



HJ0017

LRB102 15785 ECR 21152 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois, like every other  
3 governmental unit across the country, is facing one of the  
4 most challenging circumstances in recent history with the  
5 Covid-19 crisis; facing these challenges, ranging from the  
6 health and well-being of our most vulnerable residents to the  
7 livelihoods of individuals, has proved incredibly difficult;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Numerous State agencies have tried to handle the  
10 challenge and, indeed, much great effort has been exerted;  
11 however, the need and the demand continue to place an  
12 incredible strain on our systems; and

13 WHEREAS, Nowhere, perhaps, has this been more the case  
14 than at the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES);  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, In addition to the tremendous cost of life taken  
17 by this global pandemic, the economic effects on the State  
18 have left many without a job, a career, and even a business;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, With the voluminous number of persons that have  
21 become unemployed, there has been a previously unheard of rate

1 of individuals seeking UI benefits; and

2 WHEREAS, Early on, this demand was met with grossly inept  
3 deficiencies in our IDES systems that led to serious issues,  
4 which contributed to various errors and delays; then, to  
5 compound the problems, it was learned the voluminous number of  
6 claims led to a series of data breaches and serious  
7 disruptions to the claim-processing procedures; and

8 WHEREAS, IDES, facing these challenges, has taken steps to  
9 repair the damage that was done and is working to bring new  
10 protections; IDES has enter into partnerships with  
11 third-parties and fellow State agencies to make sure these  
12 same problems are avoided; yet, there remain unresolved  
13 issues; and

14 WHEREAS, The issue of identity theft is a very serious and  
15 damaging one that was identified by IDES; yet, there were  
16 additional issues identified with regards to unemployment  
17 insurance fraud; and

18 WHEREAS, The State has established an IDES Identity Theft  
19 Line, has entered into contracts with outside firms to  
20 investigate cases of fraud and identified theft, and continues  
21 to assist impacted individuals; there needs to be a greater  
22 effort made to protect workers and businesses from being

1 negatively impacted by this fraudulent activity; and

2 WHEREAS, IDES is now faced with the task of helping those  
3 individuals and businesses that were, are, or will be affected  
4 by acts of identity theft and unemployment insurance fraud  
5 stemming from pandemic-related claims; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2021, there continue to be reports of  
7 individuals having difficulty applying for and receiving  
8 unemployment insurance benefits, reports of rampant insurance  
9 fraud, and failures at the Department level to account for,  
10 flag, and otherwise contain cases of fraud in the unemployment  
11 insurance benefit systems; and

12 WHEREAS, The various issues that have plagued IDES must be  
13 completely identified, reviewed, and studied so as to  
14 understand where there is a need for accountability on the  
15 part of the Administration and for corrective measures to be  
16 taken; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
18 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
19 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Illinois Auditor General is  
20 directed to conduct a performance audit of the Illinois  
21 Department of Employment Security's administration of the  
22 Unemployment Insurance Act; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Employment  
2 Security and any other State agency, entity, or person that  
3 may have information relevant to this audit cooperate fully  
4 and promptly with the Auditor General's office in its conduct;  
5 and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That the Auditor General commence this audit as  
7 soon as possible and, upon completion, distribute a report in  
8 accordance with Section 3-14 of the Illinois State Auditing  
9 Act.