



HR0062

LRB102 13397 LAW 18741 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The LaSalle Veterans' Home, founded in 1990, is  
3 one of five veterans' homes in Illinois; and

4 WHEREAS, The LaSalle Veterans' home cares for up to 184  
5 residents, including 40 special needs veterans; and

6 WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by  
7 SARS-CoV-2, a new coronavirus discovered in 2019; the virus is  
8 thought to spread mainly from person to person through  
9 respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs,  
10 sneezes, or talks; some people who are infected may not have  
11 symptoms; and

12 WHEREAS, In November 2020, the LaSalle Veterans' Home  
13 experienced an outbreak of COVID-19 cases among its residents  
14 and staff; and

15 WHEREAS, On November 6, 2020, VISN 12 leadership was  
16 notified by Hines VA Hospital that the LaSalle Veterans' Home  
17 was experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19; on November 10,  
18 2020, an infection control lead at the LaSalle Veterans' Home  
19 contacted the administration and then conducted a telephone  
20 assessment on November 11, 2020; and

1           WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Public Health assessed  
2 the LaSalle Veterans' Home and made recommendations concerning  
3 screening, testing, point of care testing, ventilation,  
4 environment of care, and staff management and infectious  
5 control practices; and

6           WHEREAS, The LaSalle Veterans' Home began implementing  
7 corrective measures recommended by the Illinois Department of  
8 Public Health, which included replacing non-alcohol containing  
9 hand sanitizer, wearing proper personal protection equipment,  
10 seeking separate consultation regarding HVAC/ventilation and  
11 negative pressure concerns, staff management, testing with PCR  
12 every three days until transmission under control, and  
13 ensuring appropriate protocols are followed for terminal  
14 cleanliness; and

15           WHEREAS, In December 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak continued  
16 to spread through the LaSalle Veterans' Home, where 108  
17 residents and 102 staff had contracted COVID-19; therefore, be  
18 it

19           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
20 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
21 the Auditor General is directed to conduct a performance audit  
22 of the State's response to the management of the COVID-19  
23 outbreak at the LaSalle Veterans' Home; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That this performance audit include, but not be  
2 limited to, the following determinations:

3           (1) The response of the Department of Veterans'  
4 Affairs to the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020 at the LaSalle  
5 Veterans' Home, including the recommendations made in the  
6 November 13, 2020 site visit by the Illinois Department of  
7 Public Health and the Department's actions to address  
8 those recommendations;

9           (2) The type, cost, and timing of any infrastructure  
10 or other building improvements intended to contain the  
11 further spread of COVID-19 or prevent its reoccurrence at  
12 the LaSalle Veterans' Home;

13           (3) The nature of changes made by the Department in  
14 operating protocols and staff training thereon, intended  
15 to contain the further spread of COVID-19 or prevent its  
16 reoccurrence at the LaSalle Veterans' Home;

17           (4) The nature and extent of monitoring conducted by  
18 the Department to determine whether the improvements and  
19 protocols put in place are effective to ensure the safety  
20 of residents and staff at the LaSalle Veterans' Home;

21           (5) The amount of State moneys received and the amount  
22 of State moneys expended by IDPH or any other State agency  
23 during State fiscal years 2020 and 2021 for COVID-19  
24 relief and other measures taken to address the COVID-19  
25 outbreaks at the LaSalle Veterans' Home; and

1           (6) A review of the recommendations of the Performance  
2           Audit of the Legionnaires' Disease at the Quincy Veterans'  
3           Home and if the Departments of Public Health and Veterans'  
4           Affairs implemented policies and procedures to improve the  
5           State's response to addressing outbreaks; and

6           (7) To the extent information is available, whether  
7           the LaSalle Veterans' Home has been the subject of any  
8           reviews since 2015 to determine its compliance with  
9           applicable laws and regulations with regard to the care of  
10          its residents and, if so, the results of those reviews;  
11          and be it further

12          RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Veterans'  
13          Affairs, the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Office  
14          of the Governor, and any other State agency or other entity or  
15          person that may have information relevant to this audit  
16          cooperate fully and promptly with the Auditor General's  
17          Office; and be it further

18          RESOLVED, That the Auditor General is best equipped to  
19          conduct an investigation given their understanding of the  
20          policies and procedures associated with an outbreak response  
21          by the Departments of Public Health and Veterans' Affairs and  
22          the recommendations made in the 2019 Performance Audit; and be  
23          it further

1           RESOLVED, That the Auditor General commence this audit as  
2           soon as practical and report its findings and recommendations  
3           upon completion in accordance with the provisions of Section  
4           3-14 of the Illinois State Auditing Act; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6           delivered to the Auditor General.