

House and Senate Chambers are Renovated

Illinois' House and Senate chambers have been getting major renovations to upgrade structural components and make them look more like they did in 1888, after the State House was completed. The Senate chamber was renovated in time for the swearing-in of new members of the 95th General Assembly, but the House chamber was not ready until February 6. Photographs on the following pages show the renovations at various stages in each chamber.

These renovations are part of a major construction project that also includes asbestos removal and replacing the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems throughout the building. Both chambers have new audio and electrical systems, flooring, carpeting, and desks. New woodwork and wall paneling replicate the original designs. The House chamber is getting annex areas, along with the laylight, a light fixture resembling the skylight formerly in the center of the ceiling. Press boxes in the Senate chamber were lowered as well.

The renovations began immediately after adjournment on May 4, 2006. They were to be ready by the November veto session, but delays moved the veto session to downtown Springfield. The House convened in the Old State Capitol, and the Senate in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Shuttle buses ran between those locations and the State House so legislators could use their offices and attend committee hearings.

During sessions, legislators shared laptops and microphones due to electrical limitations in the buildings. Votes had to be cast orally because the electronic voting systems in the State House could not be easily replicated. Representatives met again in the Old State Capitol January 7-9 to consider a veto and other bills (the Senate met in its renovated chamber). Representatives in the 95th General Assembly were sworn in at the Sangamon Auditorium of the University of Illinois at Springfield; the renovated Senate chamber was used for the Senate's swearing-in.

This was the first use of the Old State Capitol for governmental purposes since the Sixth Illinois Constitutional Convention in 1970. During the last major renovations of the chambers in the 1970s, legislators met in the Howlett Building auditorium. A special session in June 2000 was also held there due to ceiling repairs in the chambers.

The cost of the chamber renovations is about \$18.7 million. Renovations to the remainder of the State House will continue for 4 to 5 years.

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House Chamber before renovation began.



Picture by Jeff Schuette, House Democratic Photographer. Taken March 2006.

Senate Chamber before renovation began.



Picture by Brandy Rees, Senate Democratic Photographer. Taken October 2003.

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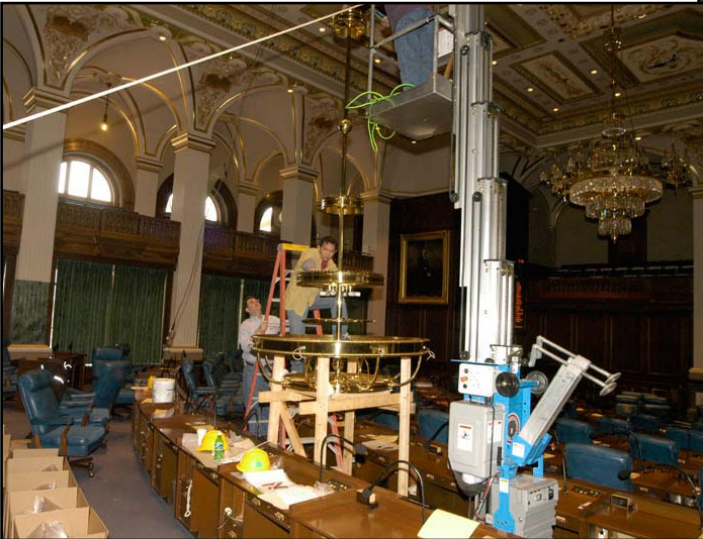
House Chamber Renovation

Unless noted, pictures courtesy of Jeff Schuette, House Democratic Photographer.



Overall view of chamber before construction.

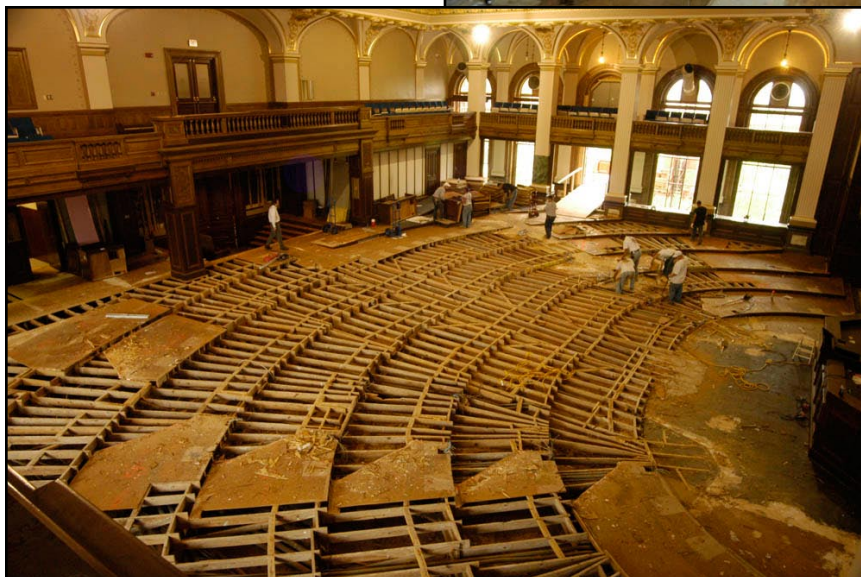
Lincoln & Douglas portraits removed to prevent damage.



Chandeliers, which lower for cleaning, were removed for ceiling work.



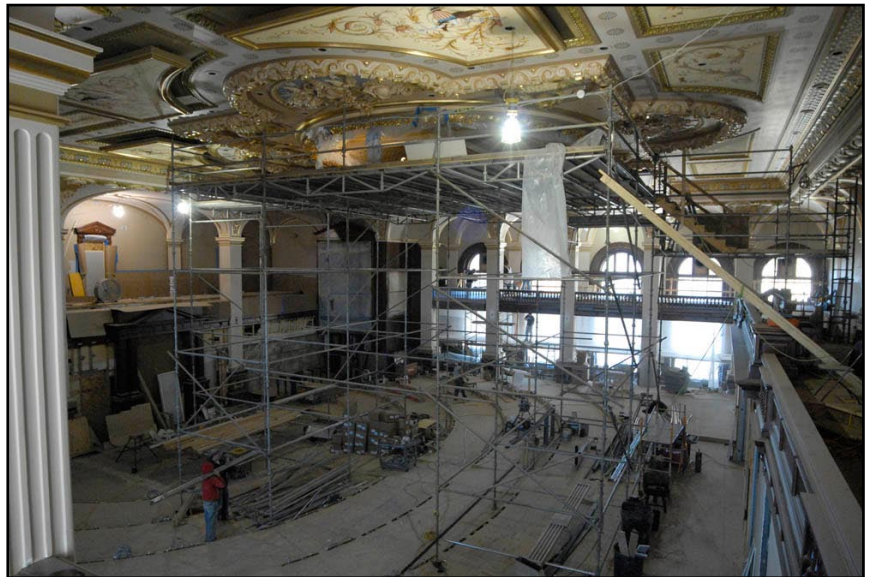
The chamber in the midst of demolition.



Pictures of the House floor being completely redone to fix structural problems.



Cleaners and filters were installed as the HVAC system was modernized.



The “wagon wheel” in the chamber ceiling was removed and changed to a laylight.



View of construction from the outside.



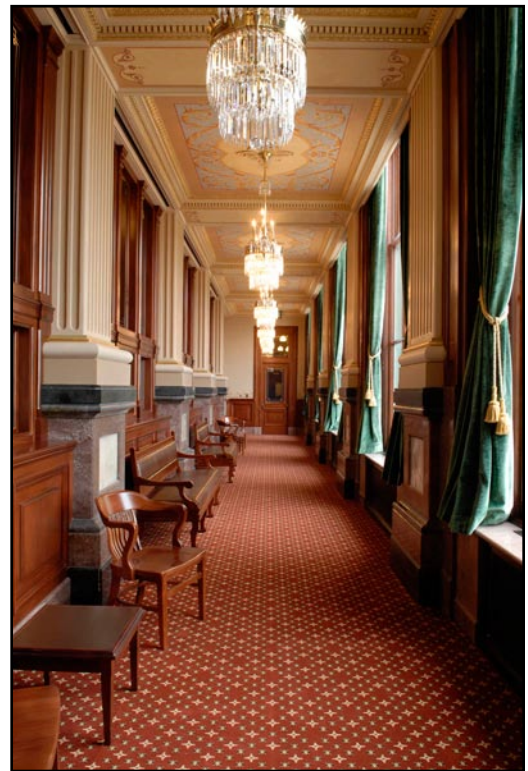
Lighted maidens were added to provide historical detail.



Detailed woodworking was used to reflect period style.



Detailed woodworking replaced stark right angles.

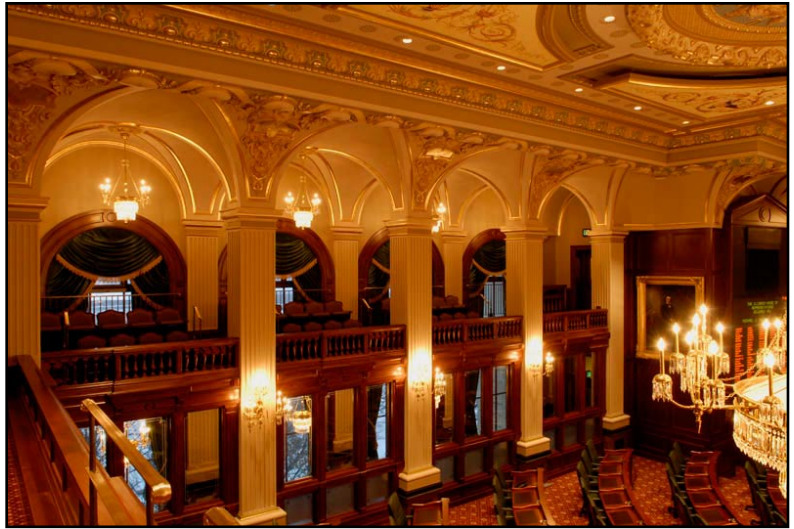


Marble and new chandeliers completed the side corridor renovations. (Picture by Russ Nagel, House Democratic Photographer.)



The newly installed laylight in the House ceiling.

New lighting was added to brighten the chamber. (Picture by Russ Nagel, House Democratic Photographer.)



House chamber after renovation. (Picture by Russ Nagel, House Democratic Photographer.)

Senate Chamber Renovation

Unless noted, pictures provided by Cindy Davidsmeyer, Senate Press Secretary, and David Hrabal, Vinci-Hamp Architects, Inc.



Photo courtesy of Steve Dyer.

Plaster patch where ceiling speaker was removed.



South Gallery railing being removed.



Overall view of chamber under construction.

Stencils discovered on north wall of chamber.



New side walls from side corridor.



New Sergeant's desk.

Newly refinished wood and existing wood on south wall of chamber.

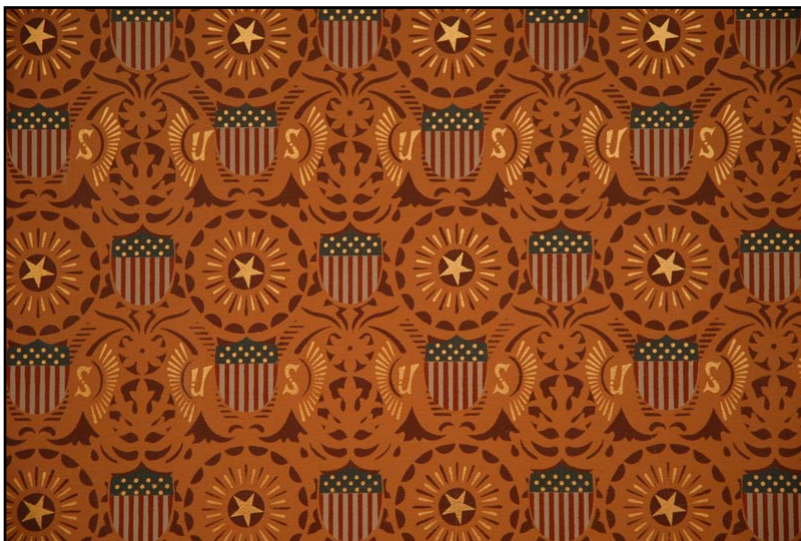


Three new desks with some of the stone base.



Senate ceiling. (Picture by Brandy Rees, Senate Democratic Photographer.)

Detail from ceiling. (Picture by Brandy Rees, Senate Democratic Photographer.)



New stencil design on walls. (Picture by Brandy Rees, Senate Democratic Photographer.)



New roll-top desk. (Picture by Brandy Rees, Senate Democratic Photographer.)



New detail of light post at the well. (Picture by Brandy Rees, Senate Democratic Photographer.)



Plaque noting renovations. (Picture by Brandy Rees, Senate Democratic Photographer.)



Finished chamber. (Picture by Kevin Jones, LRU).

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.

Agriculture, Dept. of

Farmland conversion annual report, FY 2005

State agencies purchased or affected 61,553 total acres of land between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005. The EPA converted most land (38,892 acres) for facility planning area boundary changes in 12 counties. Other major conversions included those made by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (10,162); Commerce Commission (7,024); and the Departments of Natural Resources (4,091) and Transportation (1,384). Also lists conversions by county. (505 ILCS 75/6; March 2006, 11 pp.)

Central Management Services, Dept. of

Bilingual needs and pay survey, 2005

Of the 27 responding agencies, 26 reported needing bilingual employees, with a total of 1,581 employees in bilingual positions; 16 of the 27 agencies reported that they did not have as many bilingual employees as they needed. The Department of Children and Family Services reported needing 223 bilingual employees, but had only 183, all of whom received bilingual pay. The Department of Employment Security reported needing 160 bilingual employees, but had only 141, all of whom received bilingual pay. The Department of Healthcare and Family Services reported requiring 128 bilingual employees, but had only 86, 81 of whom received bilingual pay. (20 ILCS 415/9(6); Dec. 2005, 8 pp.)

Summary of results of Executive Order 10 (2003)

The consolidation of facilities management for agencies, offices, divisions, departments, bureaus, boards, and commissions directly responsible to the Governor into the Department of Central Management Services (CMS) began in July 2003. Agency states that consolidation has resulted in an annual recurring savings of \$30 million since FY 2003. (15 ILCS 15/11; Oct. 2006, 3 pp.)

Commerce Commission

Competition in Illinois retail electric markets, 2005

Non-coincidental peak demand was 29,812 megawatts, growing almost 1.3% annually since 1991. Alternative Retail Electric Suppliers made 16.3% of all electric retail sales. The total number of customers receiving delivery service from ComEd remained flat in 2005; delivery service decreased by 80% in the AmerenCIPS service area, and decreased by 60% in the AmerenIP service area. Twelve Retail Electric Suppliers sold power and energy to retailers in 2005, two more than in 2004. (220 ILCS 5/16-120(b); May 2006, 10 pp.)

Public utilities annual report, 2005

Reviews ICC's major decisions and other activities in calendar year 2005 and gives overviews of the industries listed. Lists major electric utilities' average prices per kilowatt-hour and major gas utilities' average prices per therm in northern, central, and southern Illinois in 2000-2004. Also compares rates of major water and sewer utilities, and reviews federal

actions affecting state utility service. (220 ILCS 5/4-304; Jan. 2006, 63 pp. + 2 appendices)

Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Dept. of

Business Enterprise Program annual report, FY 2005

State agencies and universities awarded over \$386.9 million in contracts to businesses under the Business Enterprise Program for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities, surpassing its goal of \$320.8 million. Minority-owned businesses received \$225 million (58%), non-minority women-owned businesses received \$142 million (37%), and disability-owned businesses received \$19.8 million (5%). Total value of the contracts under this program is \$1.1 billion since FY 2003. Also lists individual agencies' and universities' goals and achievements. (30 ILCS 575/8f; March 2006, 23 pp.)

Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) Tax Credit Program Annual Report, 2005

The EDGE Tax Credit Program awards tax credits to eligible businesses to foster job creation and retention in Illinois. Eligibility depends on amount of capital investment and number of jobs created, though minimums may be waived if the business is located in a distressed area, would generate spin-off businesses, or would avert loss of a major employer. Contains profiles of the 64 projects approved in 2006 (5,282 projected jobs created; 7,833 projected jobs retained; \$834,325,730 projected private investment) and updates on the tax status of prior projects that have received or lost tax credits. (20 ILCS 620/5(c); June 2006, 38 pp.)

Energy Conservation Technical Assistance annual report, 2005

The Energy Performance Contracting program assisted with projects totaling \$73.5, with annual utility savings of over \$9.6 million. DCEO partnered with the International Code Council and other professional organizations

to train over 1,200 local code officials, engineers, architects, and contractors on the International Energy Conservation Code. Under the Illinois Institutional Conservation Program, seven projects received grants totaling \$112,424 for technical assistance or energy conservation. DCEO has awarded a total of \$26.8 million in grants under this program to improve energy efficiency of schools and hospitals. Grants under the Regional Energy Program have been awarded to 20 communities to fund the development of comprehensive energy efficiency projects. During 2005, five communities received grants totaling \$455,000. Savings under this program are estimated to exceed \$700,000 in 2005. (20 ILCS 1115/5; March 2006, 7 pp.)

Energy Efficiency Trust Fund Program Report, 2005

DCEO's programs for energy efficiency, including programs for low-income households, are described. DCEO invested \$817,086 in the Illinois Energy Efficient Affordable Housing Construction Program in calendar year 2005. "Illinois Home Performance with Energy Star," part of a federal program designed to reduce home energy bills through energy-efficient retrofits, is in the pilot stage in the Peoria area. (20 ILCS 687/6-6(e); undated, rec'd June 2006, 15 pp.)

High-Impact Business Designation
Triumph Foods, LLC plans to invest over \$119.6 million and create 1,000 new jobs in East Moline. The company qualifies for Illinois High Impact Business tax credits and exemptions for up to 20 years, provided it fulfills the minimums for investment and jobs. (20 ILCS 655/5.5(h); June 2006, 2 pp.)

Renewable Energy Resources Program report, 2005

From March 1999 through December 2005, the program has awarded 117 grants and 255 rebates totaling \$26.4 million. In calendar 2005, 46 grants and rebates were funded. Since

the beginning of the program, wind energy programs have received 35% of the funding (\$8.9 million), photovoltaic 33% (\$8.2 million), biomass 11% (\$2.6 million), solar thermal 8% (\$2.1 million), landfill gas 7% (\$1.6 million), and hydro 6% (\$1.5 million). (20 ILCS 687/6-3(e); rec'd May 2006, 12 pp.)

Computer Equipment Disposal and Recycling Commission

Report on Electronics Equipment Disposal and Recycling, 2006
Presents Commission's findings regarding environmentally sound disposal of discarded electronic equipment. Includes the following principal recommendations: (1) creating an entity to administer a statewide electronics recycling program; (2) charging equipment producers for the costs of recycling; (3) reducing recycling fees for manufacturers producing less toxic and more easily recycled products; (4) maintaining a broad-based scope of recyclable products; (5) allowing manufacturers to opt out of the statewide recycling program by demonstrating the effectiveness of their own recycling programs; and (6) making it illegal for any person to knowingly mix any covered electronic device with municipal waste. (415 ILCS 5/22.50(d); May 2006, 27 pp. + 2 appendices)

Corrections, Dept. of
Quarterly report on adult and juvenile facilities, July 1, 2006

There were 45,363 inmates in all adult facilities on May 31, 2006. This was 984 under the projected total for May 2006. The total population in adult transition centers was 1,314—34 over the total capacity of 1,280. There were 10,999 inmates participating in educational and vocational programs. The ratio of security staff to inmates is 0.188. A majority of inmates, 66%, are double-celled with approximately 37 square feet of actual living space per inmate. There were 1,464 youth in all juvenile institutions, which is below the rated capacity of 1,754. There were 1,381 juveniles in educational and vocational programs. Juveniles in

single cells are 47% of the population; double-cells 46%; and multi-cells 7%. (730 ILCS 5/3-5-3.1; July 2006, 26 pp.)

Education, State Board of
Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Elementary and Secondary Education, Progress Report, June 2006

Reports on progress toward achievement of goals set by the 2005 five-year strategic plan, which focused on three areas: enhancing literacy, improving educator quality, and expanding data-driven management and school support practices. Chart details progress on Phases I and II of plan. Warns that Phase III and IV initiatives will need to be delayed, altered, or eliminated because of lower-than-requested appropriations. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.47a(b); June 2006, 30 pp.)

Early Childhood Prevention Initiative report, FY 2006

Grants were provided for 96 projects that served 9,554 parents and 10,051 infants and toddlers who are considered at-risk. About 5,141 parents received home visits, and 4,754 parents participated in parent-child play groups. About half of parents received case management services. Screening for vision, hearing, health, and development were also provided. There were 5,978 parenting workshops offered, and 25,093 parents received the Early Childhood educational newsletter. There were 1,858 parents on the waiting list for services. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.89(c); April 2006, 14 pp.)

Waivers of school code mandates, Spring 2006

Summary chart classifies 193 applications for waivers and modifications into 14 general categories and lists their status: Content of Evaluation Plans (2 transmitted to GA); Driver Education (8 transmitted to GA, 2 withdrawn or returned); Funds (2 transmitted to GA); General State Aid (1 transmitted to GA); Legal School Holidays (101 approved, 6 withdrawn or returned); Limitation

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of Administrative Costs (12 transmitted to GA, 1 withdrawn or returned); Nonresident Tuition (6 transmitted to GA, 1 withdrawn or returned); Parent-Teacher Conferences (15 transmitted to GA, 1 withdrawn or returned); Physical Education (23 transmitted to GA, 1 withdrawn or returned); School Improvement/Inservice Training (5 transmitted to GA, 1 withdrawn or returned); Statement of Affairs (2 transmitted to GA); Substitute Teachers (1 transmitted to GA); Tax Levies (1 transmitted to GA); and Vocational Education (1 approved). Section I summarizes the 78 requests transmitted to the General Assembly. Section II lists the 102 requests acted upon by the State Board. Section III describes the 13 requests withdrawn or returned. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g; Feb. 2006, 57 pp. + executive summary)

Employment Security, Dept. of *The Illinois Workforce: Identifying Progress of Women and Minorities annual report, 2006*

Illinois' workforce participation rate among Hispanics (69.3%), Whites (66.9%), and Asians (67.1%) exceeds national averages (68.6%, 66.3%, 65.9% respectively) while African Americans have the lowest participation rate in Illinois at 62% compared to national average of 63.8% in 2004. Overall, women's participation rate was 59.7%, slightly above national average of 59.3%. Illinois jobs with highest weekly earnings were construction (\$1,063); lowest was sporting goods (\$203). Top Illinois occupation was airline pilot at an annual median wage of \$143,378; lowest was makeup artist at \$13,520. Overall, Illinois' median earnings in 2004 were \$29,052; White, \$30,640; African American, \$25,069; and Hispanic, \$21,132. In 2004, Illinois women earned 75 cents for every dollar earned by a male. In 2004, 18% of Illinois labor force was unionized. Includes occupational

forecasts, career resource directory, and lists of jobs where women earn more than men. (20 ILCS 1505/1505-20; undated, rec'd July 2006, 79 pp.)

Environmental Protection Agency *Nonhazardous solid waste manage- ment and landfill capacity annual report, 2004*

Illinois' 52 landfills received 53.8 million gate cubic yards (16.3 million gate tons) of waste in 2004, down 5.8% from 2003. Total landfill capacity increased 46.2% to 986.5 million gate cubic yards, good for 18 years at 2004 disposal rates (11 years of capacity in metropolitan Chicago). Waste was disposed of as follows: 64.3% was landfilled, 34.1% was recycled, and 1.5% was composted. (415 ILCS 20/4; Dec. 2005, 374 pp.)

Government Forecasting and Ac- countability, Commission on *Budget Summary of the State of Il- linois, Fiscal Year 2007*

The FY 2007 operating budget totaled \$48.5 billion, a \$2.3 billion increase over FY 2006. Of the total, 53% is General Revenue Funds, 35% is other state funds, and 12% is federal funds. The major purposes of the operating budget are human services (49%), education (26%), government services (11%), economic development and infrastructure (7%), public safety (5%), and environment and business regulation (2%). Current G.O. bond authorization for new projects is \$16.9 billion, with approximately \$2.3 billion unissued since June 30, 2006. Build Illinois bond authorization is \$3.8 billion, with approximately \$472 million unissued as of June 30, 2006. No increases have been authorized since January 2004. The FY 2007 budget was enacted by one omnibus appropriation, P.A. 94-798, and four budget implementation laws: Education Budget Implementation, P.A. 94-835; Revenue Budget Implementation, P.A. 94-836; Human Services Budget Implementation, P.A. 94-838; and State Finance Budget Implementation, P.A. 94-839. (25 ILCS 155/3(12); Aug. 2006, 113 pp.)

State employees' group insurance, FY 2007

Department of Healthcare and Family Services projects program will cost \$1.857 billion; the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability projects \$1.895 billion. In FY 2007, a projected 345,609 participants will cost an average \$5,374 per year, up 7.8% from FY 2006. The Quality Care Health Plan accounts for 42.7% of total costs; managed care 46.4%; and dental care, life insurance, vision care, and other miscellaneous charges 11%. The payment cycle for preferred and non-preferred providers is 28 days. (25 ILCS 155/4(b)(2); Mar. 2006, 16 pp. + 4 appendices)

Higher Education, Board of *Budget recommendations, FY 2007*

Total general fund recommendation for operations and grants was \$2.3 billion. Major recommendations for institutions: U of I, \$706 million; community colleges, \$306 million; SIU, \$220 million; NIU, \$103 million; ISU, \$81 million; WIU, \$57 million; EIU, \$48 million; Northeastern Illinois, \$39 million; Chicago State, \$39 million; Governors State, \$26 million; and Illinois Math and Science Academy, \$16 million. Other major recommendations: Illinois Student Assistance Commission, \$398 million; State University Retirement Systems, \$175 million; adult education programs, \$47 million. Total recommended for capital improvements was \$481.5 million, which includes \$126.5 million for *Opportunity Returns* economic development initiatives. (110 ILCS 205/8; Feb. 2006, 141 pp. + tables)

Human Services Dept.

Home Services annual report, FY 2005

Some 32,549 persons received assistance from 12 categories of aid in FY 2005 at a total cost of \$343.1 million. Program accomplishments include increasing Medicaid reimbursement, retraining staff, establishing a Quality Assurance Unit, implementing a new Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the HIV/AIDS Waiver program,

creating new criteria for the home-maker agency Request for Qualifications (RFQ), and transitioning nearly 150 disabled persons from nursing homes back into the community. (20 ILCS 2405/3; April 2006, 9 pp.)

Illinois Community College Board
Adult education and family literacy, FY 2005

Adult education programs served 137,198 students in FY 2005. Of those, 58.2% were in English as a Second Language classes; 24% were in Adult Basic Education; 13.2% in GED classes; 2.4% in vocational training; and 2.2% in High School Credit. Following completion of their program, 16,713 students were employed in the first quarter. The Internet-based GED Illinois Online system had 2,225 participating students. There are currently 102 providers, primarily community college districts (39); public school districts/regional offices of education (31); and community based organizations (30). (105 ILCS 405/2-4; Feb. 2006, 4 pp.)

Illinois Medical District Commission

Biennial report, 2004-2005

Summarizes growth and goals of the District, including timeline of major events in 2004 and 2005. Describes programs and facilities of the District, including Chicago Children's Advocacy Center, Rush-Barton Assisted Living Facility, and State Police Forensic Science Center. In FY 2005, Commission received almost \$3.5 million, most of which (\$3.3 million) came from non-general revenue sources. (70 ILCS 915/2, Feb. 2006, 20 pp. + map)

Interagency Committee on Employees with Disabilities

Annual Report, FYs 2004 & 2005

Committee promotes a nondiscriminatory environment in state government for employees with disabilities through equal access, awareness, and advocacy. Conducts educational and internship programs, maintains a Web site, and issues a newsletter. Committee examined state employment data

from September 2001 to June 2005 and noted that the number of state employees with disabilities decreased by 29% while number of all state employees decreased 16%. This may be due to the fact that disabled employees are often older and more likely to take early retirement. As of June 30, 2005, largest percentage of disabled employees were working in clerical jobs. (20 ILCS 415/19a; Feb. 2006, 8 pp.)

Joint Committee on Administrative Rules

Annual report, 2005

In 2004, Committee considered 533 rulemakings, including 420 general rulemakings, 85 emergency rulemakings, 22 peremptory rulemakings, and 6 Pollution Control Board exempt rulemakings. JCAR actions on general rulemakings included 24 recommendations, 11 objections, and 6 prohibitions; actions on emergency rulemakings included 8 objections and 7 recommendations; actions on peremptory rulemakings included 1 recommendation and 1 objection. Summarizes some rulemakings, lists rulemakings and JCAR action by agency, judicial and legislative activity related to Administrative Procedure Act, and historical data on rulemakings. (5 ILCS 100/5-140; Feb. 2006; 90 pp.)

Labor Relations Board

Annual report, FY 2005

Board received 244 charges of unfair labor practices. Of these, 201 were charges against public employers and 43 were against unions. Board processed 286 representation cases and provided mediation or arbitration in 228 cases. Summarizes local and state decisions on jurisdiction, representation, unfair labor practices by employers and unions, and procedural issues. Board's budget was \$1,941,400. (5 ILCS 315/5 (e); May 2006, 51 pp.)

Public Health, Dept. of

Cervical Cancer Task Force annual report, 2006

Task Force was created in 2004 to study, raise public awareness, and

develop a plan to eliminate cervical cancer in Illinois. An estimated 630 women in Illinois will be diagnosed with cervical cancer and 220 will die from the disease in 2006. For the years 1986 through 2002, cervical cancer had an incidence rate of 11.6 per 100,000 women in Illinois, the seventh most common cancer. The highest incidence rates occurred in remote, rural counties (Crawford, Henderson, Jefferson, Jo Daviess, Johnson, Lawrence, Pike, Pulaski, Washington). Within Chicago, the highest incidence rates occurred in the low income, minority areas. The report includes information on human papillomavirus (HPV), the leading cause of cervical cancer, and screening, treatment, and education resources in Illinois. (20 ILCS 2310/2310-353(f); April 2006, 32 pp.)

School Plan Reviews and Inspections Task Force

Report, 2006

Task Force on School Plan Reviews and Inspections was created by P.A. 94-225 to improve the way school construction plans are reviewed and school buildings are inspected. Recommends ways for school districts to hire inspectors and fund inspections. Recommends establishing rules for the review of plans, new construction, and fire inspections as well as qualifications for plan reviewers, new construction inspectors, and fire safety inspectors. Also recommends that the General Assembly extend the Task Force term so it can review new administrative rules. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.137; Jan. 2006, 15 pp. + executive summary + 4 appendices)

State Fire Marshal

Annual report, 2005

There were 1,293 arson investigations with 128 canine assists, which led to 108 arrests. The Office conducted 45,798 boiler and pressure vessel inspections; 15,575 fire safety inspections; issued 380 permits to gasoline stations; distributed 1,700 smoke alarms; and surveyed 201 hospitals for fireworks-related injury statistics.

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Through the Fire Truck Revolving Loan Program, 63 fire departments received a 0% interest loan. All but eight have received their loan with the remaining waiting for equipment that is on order. The Fire Equipment Exchange Program received 450 donated items with 70 fire departments as recipients. Newly created Elevator Safety Division Authority plans to adopt regulations by mid-2006. (50 ILCS 740/13; Aug. 2006, 27 pp.)

FIRST READING

A publication of the Legislative Research Unit

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Transportation, Dept. of *Highway improvement program, FY 2007*

Highway Improvement Program allocates \$1.975 billion in new and improvement construction; 597 miles and 255 bridges are to be repaired or constructed, along with safety and traffic improvements at 139 locations. Financing is from \$1.167 billion federal funds, \$689 million state funds, and \$119 million local funds, with \$1.378 billion for state highway systems and \$597 million for local systems. By program classification: Interstate highways, \$567.2 million; major construction, \$141.3 million; resurfacing, \$103.8 million; bridge work, \$154.2 million; arterial corridors, \$157 million; traffic and safety improvements, \$62.7 million; statewide projects, \$192.3 million; local projects, \$545.7 million; and local benefit grants, \$50.8 million. (20 ILCS 2705/49.16; undated, rec'd Aug. 2006, 4 pp. + maps and tables)

Rental of right-of-way parcels, FY 2006

Department's Bureau of Land Acquisition rents out parcels of land until

they are needed for the construction of highway projects. In FY 2006, the Bureau rented out 317 parcels of land (including 26 with buildings or other improvements on them) in 49 counties, receiving \$1.1 million in rent. (605 ILCS 5/4-201.16; Aug. 2006, 3 pp.)

Workforce Investment Board *Measuring Progress: Benchmarking Workforce Development in Illinois, 2005*

Board tracks ten benchmarks for workforce development through education, earnings, job growth, and productivity. States that Illinois is near or above national levels for most benchmarks with strong gains in earnings, productivity, and employment growth. Illinois is not moving fast enough in educational benchmarks to maintain a competitive advantage for the future. Recommends creating a task force to research alternative benchmarks. (20 ILCS 3975/4.5(b); Oct. 2005, 33 pp.)

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