



SR0055

LRB102 14863 ECR 20216 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In 1990, The LaSalle Veterans' Home opened in a
3 residential area on the northeast side of LaSalle in LaSalle
4 County on a campus of slightly more than four acres; and

5 WHEREAS, The LaSalle Veterans' Home can house over 180
6 residents and employs over 230 staff; and

7 WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a severe, potentially lethal virus
8 spread through close human interaction; and

9 WHEREAS, On November 1, 2020, the first four cases of a
10 large scale COVID-19 outbreak were reported at the LaSalle
11 Veterans' Home; this outbreak would shortly claim the lives of
12 33 residents; and

13 WHEREAS, Between November 1, 2020 and January 4, 2021,
14 more than 200 residents and staff tested positive for the
15 coronavirus, leading to the deaths of 36 resident veterans;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH),
18 in coordination with the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs,
19 conducted an onsite visit on November 12, 2020; and

1 WHEREAS, The LaSalle Veterans' Home followed the
2 recommendations of IDPH and completed remediations of key
3 findings in the November 12, 2020 onsite visit; and

4 WHEREAS, In December of 2020, Senate and House hearings
5 were conducted without the presence of an individual with
6 decision-making authority from the IDPH; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Auditor General is
9 directed to conduct a performance audit of the Illinois
10 Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Illinois Department of
11 Public Health's management of the 2020 coronavirus outbreak at
12 the LaSalle Veterans' Home; and be it further

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

15 (1) The responses of the Department of Veterans'
16 Affairs and Department of Public Health to the outbreak of
17 COVID-19 in November and December of 2020;

18 (2) The type, cost, and timing of any infrastructure
19 or other building improvements intended to contain the
20 further spread of coronavirus;

21 (3) The nature of changes made by the Departments in
22 operating protocols and staff training thereon intended to
23 contain the further spread of coronavirus or prevent its

1 reoccurrence;

2 (4) The nature and extent of monitoring conducted by
3 the Departments to determine whether the improvements and
4 protocols put in place are effective to ensure the safety
5 of residents and staff at the LaSalle Veterans' Home; and

6 (5) The amount of State moneys received and the amount
7 of state moneys expended by the Departments or any other
8 State agency during State fiscal years 2021 for any
9 improvements, monitoring, and other measures taken to
10 address the coronavirus pandemic at the LaSalle Veterans'
11 Home; and be it further;

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

18 RESOLVED, That the Auditor General commence this audit as
19 soon as practical and report its findings and recommendations
20 upon completion in accordance with the provisions of Section
21 3-14 of the Illinois State Auditing Act; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
23 presented to the Auditor General.