



SR1258

LRB098 21347 GRL 60370 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Neighborhood Recovery Initiative is a program launched in October of 2010 by Governor Quinn and established at the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority from Fiscal Year 2011 to Fiscal Year 2012; and

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WHEREAS, This program was created by the Governor's Office without legislative oversight due to the discretion given the Governor's Office through lump sum appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2011 budget; and

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WHEREAS, In Fiscal Year 2013, after concerns were publicly raised about the purpose and the effectiveness of the program, the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority was abolished and the Neighborhood Recovery Initiative was moved to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority; and

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WHEREAS, A performance audit, conducted by the Illinois Auditor General, of the \$54,550,000 spent in the first 2 years of the Neighborhood Recovery Initiative found numerous extraordinary "pervasive deficiencies" in the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority's planning, implementation, and management of the Neighborhood Recovery Initiative; and

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WHEREAS, Media investigations have discovered that State

1 funds issued through the Neighborhood Recovery Initiative were  
2 used to hand out flyers promoting "inner peace", to pay people  
3 to attend yoga classes, and to pay people to walk in a parade  
4 with Governor Quinn; and

5 WHEREAS, The Neighborhood Recovery Initiative process is  
6 currently being investigated by the Cook County State's  
7 Attorney's Office and the United States Department of Justice;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The Fiscal Year 2013 and Fiscal Year 2014 budgets  
10 do not contain appropriations to the Neighborhood Recovery  
11 Initiative, however, both budgets did appropriate general  
12 revenue funds to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information  
13 Authority for programs similar to those of the Neighborhood  
14 Recovery Initiative, such as the community based violence  
15 prevention program, the After-School program, and the Chicago  
16 Area Project; and

17 WHEREAS, The Illinois House of Representatives approved  
18 House Resolution 888, on April 17, 2014, directing the Auditor  
19 General to conduct a performance audit of the State moneys  
20 provided by or through the Illinois Criminal Justice  
21 Information Authority to all community based violence  
22 prevention programs, the After-School program, and the Chicago  
23 Area Project, under contracts or grant agreements in Fiscal

1 Year 2013 and Fiscal Year 2014; and

2 WHEREAS, House Bill 6097, as passed by the House of  
3 Representatives on May 27, 2014, contains Fiscal Year 2015  
4 appropriations for the Illinois Department of Labor, including  
5 a new lump sum appropriation of \$20,000,000 for "grants to  
6 State and local agencies and community providers for at-risk  
7 community support programs, after-school programs, and youth  
8 employment opportunities"; and

9 WHEREAS, The Department of Labor does not currently, and  
10 has not recently, administered grant funds, but especially  
11 grant funds for "agencies and community providers for at-risk  
12 community support programs"; and

13 WHEREAS, House Bill 6093, as passed by the House of  
14 Representatives on May 27, 2014, contains Fiscal Year 2015  
15 appropriations for the Illinois State Board of Education,  
16 including a new lump sum appropriation for \$3,200,000 for  
17 "targeted initiatives"; and

18 WHEREAS, The members of the legislature have a fiduciary  
19 duty to be good stewards of taxpayers' money and to ensure to  
20 the best our ability that tax dollars are spent efficiently,  
21 ethically, and legally; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Auditor General is  
3 directed to conduct a performance audit of all State moneys  
4 provided by or through the Illinois Department of Labor for  
5 "grants to State and local agencies and community providers for  
6 at-risk community support programs", or any similar  
7 expenditure of appropriate funds; and be it further

8           RESOLVED, That the Auditor General is directed to conduct a  
9 performance audit of all State moneys provided by or through  
10 the Illinois State Board of Education for "targeted  
11 initiatives", or any similar expenditure of appropriated  
12 funds; and be it further

13           RESOLVED, These performance audits include, but are not be  
14 limited to, the following determinations:

15           (1) the purposes for which State moneys were provided to  
16 both the Department of Labor for "grants at State and local  
17 agencies and community providers for at-risk community support  
18 programs", and the State Board of Education for "targeted  
19 initiatives";

20           (2) the nature and extent of monitoring by the Department  
21 of Labor and the State Board of Education of how these State  
22 funds were utilized and if these funds were fairly and

1 adequately distributed;

2 (3) the actual use of State moneys by the Department of  
3 Labor and the State Board of Education, including the identity  
4 of any sub-recipients and the amounts and purposes for  
5 employment;

6 (4) the number of positions paid through the programs by  
7 organizational unit, job title, function, and salary and  
8 whether employees completed and filled out appropriate time  
9 sheets;

10 (5) the number of positions supervised or managed by each  
11 management position and whether any of those employees were  
12 supervised or managed by more than one management position;

13 (6) whether, through a review of available documentation,  
14 the programs have met or are meeting the purposes for which the  
15 State moneys were provided, with specific information  
16 concerning the programs staffing levels, hiring procedures,  
17 and its compensation of employees; and

18 (7) whether the programs are in compliance with the  
19 applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements  
20 pertaining to the program's receipt of State moneys; and be it  
21 further

1           RESOLVED, That the Department of Labor and the State Board  
2 of Education, and any other State agency or other entity or  
3 person that may have information relevant to these audits  
4 cooperate fully and promptly with the Auditor General's Office  
5 in its audits; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That the Auditor General commence both audits as  
7 soon as practical, one year following enactment of these  
8 appropriated funds, and report its findings and  
9 recommendations upon completion in accordance with the  
10 provisions of Section 3-14 of the Illinois State Auditing Act;  
11 and be it further

12           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
13 presented to the Auditor General, the Director of Labor and the  
14 State Superintendent of Schools.