions, 138 arrests pending, and 309 trials pending. Table gives basic facts on each order, including county, requesting agency, and type of crime suspected. (725 ILCS 5/108A-11(c); April 2007)

#### **State Universities Retirement System**

*Minority- or female-owned investment managers, 2006*

As of June 30, 2006, 21 of SURS' 36 investment management firms (58.3%)

are emerging or minority- or women-owned (EMW) firms. Of the \$14.2 billion in SURS' actively managed program, EMW firms managed \$1.91 billion (13.4%)—a 36% increase from the \$1.40 billion managed in 2005. Explains SURS' method of selecting investment managers and includes affirmative action reports of emerging businesses and others providing investment services to SURS. (40 ILCS 5/1-109.1; Aug. 2006, 14 pp. + appendices)

#### **Task Force on Growth Models**

*Annual report, 2006*

Task Force was created to study growth models used to evaluate adequate yearly progress (AYP) of special needs students under the No Child Left Behind Act. Task force met 5 times (including one subcommittee meeting) and determined: (1) Illinois is not eligible to participate in the 2007 pilot of the federal AYP program due to the lateness of scores and peer review results; (2) Illinois must follow federal requirements to participate in the pilot; (3) growth pilots are not intended to replace AYP goals for 100% of students to achieve proficiency in 2014; (4) high schools are difficult to measure with the current system due to one data point; and (5) sufficient test data are not yet available for building growth models. The members also made recommendations in the areas of growth model development, research, support to schools and districts, and alternative schools. (S.J.R. 87 (2006); Jan. 2007, 14 pp.)

#### **Tollway Authority**

*Annual report, 2006*

Toll revenues in 2006 were \$582 million, and operating expenses were \$214 million. Open Road Tolling was completed with the elimination of 20 barrier toll plazas. The I-355 South Extension connecting I-55 to I-80 is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2007. The first phase of construction on the South Tri-State Tollway

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(I-294) was completed; repair, rebuilding, and widening of it and the Reagan Memorial Tollway are planned. The Motorist's Assistance Program helped 35,526 Tollway drivers, and the Photo Speed Enforcement Van Program was launched to enforce construction speed zones. (605 ILCS 10/23(e); June 2007, 16 pp.)

### Transportation, Dept. of *Diesel emissions annual report, FY 2007*

Department of Transportation diesel emission testing program operates in 9 counties and 3 townships with 55 public and 41 private testing stations. Department tested 8,455 vehicles, passing 7,803 and failing 145. Twenty-one vehicles failed inspection more than once. (625 ILCS 5/13-102.1; June 2007, 1 p.)

### Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP) Task Force

*Findings and recommendations, 2006*  
Task Force was created to recommend best use of state grants for truants and potential dropouts from kindergarten through age 21. Recommendations include: a funding formula with a \$30,000 base for each education region, with 50% of funds distributed based on chronic truancy and dropout rates as reported by ISBE

and 50% distributed based on DHS's poverty count; a \$3 million increase in state funding; and modifying the grant Request for Proposal to prevent overlapping services and to provide statistical data for evaluators. Recommends reconvening in one year for further review. (H. Res. 905 (2006), Dec. 2006, 3 pp.)

### Women's Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment, Subcommittee on *Specialized alcohol & drug treatment services for women, 2006*

Subcommittee was created to advise Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA) and Advisory Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependence. The Subcommittee recommends gender-specific certification for substance abuse counselors. Areas to be addressed in the next three year plan are: (1) training; (2) child care and child welfare; (3) adolescent female services; and (4) female criminal justice services. (20 ILCS 301/10-10(e); Dec. 2006, 37 pp.)

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## FIRST READING

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