



SR0063

LRB097 10464 AEK 50702 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Recent media reports indicate that since 2008, nearly \$10 million in State taxpayer funds has been awarded in workers' compensation payments to more than 230 employees at the Menard Correctional Center who contended they were injured through repetitive trauma caused by operating manual cell locking mechanisms; and

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WHEREAS, Recent media reports also indicate that approximately 25% of the arbitrators employed by the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission have received workers' compensation awards, including nearly \$50,000 to the arbitrator who approved many of the workers' compensation settlements to the employees at the Menard Correctional Center; and

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WHEREAS, According to the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission, many of these payments were "uncontested settlements" and information regarding the payments or process of awarding the payments is not included in a database maintained by the Commission, therefore, the public did not have access to information regarding these awards; and

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WHEREAS, Recent media reports indicate that due to a tragic 2007 crash involving then-State trooper Matt Mitchell, he is

1 seeking workers' compensation because of injuries suffered in
2 the wreck; and

3 WHEREAS, Recent media reports also indicate that Illinois
4 Workers' Compensation Commission arbitrator Jennifer Teague
5 took steps to conceal a public hearing regarding the workers'
6 compensation claim by Matt Mitchell from the public; therefore,
7 be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we call upon the U.S.
10 Attorney or the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or both, to
11 conduct an investigation of awards approved by the Illinois
12 Workers' Compensation Commission for claims filed by employees
13 of Menard Correctional Center and arbitrators employed by the
14 Commission from 2008 to the present; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we call upon the U.S. Attorney or the
16 Federal Bureau of Investigation, or both, to conduct an
17 investigation of actions by Jennifer Teague regarding a hearing
18 for a workers' compensation claim by former State trooper Matt
19 Mitchell; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Workers' Compensation
21 Commission and any other State agency, entity, or person that
22 may have information relevant to this investigation shall

1 cooperate fully and promptly with the process; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be presented to
4 the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District
5 of Illinois and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.