



SR0113

LRB102 04422 MST 14440 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, On May 15, 2020, several members of the General Assembly received panicked phone calls and emails concerning private personal identification information, such as social security numbers, addresses, and birth dates, being published publicly on the Illinois Department of Employment Security's (IDES) website; and

8

WHEREAS, The private information being published by IDES pertained to tens of thousands of individuals who had applied for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits as a result of the government shut down of businesses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

13

WHEREAS, Governor Pritzker and IDES entered into two no-bid contracts with private sector companies totaling \$22 million of taxpayer money to help assist in upgrading IDES's antiquated website and claims systems; and

17

WHEREAS, Prior to May 11, 2020, the day the new IDES became operational, the general public and members of the General Assembly were assured that upon completion of the upgrades to the system then IDES would be able to handle the large number of applications more efficiently, and the application process for unemployment benefits would be easier and more secure; and

1 WHEREAS, Since the beginning of the government shut down
2 of businesses on March 16, 2020, a record number of over one
3 million Illinoisans have filed for unemployment benefits, with
4 many having to repeatedly call IDES while waiting for weeks
5 without income; and

6 WHEREAS, Upon learning about the publication of the
7 private personal information on IDES's website,
8 then-Representative Terri Bryant immediately notified members
9 of the Governor's staff and the IDES staff and asked them to
10 resolve the data breach; and

11 WHEREAS, The day following the data breach, having not
12 received sufficient answers as to how the breach happened and
13 who was affected, then-Representative Terri Bryant submitted a
14 letter to the Governor's office requesting those answers; and

15 WHEREAS, On May 21, 2020, five days after the request for
16 answers from the Governor's office and still not having
17 received an adequate response, a subsequent letter was sent
18 from several members of the House Republican Caucus asking
19 that the Governor respond; and

20 WHEREAS, Every day that goes by without knowing whose
21 information was published, how long the information was

1 available, and who was able to access the information leaves
2 thousands of Illinoisans, who are already suffering from job
3 loss, vulnerable to identity theft; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Auditor General is
6 directed to conduct an audit of the Illinois Department of
7 Employment Security and the unemployment benefits application
8 system; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the audit include, but not be limited to,
10 the following determinations:

11 (1) For what period of time the personal information
12 of unemployment applicants was available for access by
13 other applicants and the public;

14 (2) Whether or not the data breach has been fully
15 resolved;

16 (3) The possibility of another data breach;

17 (4) The number of applicants whose information was
18 published;

19 (5) The vulnerability to identity theft or other
20 security issues of those whose information was published;

21 (6) Any other vulnerabilities regarding the
22 information of the millions of Illinoisans who have
23 applied for unemployment benefits; and

24 (7) A review of the contracts awarded to Deloitte

1 Consulting for assisting IDES in the upgrading of its IT
2 services; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That IDES and any other State agency or entity
4 having information relevant to the audit shall cooperate fully
5 and promptly in the conduct of the audit; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Auditor General commence this audit as
7 soon as possible and report his findings and recommendations
8 upon completion in accordance with the provisions of Section
9 3-14 of the Illinois State Auditing Act; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Audit Commission is urged
11 to review the findings of this audit in a public meeting, and
12 the General Assembly is urged to take any actions that it deems
13 necessary or desirable to implement the recommendations made
14 by the audit and to remedy any problems or dysfunctions
15 uncovered by the audit; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
17 delivered to Governor JB Pritzker, Department of Employment
18 Security Acting Director Kristin Richards, Auditor General
19 Frank J. Mautino, and Legislative Audit Commission Executive
20 Director Jane Stricklin.