**Section 104.970 Recommended Decision**

a) After the close of a hearing, the administrative law judge shall prepare a written recommended decision based upon the evidence adduced at the hearing or otherwise included in the record. The recommended decision shall contain findings of fact and recommendations. The recommended decision shall be issued within 60 days after the closing of the record at hearing.

b) The recommended decision shall be submitted to the Director of the Department. The administrative law judge shall also send a copy of the recommended decision to all parties or their counsel.

c) Any party may file written exceptions with the Director of the Department within 10 days after receipt of the recommended decision. Any adverse party may file with the Director a written response to any such exceptions within 5 days after receipt of the exceptions.

(Source: Added at 36 Ill. Reg. 7530, effective May 7, 2012)