



HR0062 Enrolled

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 to address the
24 COVID-19 outbreaks at the LaSalle Veterans' Home; and

25 (6) To the extent information is available, whether

1 the LaSalle Veterans' Home has been the subject of any
2 reviews since 2015 to determine its compliance with
3 applicable laws and regulations with regard to the care of
4 its residents and, if so, the results of those reviews;
5 and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Veterans'
7 Affairs, the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Office
8 of the Governor, and any other State agency or other entity or
9 person that may have information relevant to this audit
10 cooperate fully and promptly with the Auditor General's
11 Office; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Auditor General is best equipped to
13 conduct an investigation given their understanding of the
14 policies and procedures associated with an outbreak response
15 by the Departments of Public Health and Veterans' Affairs and
16 the recommendations made in the 2019 Performance Audit; and be
17 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

1 delivered to the Auditor General.