

ABSTRACTS OF STATE REPORTS

JANUARY 2022

COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Reports Filed with the General Assembly

The CGFA staff is required to prepare abstracts of reports required to be filed with the General Assembly (25 ILCS 130/10-6). 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.

Central Management Services, Dept. of

Recycling and recycled paper procurement update, FY 2021

In FY 2021, paper recycling vendors recycled 1.4 million pounds of paper as part of the I-Cycle program. Forty-four percent of paper products CMS bought for state agencies came from recycled products. In addition, 8,774 pounds of material were recovered from lamp and battery recycling.

The report also lists other achievements. (415 ILCS 20/3(j); undated, rec'd Nov. 2021, 6 pp.)

State-owned & surplus real property, 2021

No surplus real property was conveyed by CMS in 2021. (30 ILCS 605/7.1(e); issued & rec'd Jan. 2022, 1 p.)

Commerce Commission

Natural gas markets development, 2021 (2020 data)

ICC certified 55 alternative gas suppliers (AGS); and some 86 AGS actively served customers in 2020. (The difference in those certified and those serving is because large volume transportation (LVT) suppliers are not required to be certified.) Illinois has four utility service

territories, served by Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas, North Shore Gas, and Ameren Illinois; all but Ameren have small volume transportation (SVT) programs that allow residential and small commercial customers to pick suppliers. The report describes current market competitiveness, and use of AGS in LVT and SVT markets; no recommendations were made. (220 ILCS 5/19-130; Oct. 2021, rec'd Nov. 2021, 23 pp.)

Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Dept. of

Report to the Restore Illinois Collaborative Commission, November 2021

The report describes actions under the Restore Illinois plan for responding to COVID-19, including support to businesses, residents, and local governments.

As of November 10, DCEO had awarded \$59 million in Back to Business grants to 1,470 businesses. Community Navigators have provided technical assistance to 146,356 businesses. Applications are being accepted for the Rebuild Downtowns and Main Streets and the Tourism Attractions and Festivals grant programs. Federal funds for child

care, apprenticeships, and workforce recovery are being awarded. Under Local CURES (Local Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Support Program), \$250 million is available for COVID-19 expenditures for local governments outside of Cook, Lake, Will, Kane, and DuPage counties. As of November 10, \$224.5 million had been paid to 958 local governments. In round 1 of the Illinois Rental Payment Program, over \$517 million was disbursed to 57,013 applicants. (20 ILCS 605/605-1045(c); issued and rec'd Nov. 2021, 9 pp.)

Legislative Reference Bureau

Illinois delegation to National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, 2021

The Commissioners study state laws to recommend which should be uniform. They proposed 6 new acts in 2021: Uniform Cohabitants' Economic Remedies Act; Uniform College Athlete Name, Image, or Likeness Act; Uniform Community Property Disposition at Death Act; Uniform Personal Data Protection Act; Uniform Restrictive Employment

Agreement Act; and Uniform Unregulated Child Custody Transfer Act. They also proposed amendments to the Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act. (25 ILCS 135/5.07; Dec. 2021, rec'd Jan. 2022, 20 pp.)

Public Health, Dept. of

Food deserts annual report update, 2020 (2019 data)

This report updates a November, 2020 report that used 2015 data. It states that there has been an increase in census tracts meeting the definition of a food desert from 2015 to 2019. Measurements are based on how many people in a tract are low-income and how far they have to travel to a supermarket. In one measure, the percentage of tracts that are low-income and in which urban residents must travel more than a mile and rural residents more than 10 miles to the nearest market increased from 8.9% in 2015 to 10.2% in 2019; most of those tracts were in Cook County. (20 ILCS 2310/2310-22; July 2021, rec'd Dec. 2021, 11 pp.)

Health and Hazardous Substances Registry annual report, FY 2021

The registry collects and analyzes data on selected public health concerns and hazardous exposures. In FY 2021, the registry received \$3.9 million in federal funds and nearly \$41,716 from other sources. It responded to 11 general

information requests; 28 requests for epidemiologic reports and registry data; 13 special data requests or collaborations with outside researchers; and 3 inquiries about perceived high local cancer rates. It released 5 reports in the Epidemiologic Report Series and 4 written reports for quality control studies of registry data. It also submitted 9 grant proposals, authored or co-authored 8 papers for peer-reviewed journals, and contributed data for 12 published studies by outside researchers. The report also reviews activities and progress toward FY 2021 goals and lists FY 2022 goals. (410 ILCS 525/8; Nov. 2021, rec'd Dec. 2021, 40 pp.)

State Board of Education

Annual report, 2021

Estimated FY 2022 appropriations for elementary and secondary education are about \$362.1 million more than in FY 2021. Of \$7.8 billion in federal COVID-19 pandemic relief funds, 90% goes directly to school districts based on how many low-income students they serve, and 10% is directed by ISBE. The pandemic had a significant impact on student enrollment and performance. Nearly 70,000 fewer students enrolled in the 2020-21 school year compared to the previous year. One in five students was chronically absent, a 21% increase over 2019. Preliminary data shows far fewer students (about 17% less) met grade-level

standards in English and math in 2021 compared to 2019. The rate of ninth-graders on track to graduate dropped 5% from 2019 to 2021; but the four-year graduation rate held steady with 2019 at 86%, and more students than ever took college and career preparation coursework in the 2020-21 school year. Almost half (48.1%) of all public school students in Illinois qualify as low-income, compared to 41% fifteen years ago. Students of color are 53.3% of Illinois students; the percentage of English Learners held steady at 13%. The average class size decreased from 22 to 20. The report also provides data on numerous additional statistics related to public education. (105 ILCS 5/1A-4E; Dec. 2021, rec'd Jan. 2022, 60 pp.)

Transportation, Dept. of

Chief Procurement Office, IDOT small business contracting report, FY 2021

IDOT reported total FY 2021 spending on construction projects of \$1.77 billion, with about \$287.5 million (16.2%) to small businesses. Small businesses received 869 contracts, with an average contract amount of \$330,875. IDOT reports that its FY 2022 small business compliance plan has been submitted to the Chief Procurement Officer, and he has approved it with some suggestions, listed in the report, to increase the pool of qualified small business contractors. (30 ILCS 500/45-90(f); Oct. 2021, rec'd Nov. 2021, 2 pp.)

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