



# FIRST READING



ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH UNIT

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## School District Reorganization Options in Illinois

Decisions to redraw school district borders are mostly subject to final approval by the voters. Illinois has a number of options for such changes. Table 1 on page 4 lists the seven types of school district reorganization described by law.

The State Board of Education reports that Illinois had 149 school district reorganizations over the last 30 years, resulting in a 13.3% shrinkage in its number of school districts. Annexations and consolidations were the most common type by far, making up 85% of the total (Figure 2 on page 6 and Table 2 on page 5). The largest numbers of reorganizations during that time were in the late 1980s and early 1990s, followed by a brief jump around 2005 (Figure 1 on page 6). There were no more than five in each of the other years.

Legal requirements for reorganizations vary considerably by type of reorganization. But they usually involve filing a petition; holding a public hearing; a decision by a regional and/or state education official; and a referendum in most cases. Requirements for each type of reorganization are summarized below. (The School Code should be consulted for other requirements or limitations that apply in some cases.)

### *Consolidations, Conversions, and Partial Elementary Units*

The requirements for these three kinds of reorganizations are mostly similar and are described below.

### 1. Petition

A petition must be filed with the regional superintendent of schools by either:

- (1) at least 50 legal resident voters or 10% of the legal resident voters (whichever is less) residing in each affected district; or
- (2) the school board of each affected district.

The petition must meet several requirements, including designating a “Committee of Ten” petitioners to represent them. Any seven of them can amend the petition and make other binding decisions on behalf of all petitioners.

If the reorganization would affect more than one educational service region, the petition is to be filed with the region that includes the greatest percentage of the equalized assessed value of the territory to be affected.

### 2. Public hearing

After receiving a petition, the regional superintendent must publish notice of it at least once a week for 3 successive weeks, with the petitioners paying the costs. Then a hearing must be held no more than 15 days after the last date on which the required notice was published. Before the hearing,

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the Committee of Ten must give the regional superintendent maps showing the districts involved along with any other information the Committee deems pertinent.

Any resident of an affected district may appear and present evidence at the hearing. The Committee of Ten must present evidence on specified topics, including the maximum tax rates in the proposed new district, and the allocation of funds and assets if the petition is approved.

## 3. Regional school superintendent determination

Within 14 days after the hearing, the regional superintendent decides whether to grant the petition (subject to a final decision by the State Superintendent of Education as described below). After granting or denying the petition, the regional superintendent submits the petition and all evidence to the State Superintendent.

## 4. State Superintendent's decision

Within 21 days after receiving the regional superintendent's decision, the State Superintendent of Education decides whether to grant the petition. The State Superintendent must send copies of the decision by certified mail to all participants in the petition process.

Any petitioner, affected school board, or person who appeared for or against the petition at the hearing may apply within 35 days after

a copy of the decision is served for court review of it.

## 5. Referendum

If the State Superintendent grants the petition, the proposed reorganization is submitted to the voters. If a majority of those voting at the election in each affected district vote for it, the referendum passes.

An area to which a failed reorganization proposal pertained may not be included in another proposal for 2 years unless one of the following is true: (1) the second proposal is substantially different from the first; (2) the district meets the statutory definition of a "priority district" (basically meaning that it has very low-performing schools); (3) the State Board places the district on its financial watch list; or (4) the district is certified as in financial difficulty.

## *Dissolutions and Detachments*

Article 7 of the School Code provides methods for districts to change their boundaries. There are two similar processes for annexing part of one district to another. The first applies to districts in the same educational service region, and the second to districts in different educational service regions. (Illinois has 56 educational regions. Most cover only one or two counties, but Cook County is split into four regions. Detachment, dissolution, and annexation in Cook County may have more requirements than those described below.)

Not all areas of a school district may be legally available for annexation. The School Code requires (with some exceptions) that after annexation, each resulting district:

- Must have a high school available for all its students.
- Must have at least 2,000 residents and an equalized assessed valuation of at least \$6 million.
- Must be compact and contiguous.

Any annexation proposal not meeting these criteria would not be allowed.

Like petitions for consolidations, conversions, and partial elementary units (described above), an area to which a failed annexation proposal related may not be included in another proposal for 2 years unless any of the criteria described above are met.

No petitions that would change the boundaries of a district may be filed after the district has published legal notice calling for an election to authorize it to issue bonds. That restriction ends when any of the following occurs: (1) the voters reject the bond request; (2) the bonds are issued; (3) the school board, by resolution, says that it will not issue the bonds; or (4) 75 days after the election.

## 1. Petition

The first step in the annexation process is filing a petition with the regional board of school trustees. Three categories of people

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can petition for part of a district to be annexed:

- (1) the school board of each affected district;
- (2) a majority of the registered voters in each affected district; or
- (3) two-thirds of the registered voters in the area to be transferred (if there are no registered voters in the area, all landowners in the area can sign a petition).

Either of the first two listed groups may petition for all of a district to be annexed.

Signatures must be gathered in the last 6 months before the petition is filed; petitions must meet stated requirements. (Many of the petition requirements are in section 7-1 of the School Code but not in section 7-2. Section 7-1 applies only to districts in the same educational service region; but a spokeswoman for the State Board said it recommends that all petitioners (even those petitioning under section 7-2) comply with section 7-1.)

If an annexation would affect more than one educational service region, the petition is filed with the one that includes the greatest part of the area to be detached.

If there are more than 10 petitioners, they must name a “Committee of Ten” with power to agree to (limited) changes in the proposal at the public hearing.

## 2. Local public hearing

After receiving the petition, the regional board must publish a notice of the petition and hold a hearing. If the annexation would affect more than one region, the boards must hold a joint hearing. The notice must be published 10 to 15 days before the hearing; the petitioners must pay publication costs. If more than one region would be affected, the notice must be published within 30 days after receipt of the petition (thus, the hearing must be held within 45 days after a valid petition is filed).

At least 5 days before the hearing, the regional superintendent of the region most affected by the detachment or dissolution (if more than one would be affected) must provide a map showing the districts involved; a written report of their financial and educational conditions; and probable effects of the proposed changes.

At the hearing, any resident of an affected district may appear and present evidence to the board or boards.

## 3. Regional board of school trustees decision

After the hearing, the board (or boards) decides whether to grant the petition for detachment or dissolution and annexation.

If only one region would be affected, the decision is to be made within 30 days after the hearing. If the board has not made a decision 9 months after the petition was filed, the petitioners may

appeal directly to the State Superintendent of Education for approval or denial.

If a petition would affect more than one region, the boards must meet within 10 days after the joint hearing and take “concurrent action.” If they cannot issue a joint order (either accepting or denying the petition), the superintendent of schools for the region in which the joint hearing was held must deny the petition within 30 days after the hearing.

## 4. Referendum (for a dissolution)

If the petition is for a dissolution, and it is granted, it must be presented to the voters of the annexing district and of each district to be annexed. A majority of the voters in each such district who vote on the question is required for passage.

A district with fewer than 5,000 residents or fewer than 750 students may be dissolved and annexed without a referendum. Such a petition is decided solely by the regional board of school trustees in the region of the district proposed to be dissolved.

No referendum is required for a detachment.

### *Deactivation*

#### 1. Board resolution and notice

The board of a district seeking to deactivate a school facility must, by proper resolution, cause a referendum on deactivation to be

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# School District Reorganization Options in Illinois

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submitted to the voters of the district. Notice must be published at least 10 days before a vote.

## 2. Referendum

A majority of those voting on the referendum in the district that proposes deactivation is required for passage.

## 3. Contract between districts

Upon passage, the board of the sending district, upon approval by the board of the receiving

district(s), executes a contract with each receiving district for reassignment of its students to the receiving district(s). The initial contract is to be for 2 years, with 1- or 2-year renewals. The sending district pays the receiving district(s) an agreed amount.

A deactivated school facility may be reactivated with approval of the district's voters.

### *Cooperative High Schools*

Two or more contiguous school districts, each of which has an enrollment in grades 9 to 12 of under 600, may jointly operate one or more cooperative high schools.

(There are some exceptions to the size and contiguity requirements.) Such action must be taken for at least 20 years.

The procedure is similar to that for deactivation. The board of each affected district must pass a resolution for a referendum and give notice of it. A majority of those voting on the referendum in each district is required for passage. Upon passage, the boards of the participating districts may execute a contract for the joint operation, subject to some statutory requirements. □

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**Table 1: Types of School District Reorganization in Illinois**

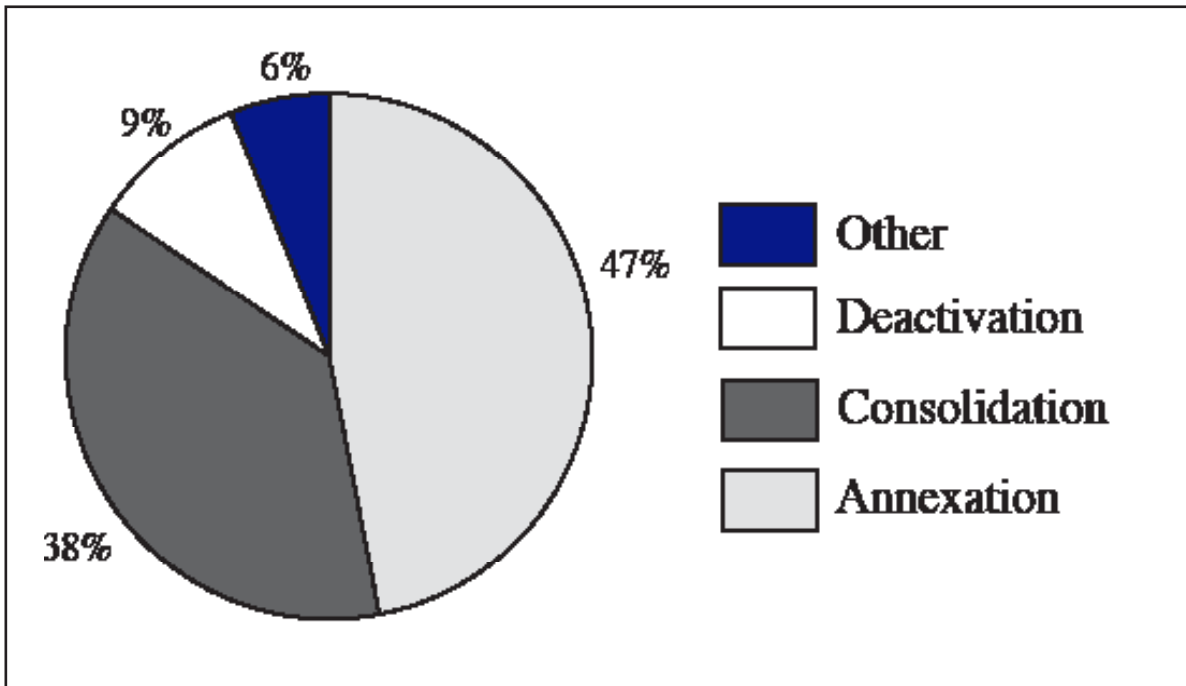
Consolidation	Two or more existing districts merge, creating a new district.
School district conversion	Dissolved unit districts form a new high school district and new elementary districts.
Partial elementary unit formation	A district is formed including all of a specified area for high school purposes, but only part of it for elementary purposes.
Dissolution and annexation	An entire district is incorporated into another.
Detachment and annexation	A part of one district is incorporated into another.
Deactivation	A district closes a school building and sends its former students to one or more districts through tuition agreements.
Cooperative high school	Two or more high school or unit districts jointly operate a high school.

**Table 2: Numbers and Types of School District Reorganizations, and Numbers of Remaining School Districts, 1986-87 to 2015-16 (through July 7, 2015)**

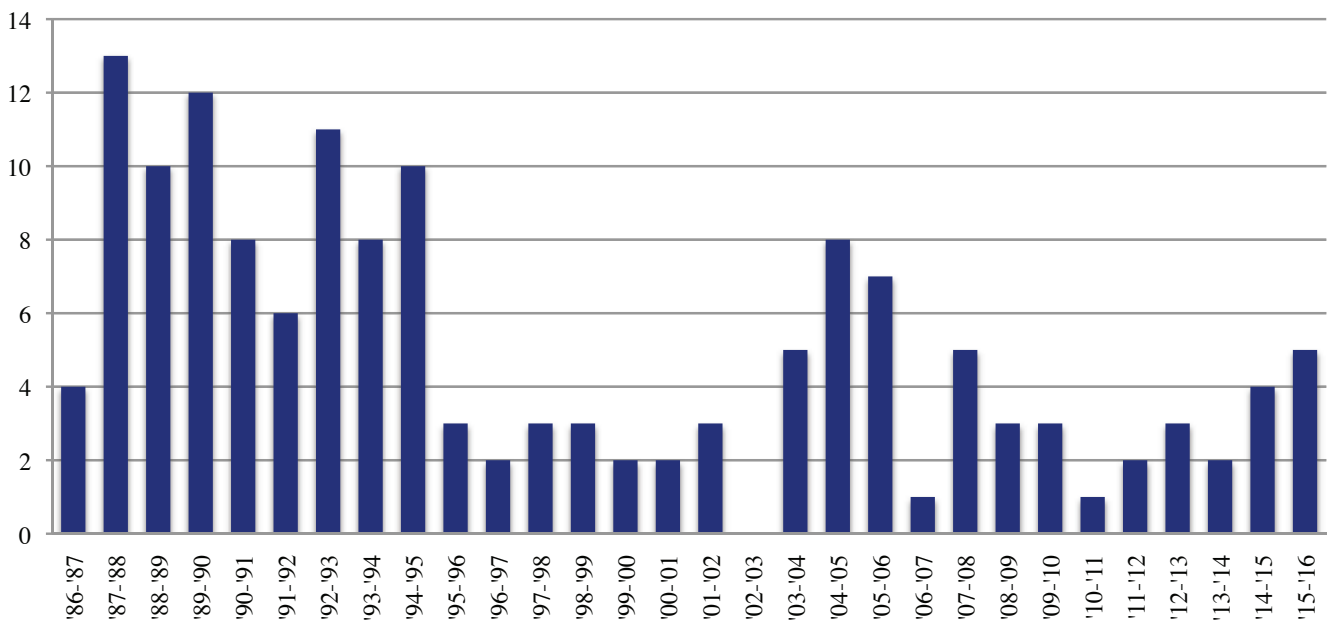
School year	Type of reorganization						Total	Districts remaining
	Consolidation	Annexation	Deactivation	Conversion	Partial elem. unit	Coop. high sch.		
1986-87	1	3	-	-	-	-	4	984
1987-88	6	4	2	1	-	-	13	982
1988-89	1	8	-	1	-	-	10	973
1989-90	8	4	-	-	-	-	12	959
1990-91	2	3	1	2	-	-	8	954
1991-92	1	5	-	-	-	-	6	947
1992-93	4	7	-	-	-	-	11	933
1993-94	3	4	1	-	-	-	8	925
1994-95	2	7	1	-	-	-	10	916
1995-96	2	1	-	-	-	-	3	908
1996-97	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	906
1997-98	1	2	-	-	-	-	3	901
1998-99	2	1	-	-	-	-	3	898
1999-00	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	897
2000-01	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	895
2001-02	1	-	2	-	-	-	3	894
2002-03	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	894
2003-04	1	4	-	-	-	-	5	889
2004-05	3	4	1	-	-	-	8	882
2005-06	5	1	1	-	-	-	7	875
2006-07	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	874
2007-08	2	2	-	1	-	-	5	871
2008-09	-	-	2	-	1	-	3	870
2009-10	1	-	1	-	-	1	3	869
2010-11	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	868
2011-12	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	866
2012-13	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	863
2013-14	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	861
2014-15	1	2	1	-	-	-	4	858
2015-16	2	1	-	-	2	-	5	853
<b>Totals</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>149</b>	-

Source: State Board of Education, School Business Services Division, “School District Reorganizations, 1983-84 to 2015-16” (updated July 7, 2015), downloaded from ISBE Internet site.

**Figure 1: School District Reorganizations by Type, 1986 to 2015 (through July 7)**



**Figure 2: Numbers of School District Reorganizations, 1986 to 2015 (through July 7)**





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# 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.

## **911 Services Advisory Board Report, 2015**

The Board created a plan for a statewide 911 network excluding Chicago. The plan calls for having the network in place by July 2020; imposing a statewide monthly surcharge of \$0.87; eliminating the Wireless Carrier Reimbursement Fund and replacing it with a 3% surcharge reduction; and creating a Statewide 911 Board within the Illinois Commerce Commission. (50 ILCS 751/85(b); issued & rec'd April 2015, 6 pp.)

## **Aging Dept.**

### *Older Adult Services Act report, 2015*

Priority areas through 2015 included: section 1115 waiver, moving toward more home or community care, care coordination, transitional care, home- & community-based services funding, adult protective services, and expanding Long Term Care Ombudsman's role. Lists several impediments to progress, including increased demand on community infrastructure, new federal regulations on person-centered planning and settings

for home- and community-based waivers, and a shift toward holistic care. (320 ILCS 45/15(c); Jan. 2015, rec'd March 2015, 18 pp.)

## **Agriculture Dept.**

### *Agriculture areas annual report, 2014*

Illinois had 116,887 acres reserved from development in 23 counties. Jersey County had the most (9,637). Maps show areas; table lists acres by county. (505 ILCS 5/20.1; Dec. 2014, rec'd April 2015, 4 pp.)

## **Attorney General**

### *Social Security Number Protection Task Force report, 2014*

Reviews a May 2014 White House report on Big Data and technology; also examines implementation of Identity Protection Act [5 ILCS 179/1 ff.] and ways for state and local governments to replace SSNs with other numbers. Reports on Congressional bills that would restrict SSN transmitting and limit commercial entities that can require SSNs from customers. (20 ILCS 4040/10(c); Dec. 2014, rec'd March 2015, 9 pp. + 5 appendices)

## **Board of Higher Education**

### *Budget recommendations for FY 2016*

Recommended amounts for operations, grants, and capital improvements. Minimum recommendations for higher education operations and grants from general funds were: U of I, \$662 million; SIU, \$204 million; NIU, \$93 million; ISU, \$74 million; WIU, \$53 million; EIU, \$44 million; Northeastern, \$38 million; Chicago State, \$37 million; Governors State, \$25 million; community colleges, \$293 million; and Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, \$18 million. Capital recommendation was \$1.6 billion. Also reported capital improvements, and historical Illinois higher education budget data. (110 ILCS 205/8; issued & rec'd Feb. 2015, 62 pp. + appendices)

## **Central Management Services Dept.**

### *Bilingual employees, 2015*

CMS had 6 bilingual employees in March 2015; all spoke Spanish. (5 ILCS 382/3-20; issued & rec'd March 2015, 14 pp.)

### *Business Enterprise Program for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities, FY 2014 annual report*

State agencies and universities made about \$426 million in contracts with businesses certified under the program—38.5% of all eligible contracts, nearly double the statutory goal of 20%. Lists statutory and targeted goals and value of contracts

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## Abstracts *(continued from p. 7)*

of 63 agencies and universities with such firms. (30 ILCS 575/8f; issued & rec'd March 2015, 69 pp.)

### *Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business and Veteran-Owned Small Businesses, annual report, FY 2014*

These programs aim to boost state business with qualified veteran vendors. Application and certification procedures were developed in 2011; so far 113 Veterans Business Program applications have been certified. In fiscal year 2014, 26 veteran small businesses contracted with the state. Total contract value exceeded \$25 million. (30 ILCS 500/45-57(b); Feb. 2015, rec'd March 2015, 2 pp.)

### *State employee child care centers, 2014*

The state has two on-site child care centers for employees' children. The Chicago center has large classrooms, separate Discovery Room, and a large playground; four of five teachers have early childhood education degrees. The Springfield center has seven full-time teachers and one part-time teacher, all with degrees in early childhood education or a related field. State employees can use Dependent Care Assistance Program accounts to pay for child care. In 2014, 1,698 participated. (30 ILCS 590/3; undated, rec'd Jan. 2015, 3 pp.)

## Children and Family Services Dept.

### *Inter-country adoptions report, 2014*

DCFS issued endorsement letters for 463 children from other countries. One denial was issued for 4 children from the Congo, based on Congolese law and conditions there; it was upheld on review. (750 ILCS 50/4.1(c)(8) [repealed July 15, 2015; see now 750 ILCS 50/18.9(e)]; Aug. 2014, rec'd Sept. 2014, 4 pp.)

### *Multi-disciplinary reviews of unfounded investigations, FY 2014*

DCFS has created Multi-Disciplinary Review Committees to review allegations of abuse declared "unfounded." There were 27 requests for second review of investigations in fiscal year 2014. One was untimely; one was changed to "indicated" after review; and 25 were not changed. (325 ILCS 5/7.21(c-5); issued & rec'd Oct. 2014, 2 pp.)

## Commerce Commission, Illinois Power Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, and Commerce and Economic Opportunity Dept.

### *Potential nuclear plant closings in Illinois*

Almost half the electricity generated in Illinois comes from nuclear plants—in part because they are kept operating as "baseload" capacity at all hours, while plants using fossil fuels adjust their output to match demand. Illinois is a net

electric exporter, with 20% of its production going out of state. Exelon Corp. is considering retiring its Byron, Clinton, and Quad Cities nuclear plants. The House asked the four agencies named below to study how such closures would affect the state, and to list possible market-based ways to prevent closures. Their responses are *very* briefly summarized here.

Commerce Commission: Planning and operation of Illinois nuclear plants is mostly out of state control, since they are parts of two regional transmission organizations: MISO and PJM. The Commission reported a wealth of data on production costs, revenues, and estimated price increases needed to make nuclear plants profitable. It reported that significant electric price increases (in inflation-adjusted dollars) in future decades seem likely—particularly if the U.S. and/or states act to limit carbon dioxide emissions.

Illinois Power Agency: Four scenarios for the year 2018-19 were modeled, including two stress scenarios. If all three nuclear plants were closed, reserve capacity could be below levels considered prudent in the electric industry for MISO in one stress situation, and for PJM in both stress situations. This would affect neighboring states more than Illinois. However, measures to reduce peak demand during extreme conditions (like the Polar Vortex of January



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2014) could mitigate some of the risk of power outages.

EPA: The Agency used a U.S. EPA model to project the “social costs” (including harm to health, agriculture, and property) of adding fossil-fueled plants to replace nuclear plants. For the 10 years 2020 through 2029, it projected such costs at \$2.5 to \$18.6 billion (depending on whether one, two, or three nuclear plants were closed and how much of their output was replaced by renewable resources).

Commerce and Economic Opportunity Dept.: The following negative economic impacts are projected from closing all three nuclear plants: (1) 2,500 direct and 4,431 indirect job losses; (2) \$1.8 billion in economic activity lost; and (3) a 10-16% increase in electricity prices, which could lead to further job and economic activity loss.

The agencies listed five possible options regarding nuclear plant closures: (1) rely on existing competitive forces and market changes; (2) establish a cap-and-trade program; (3) impose a carbon tax; (4) create a low-carbon portfolio standard; or (5) create a sustainable power planning standard. The report also includes appendices from several sources that the Commerce Commission used. (H. Res. 1146 [2014]; issued & rec'd Jan. 2015, 166 pp. + appendices)

### **Commerce and Economic Opportunity Dept.**

#### *Angel Investment Tax Credit Program, 2014*

Program encourages interested persons and firms to invest in qualified Illinois new businesses. Claimants got about \$10 million in tax credits. There were 112 businesses registered as qualified. (35 ILCS 5/220(h); March 2015, rec'd April 2015, 19 pp.)

#### *Bilingual employees report, 2015*

Gives name, job title and description, and languages spoken by bilingual employees. Five bilingual employees all speak Spanish. (5 ILCS 382/3-20; issued & rec'd March 2015, 2 pp.)

#### *Business Information Center report, 2014*

First Stop Business Information Center answers businesses' questions on state and federal requirements, regulatory processes, and aid. It handled 5,926 inquiries in 2014, including 2,627 general business questions; 1,681 on licensing and registration; and 10 on international trade. In addition, the Reg Flex program serves as a regulatory watchdog for small businesses. In 2014, 381 proposed state regulations were reviewed and 100 small business impact analyses were done for JCAR consideration. (20 ILCS 608/15(q); Feb. 2015, rec'd March 2015, 7 pp.)

#### *Energy conservation technical assistance update, 2014*

Department's Energy Performance Contracting Program helps fund building improvements for state and local governments, schools, housing authorities, and nonprofit groups. Three projects were finished in 2014 with expected annual savings of \$4.1 million. Department worked with International Energy Conservation Consultants LLC (IECC) to train 1,151 professionals on Illinois Energy Conservation Code. Workshops were given in five communities. Department worked with IECC to provide 476 code interpretations. Smart Energy Design Assistance Center provided technical help to 493 local governments, energy assessments to 160, and followup implementation to 48. Center provided retro-commissioning services for 24 local government buildings. (20 ILCS 1115/5; undated, rec'd Feb. 2015, 12 pp.)

#### *Energy Efficiency Trust Fund Program report, 2014*

DCEO authorized funds for 5 programs. Energy Efficient Affordable Housing Construction Program got \$82,644 for building 8 units of multifamily housing and 8 single-family houses. Residential Retrofit Program received \$658,039 for 3 programs retrofitting 767 and rebuilding 12 units of low-income housing. Lights for Learning sponsored 19 school presentations educating 1,201 students on energy efficiency. Trust Fund's

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## Abstracts *(continued from p. 9)*

partnership with University of Illinois continued supporting Smart Grid research program, with use starting on electricity networks. Due to efforts of Trust Fund-supported Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, several utilities will increase Energy Conservation Code compliance. (20 ILCS 687/6-6(e); undated, rec'd Feb. 2015, 6 pp.)

### *Illinois Film Office quarterly report, July-Sept. 2014*

Estimates that 2,638 technical crew and office, 317 talent, and 2,133 extra jobs were created or retained. Film production brought over \$61 million in spending to Illinois. Overall crew and production office staff racial diversity rose from 14% when program began to 27% in 2013. (35 ILCS 16/45(b); undated, rec'd April 2015, 2 pp.)

### *Live Theater Tax Credit report, July-Sept. 2014*

Credit did not create or retain any jobs or bring any theater production spending to Illinois. Reporting methodology was changed for this fiscal year, from using spending estimates to actual spending reported when claiming credit. (35 ILCS 17/10-50(b); undated, rec'd April 2015, 1 p.)

### *Renewable Energy Resources Program report, 2014*

Program has promoted over \$382 million of investments in renewable energy projects in Illinois since 1999. It provided 240 grants and 1,848 rebates worth

over \$63 million by December 2014. In 2014 it gave \$1.8 million in solar and wind energy rebates and \$2.6 million in grants for large solar and wind energy projects. Renewable Energy Trust Fund is set to expire in December 2015. (20 ILCS 687/6-3(e); undated, rec'd April 2015, 13 pp.)

### *State Mandates Catalog, 2014*

Describes and categorizes state mandates on local governments, other than school and community college districts, adopted in the 87th to 98th General Assemblies. Includes description of each mandate; type of government affected; supervising agency; and statutory citations. Also includes cost estimates for some entries and whether the mandate is reimbursable. (30 ILCS 805/4 and 805/7(c); undated, rec'd March 2015, 159 pp.)

### **Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability** *Capital Plan Analysis, FY 2016*

Capital budget proposal had \$3.3 billion in new appropriations and \$15.6 billion in re-appropriations. New appropriations were from state revenue funds (\$2.9 billion), federal or trust funds (\$145 million), and bond funds (\$250 million). No new appropriations were proposed from Transportation A, B, or D bond funds, or coal and energy bond funds. General obligation bond authorization for new projects (except pension and Medicaid funding bonds) was \$31.4 billion; \$6.7 billion was unissued as of October 31, 2014. Refunding bond limit was \$4.8 billion; \$1.7 billion

was unissued. No debt service projections for FY 2016 were made. Describes current bond topics and bond debt not supported by state. (25 ILCS 155/3(8); issued & rec'd April 2015, 73 pp. + 5 appendices)

### *Illinois revenue volatility study, 2014*

Commission studied: (1) state tax base and revenue volatility; (2) economic variables causing revenue volatility; (3) adequacy of funds in Budget Stabilization Fund; and (4) deposit mechanisms to increase amount in that Fund. For FY 1990 to FY 2010, between 41% and 49% of revenues in General Revenue Fund (GRF) came from income taxes; in FY 2011 to FY 2014 it was 60% to 62%. Shows that federal government is the most volatile GRF source. Provides yearly revenue analysis and observations for FYs 1990 through 2014 showing volatility of GRF. Gives history and volatility analysis of each GRF source, including individual and corporate income taxes and sales tax (among others). Also includes history of "rainy day funds" found in other states. Discusses "Funding While Flourishing" and "Monthly Set-Aside" deposit mechanisms' ability to expand Illinois' Budget Stabilizations Fund. (P.A. 98-682; Dec. 2014, rec'd Jan. 2015, 105 pp. + 3 appendices)

### *State Employees' Group Health Insurance Program Liabilities, FY 2016*

Commission projects FY 2016 costs at over \$2.8 billion; CMS

projected them at \$25.9 million less. Participation is projected at 362,692 in FY 2015 and 363,162 in FY 2016. Projected cost per participant is \$7,648. Payment lags are expected to rise to 360 days for preferred and 380 days for non-preferred providers. (Some projections may change based on outcome of union negotiations.) (25 ILCS 155/4(b)(2); March 2015, rec'd April 2015, 20 pp. + 4 appendices)

### **Community College Board**

#### *Adult Education and Family Literacy report, FY 2014*

Adult education programs served 87,553 students: 45,284 English as a Second Language students, 24,205 in Adult Basic Education, 14,882 in Adult Secondary Education, 1,749 earning high school credit, and 1,433 vocational students. Adult education providers were community, junior, or technical colleges (39); community-based organizations (25); local education agencies (20); faith-based organizations (3); a 4-year institution (1); and Department of Corrections. (105 ILCS 405/2-4; undated, rec'd March 2015, 3 pp.)

### **Comptroller**

#### *Receivables report, 2014*

Gross receivables due the state at 2014 yearend were \$15.73 billion—up \$53 million (less than 1%) from 2013. Net receivables (believed to be collectible) were \$3.3 billion. Of those, child support claims were the largest group (29%), followed by other (license and

fees, federal reimbursements, etc.) (19%), interest and investment income (19%), public assistance recoveries (13%), taxes (13%), contributions (4%), and current loan and note repayments (3%). Lists receivables by agency. (30 ILCS 210/4(d); March 2014, rec'd March 2015, 28 pp.)

### **Corrections Dept.**

#### *Quarterly report, Jan. 1, 2015*

Adult facilities on November 30, 2014 had 48,781 residents (52% over rated capacity but 3% below bedspace). They included 878 in adult transition centers (128 over rated capacity but 80 below bedspace); 34 in electronic detention; and 47 in federal or other states' facilities. Average ratio of prisoners to security staff was 6.4. Nearly all were double-celled (68%) or multi-celled (26%), with about 32 square feet of actual living area each. Department projects December 2015 population at 49,257. Enrollment (unduplicated) in educational and vocational programs was 7,383. No capital projects were funded. (730 ILCS 5/3-5-3.1; Jan. 2015, rec'd March 2015, 12 tables)

### **Criminal Justice Information Authority**

#### *Annual Report, FY 2012*

In FY 2012 the Authority administered federal grants under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (\$49.9 million), Victims of Crime Act (\$33 million), Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Program (\$2.7 million), Violence Against Women

Act (\$4.8 million) and VAWA Sexual Assault Services Program (\$68,352), Paul Coverdell National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act (\$776,762), and Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program (\$588,480). Other actions included opening Statistical Analysis Center website. (20 ILCS 3930/7(t); undated, rec'd March 2015, 37 pp.)

#### *Annual report, FY 2013*

In FY 2013, the Authority administered federal grants under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (\$8.5 million), Paul Coverdell National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act (\$814,633), Project Safe Neighborhoods (\$107,576), Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program (\$513,213), Violence Against Women Act (\$364,706), and Victims of Crime Act (\$15.6 million). Other 2013 actions include evaluation projects of the Cook County Deferred Prosecution Program and the Multidisciplinary Team Approach to Violence Against Women in Illinois. (20 ILCS 3930/7(t); undated, rec'd March 2015, 37 pp.)

### **Employment Security Dept.**

#### *Women and minorities in Illinois labor force, 2015*

State's workforce grew by 103,300 to 6.06 million. Participation rate was lowest for African Americans (59.6%). Hispanics (69.4%) had a higher rate than whites (66.4%) but

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## Abstracts *(continued from p. 11)*

earned lower wages. Women's participation was 59.9%—lower than the men's rate of 70.1% but higher than national women's rate (57%). Unemployment rates were 5.9% for whites, 8.1% for Hispanics, and 14.4% for African Americans. Median full-time weekly earnings were \$942 for Asian Americans, \$802 for whites, \$629 for African Americans, and \$578 for Hispanics. In 2013, women's median pay was 81.6% of that for men in Illinois, vs. 82.1% nationally. Includes career resources directory. (20 ILCS 1505/1505-20; March 2015, rec'd April 2015, 31 pp.)

### **Healthcare and Family Services Dept.**

#### *Medical Assistance Program, FYs 2012-2014*

The Department spent \$16 billion on Medicaid in FY 2014. It served about 3.2 million people through 84,199 providers (47,764 physicians; 2,887 pharmacies; 831 nursing facilities; 446 home health agencies; and 243 hospitals). Integrated Care Program for seniors and people with disabilities not qualified for Medicare had enrolled 107,407 clients by January 2015. (305 ILCS 5/5-5 and 5/5-5.8; issued & rec'd April 2015, 48 pp. + appendices)

### **Human Services Dept.**

#### *Emergency & Transitional Housing Program, FY 2014*

Program provided over 2 million shelter nights in public and private shelters, 4.3 million meals, and 1.3 million units of support

services to homeless persons at a cost of \$8.8 million. It served 26,387 households with 27,363 adults and 10,673 children. (305 ILCS 5/12-4.5; undated, rec'd April 2015, 20 pp.)

#### *Homeless Prevention Program, FY 2014*

Program received \$4 million. Its goals include stabilizing persons and families in their homes and shortening time in shelters. The 21 organizations getting Program money served 3,865 households with 5,288 adults and 4,601 children. Among them, 86.4% kept their housing with Program help, costing an average of \$1,035 per household. (310 ILCS 70/13; undated, rec'd April 2015, 26 pp.)

#### *Illinois child care report, FY 2014*

Department spent \$1.02 billion on employment-related child care aid, helping an average of 149,364 families with 268,482 children. The program's income limit was \$36,132 for a family of three. Among participants, 94.8% were single parents and 98.1% made co-payments. (20 ILCS 505/5.15; undated, rec'd April 2015, 19 pp.)

#### *Redeploy Illinois annual report, 2012*

Twelve sites have opened since 2005 to serve nonviolent youth. Program serves 42 counties and has reduced the rate of youth incarceration by 50%. Gives more statistical analyses of

jailed juveniles than past reports. Federal funding allowed a cost-benefit analysis of effectiveness. The program helped Illinois avoid an estimated \$59.6 million in costs of jailing youth. Recommendations include expanding the program to more counties, and training counties on the new Web-based reporting system. (730 ILCS 110/16.1(g)(1)(ii)(F); March 2014, rec'd April 2014, 44 pp.)

#### *Social Services Block Grant and Local Initiative Fund receipts and transfers, FY 2015, 2nd quarter*

The Fund began the quarter with \$6.2 million and received \$13 million of federal funds in the quarter. It paid \$16.1 million to General Revenue Fund, \$0 to Special Purpose Trust Fund, and \$2.5 million to Local Initiative Fund, ending with \$0.5 million. (305 ILCS 5/12-5; March 2015, rec'd April 2015, 1 p.)

#### *Supportive Housing Program, FY 2014*

Services provided including alcohol and drug abuse counseling, mental health programs, transportation, advocacy, child care, and case management to help low-income families live in community transitional or permanent housing. Support was provided to 11,623 persons (8,101 adults and 3,522 children) in 7,474 households at a cost of \$13.6 million. Reports services provided and recipient demographic data. (305 ILCS 5/12-4.5; undated, rec'd April 2015, 20 pp.)



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**Insurance Dept.**

*Office of Consumer Health Insurance annual report, 2013*

Office helps consumers with health insurance needs, and reports annually on the health insurance marketplace. Its staff got 20,511 calls, including questions on billing problems, health care reform, and the state market. Exhibits classify calls by subject, and list plans offered per county. (215 ILCS 134/90(a)(7); Jan. 2014, rec'd March 2015, 50 pp.)

**Juvenile Justice Dept.**

*Quarterly report, Jan. 2015*

The 762 youth in juvenile facilities on November 30, 2015 were below rated capacity of 1,250 but were projected to rise to 795 by December 2015. Ratio of youth to security staff was 1.2. Almost all were single-celled (75%) or double-celled (24%), with about 116 square feet of living area each. Enrollment (unduplicated) in educational and vocational programs was 545. No capital projects were funded. Also shows youth statistical indicators, 1993-2014. (730 ILCS 5/3-5-3.1; Jan. 2015, rec'd April 2015, 10 tables)

**Legislative Information System**

*Biennial report, 2013-2014*

LIS provided 20 information technology services to the General Assembly, including systems for bill drafting, tracking, voting, and enrolling and engrossing; audio and video services for each house; posting journals and debate transcripts; hosting the Illinois Administrative Code;

and tracking federal grants. LIS continues to develop information technology for the General Assembly. (25 ILCS 145/5.07; issued & rec'd April 2015, 32 pp.)

**Mid-America Medical District Commission**

*Report, 2013-2016*

Activities of the Commission (in East St. Louis) included naming an economic development committee; examining best practices of other medical districts; and working with area developers on projects. Plans for 2015-2016 included strategic planning with local hospitals; coordinating efforts with local government; and pursuing infrastructure improvement projects to spur development. (70 ILCS 930/10(f); issued & rec'd March 2015, 3 pp.)

**Mid-Illinois Medical District Commission [Springfield]**

*Biennial report, 2013-2014*

Commission functioned using volunteer time and donated space while seeking an income source. Says that lack of funding will primarily determine future projects. Commission created a 4-year work program to outline implementation of District's "Master Plan." It also worked on a rail improvements project in Springfield; created a job description for executive director; and considered operating a housing complex. (70 ILCS 925/10(f); issued & rec'd Feb. 2015, 2 pp. + 5 addenda)

**Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council**

*Annual report, FY 2012*

Council spent \$6.0 million and made \$6.5 million in grants. In 2009, 74% of Illinois vehicle thefts (19,896) were in Cook County; 4,950 arrests were made for vehicle theft statewide. Among vehicles stolen in 2010, 60% were later recovered. (20 ILCS 4005/7(g); undated, rec'd March 2015, 21 pp.)

*Annual report, 2013*

Council spent \$6.8 million and made \$6.4 million in grants. In 2011, Cook County had 22,867 vehicle thefts (79% of Illinois vehicle thefts). From 1991 to 2011 Illinois' number of vehicle thefts dropped 62% and its rate per 100,000 residents fell 66%. (20 ILCS 4005/7(g); undated, rec'd March 2015, 20 pp.)

**Public Health Dept.**

*Hospital Capital Investment Program report, 2014*

Program makes grants to hospitals to improve safety; build, renovate, or maintain structures; improve technology and medical equipment; and maintain or improve patient safety and care. No new funds were appropriated for FY 2014. Grantees had until June 30, 2015 to finish projects (87 were already completed and 10 were near completion; 26 remained). (20 ILCS 2310/2310-640(d); Dec. 2014, rec'd March 2015, 5 pp. + appendices)

*Illinois abortion statistics, 2013*

Illinois had 40,750 reported

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## **Abstracts** *(continued from p. 13)*

induced pregnancy terminations; 331 were on residents of other or unknown states. Age distribution of Illinois residents: Up to 14, 149; 15-17, 1,613; 18-19, 3,085; 20-24, 11,715; 25-29, 9,562; 30-34, 6,209; 35-39, 3,419; 40-44, 1,218; 45+, 94 (ages of the other 166 were unreported). Classifies abortions by county, woman's age, gestational age, and procedure used. (720 ILCS 510/10(12); Nov. 2014, rec'd March 2015, 1 p. + appendices)

### *Medical Cannabis Pilot Program report, 2014*

Patients and caregivers began applying for medical cannabis registry identification cards in September 2014. Departments of Agriculture and Financial and Professional Regulation accepted over 350 applications for medical cannabis cultivation centers and dispensaries. No further implementation is described. (410 ILCS 130/160(a); Sept. 2014, rec'd April 2015, 2 pp.)

### **Sentencing Policy Advisory Council (SPAC)**

#### *Annual report, 2012*

SPAC met twice to examine how sentencing policies and programs affect the Illinois criminal justice system, and adopted a cost calculation model for fiscal impact statements. Outlines key findings from 3 SPAC research reports; data collection efforts; and partnerships. (730 ILCS 5/5-8-8(f); undated, rec'd March 2015, 11 pp. + 1 appendix)

### **Sex Offender Management Board**

#### *Training and education report, 2014*

The Board offers training and education programs on sex offenders. Two programs in 2014 addressed challenges of released sex offenders, recidivism, and conviction and supervision. (20 ILCS 4026/20; undated, rec'd March 2015, 2 pp.)

### **Sports Facilities Authority**

#### *Annual report, 2014*

The Authority improved HVAC units, waste and vent piping, washrooms, and parking lot lighting at U.S. Cellular Field. White Sox clubhouse renovations began in October. Its total assets were \$409.1 million and liabilities were \$450.5 million in mid-2014, for negative equity of \$41.4 million. The hotel tax provided most revenues; the most spending was for bond interest. (70 ILCS 3205/18; undated, rec'd March 2015, 25 pp.)

### **State Board of Education**

#### *Chicago school district block grant data, 2011-2014*

Chicago District 299 gets 2 block grants each year: General Education Block Grant and Educational Services Block Grant. Under the first, it received \$124 million in 2011-12; \$113 million in 2012-13; and \$114 million in 2013-14. Under the second, it received \$249 million in 2011-12; \$252 million in 2012-13; and \$202 million

in 2013-14. (105 ILCS 5/1C-4; issued & rec'd Feb. 2015, 3 pp.)

#### *Educational Mandates Report, 2014*

Lists 37 new school mandates; 8 were expected to have costs but amounts could not be estimated. Among other things, they require that school staff be trained on mandated child abuse reporting every 5 years; school districts give CPR and AED training in grades 9-12; school districts administer physical fitness assessment in grades 3-12; and all new non-Chicago school buildings have storm shelters. Four other mandates apply for military children. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.104; issued & rec'd Feb. 2015, 8 pp.)

#### *Educator supply and demand, 2014*

Illinois issued 19,471 new teaching certificates in 2012 (1.4% more than in 2011). The retention rate for 2012 was 93%. Unfilled jobs declined 6% in 2012, rose 77% in 2013, and declined 27% in 2014. K-12 enrollment is expected to drop through 2018. Greatest needs for teachers through 2018 are in elementary, special education, English language arts, math, science, social science, and physical education. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.11c; Dec. 2014, rec'd March 2015, 16 pp. + appendices)

#### *School District Transportation Shared Services Study, 2014*

The State Board studied cost

savings from sharing transportation services by a few school districts in each of four counties (DuPage, Lake, Stephenson, and Winnebago). Actual or estimated savings from joint operation of school bus systems (public or private) for districts that either cover the same territory or adjoin each other were around 10% to 15%. But the report says the current cost-reimbursement school transportation funding formula may give districts a disincentive to achieve such savings. (105 ILCS 5/29-20; Dec. 2014, rec'd Jan. 2015, 5 pp.)

*School mandate waiver requests, spring 2015*

Classifies 72 waiver requests into categories and lists status: ACT administration (1 approved); debt limitation (1 sent to General Assembly); driver education (3 sent, 5 approved); general state aid (1 sent); kindergarten individual development survey (1 denied by ISBE); legal school holidays (2 withdrawn or returned); limiting administrative costs (11 sent, 3 withdrawn or returned); nonresident tuition (32 sent); physical education (6 sent); school improvement or in-service training (1 sent); statement of affairs (1 sent); graduation requirements (1 sent); tax levies (1 sent); transitional bilingual education (1 denied). Describes and lists waivers by topic and legislative district. (105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g; issued & rec'd Feb. 2015, 9 pp. + table)

**State Employees' Retirement System, Social Security Division**

*Social Security biennial report, 2014*

At yearend 2014, 4,598 local governments extended Social Security benefits to employees; of those, 3,221 were also under Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund. Chicago and Cook County are under other retirement systems, and not in Social Security. (40 ILCS 5/21-120; undated, rec'd March 2015, 7 pp. + 2 tables)

**State Fire Marshal**

*Annual report, 2014*

Reports on arson investigations; boiler, pressure vessel, and elevator safety inspections; fire prevention and safety; Division of Petroleum and Chemical Safety; Division of Personnel Standards and Education; programs for public education and other management services; special projects such as small firefighting and ambulance service equipment grant and revolving loan program; technical services; advisory boards and commissions; and State Fire Marshal's budget. Reports 1,007 arson incidents investigated; 46,638 boiler and pressure vessel inspections; and 2,963 storage tank facilities audited. (50 ILCS 740/13; issued & rec'd Feb. 2015, 15 pp.)

**State Police Dept.**

*Court decisions on FOID cards, 2014*

Department received 34 decisions from courts on its denial

of Firearm Owners' Identification (FOID) cards: 11 decisions were upheld; 20 reversed and 1 (involving domestic battery) reversed in part; and 2 miscellaneous findings issued (involving battery originally reported as domestic, and burglary). (430 ILCS 65/11; Feb. 2015, rec'd March 2015, 7 pp.)

*Juvenile charge report, Oct.-Dec. 2014*

Department received 15,964 juvenile charge reports in the fourth quarter of 2014—up 3,376 from the third quarter. They include 1,233 ordinance violations; 450 petty offenses; 9,288 misdemeanors; 3,458 Class 1 to 4 felonies; and 32 murders; 1,224 were not identified. By gender, 12,735 were male, 3,228 female, and 1 unidentified. By race, 9,456 were African American; 6,253 white; 96 were Asian; and 152 were unidentified. (20 ILCS 2605/2605-355; issued & rec'd Jan. 2015, 3 pp.)

**Toll Highway Authority**

*Inspector General activity report, Oct. 2014-March 2015*

An employee at a Tollway oasis was found to have been pocketing cash paid for toll violations. He agreed to repay the money (about \$10,000) and was allowed to resign. A resulting IG recommendation to accept only credit cards at oases was declined by management, citing higher costs and user inconvenience; but security measures

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## First Reading

A publication of the Legislative Research Unit

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were added, including more cameras at oases. Separately, improvements were made in criminal background checks of employment applicants. Five Inspector General cases were opened; 2 were closed; 6

remained open. Thirty-four complaints were made by the public and the same number were closed. No legislative recommendations were made. (605 ILCS 10/8.5(m); March 2015, rec'd April 2015, 6 pp.)

**Workforce Investment Board**  
*Measuring Progress: Benchmarking Workforce Development in Illinois, 2014 Report*  
Board tracks 10 benchmarks for workforce development by education, earnings, job growth, and productivity. Illinois is not keeping up with benchmark states in percentage of high school graduates going to college or workforce

training (some data on this had not been updated since 2008). Illinois is keeping up in percentage of population with high school diplomas, and ahead of U.S. and most benchmark states in percentage with bachelors' degrees. Illinois is also keeping up with benchmarks in average earnings growth and worker productivity. Recommends revising benchmarks to address data limitations and adding data on other population groups, including people with disabilities. (20 ILCS 3975/4.5(b); undated, rec'd April 2015, 33 pp.)