GENERAL ASSEMBLY RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

PERFORMED AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT AUDITORS FOR THE AUDITOR GENERAL, STATE OF ILLINOIS

Financial Audit For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Table of Contents

System Officials and Office Locations	1
Financial Statement Report	
Summary	2
Independent Auditor's Report	3
Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)	6
Basic Financial Statements	
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position	9
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position	10
Notes to the Financial Statements	11
Required Supplementary Information (Unaudited)	
Schedule of Changes in the State's Net Pension Liability and Related Ratios Notes to Schedule of Changes in the State's Net Pension Liability	29
and Related Ratios	31
Schedule of Investment Returns	32
Schedule of State Contributions	32
Notes to Schedule of State Contributions	32
Supplementary Financial Information	
Schedule of Payments to Consultants	34
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on	
Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements	25
Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards	35

General Assembly Retirement System of the State of Illinois

Financial Audit For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

System Officials

Executive Secretary

Accounting Division Manager

Legal Counsel

Division Manager

Chief Internal Auditor

Governing Board

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Trustee (6/16/2023 – present) Trustee (01/11/2023 – 06/15/2023) Vice Chair (02/18/2021 – 01/10/2023)

Trustee (02/01/2019 - present)

Vice-Chair (05/31/2023 – present) Trustee (01/11/2023 – 06/15/2023) Trustee (02/11/2021 – 1/10/2023)

Trustee (01/11/2024 - present) Trustee (08/16/2023 - 01/10/2024 Trustee (05/31/2023 - 08/15/2023) Trustee (01/11/2023 - 06/15/2023) Trustee (02/11/2021 - 1/10/2023)

Trustee (01/06/2024 – present) Trustee (02/01/2021 – 1/05/2024)

Trustee (02/01/2021 - Present)

Office Locations

Springfield Office 2101 South Veterans Parkway P.O. Box 19255 Springfield, Illinois 62794-9255 Timothy B. Blair

Kristi Conrad, Acting (1/1/2023 to present) Alan Fowler, CPA (7/1/2022 – 12/31/2022)

Samantha Goetz (10/3/2022 to present) Vacant (7/1/2022 - 10/2/2022)

Angie Ackerson

Casey Evans

Senator Robert Martwick

Senator Chapin Rose Vacant Senator Dave Syverson

Senator Napoleon Harris III

Representative Norine Hammond Vacant Representative Charles Meier

Representative Barbara Hernandez Vacant Representative Lakesia Collins Vacant Representative Michael Halpin

Vacant Representative Jonathan Carroll

Tom Ryder, Retirement Annuitant Member

<u>Chicago Office</u> State of Illinois Building 160 North LaSalle Street, Suite N725 Chicago, Illinois 60601 General Assembly Retirement System of the State of Illinois

Financial Audit For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Financial Statement Report

Summary

The audit of the accompanying financial statements of the General Assembly Retirement System of the State of Illinois (System) was performed by RSM US LLP.

Based on their audit and the report of other auditors, the auditors expressed an unmodified opinion on the System's basic financial statements.

Exit Conference

The System waived an exit conference in correspondence from Timothy Blair, Executive Secretary, on December 19, 2024.



Independent Auditor's Report

RSM US LLP

Honorable Frank J. Mautino, Auditor General - State of Illinois

Board of Trustees, General Assembly Retirement System of the State of Illinois

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

As Special Assistant Auditors for the Auditor General, we have audited the financial statements of the General Assembly Retirement System of Illinois (the System), a component unit of the State of Illinois, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the System's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the fiduciary net position of the System, as of June 30, 2024, and the changes in fiduciary net position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the System and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Notes 5 and 6 of the financial statements, the actuarially determined net pension liability, calculated as required by GASB Statement No. 67, is dependent on several assumptions including the assumption that future required contributions from State sources are made based on statutory requirements in existence as of the date of this report. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the System's ability to continue as a going concern for 12 months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

3

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Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and Government Auditing Standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the System's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the System's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, the schedule of changes in the State's net pension liability and related ratios, the schedule of investment returns, the schedule of state contributions and the notes to the schedules be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with GAAS, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the System's basic financial statements. The supplementary information comprising the schedule of payments to consultants is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. In our opinion, the supplementary information, comprising the schedule of payments to consultants is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 19, 2024, on our consideration of the System's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the System's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the System's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE

Schaumburg, Illinois December 19, 2024

This section presents management's discussion and analysis of the financial position and performance of the General Assembly Retirement System (System) for the year ended June 30, 2024. It is presented as a narrative overview and analysis.

The System is a defined benefit, single-employer public employee retirement system. It provides services to 128 active participants, 44 vested inactive participants, and 425 benefit recipients. Throughout this discussion and analysis, units of measure (i.e. billions, millions, thousands) are approximate, being rounded up or down to the nearest tenth of the respective unit value.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the System's financial reporting which is comprised of the following components:

- 1. Basic Financial Statements and Notes. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, basic financial statements are presented for the System. This information presents the fiduciary net position restricted for pensions for the System as of June 30, 2024. This financial information also summarizes the changes in the fiduciary net position restricted for pensions for the year then ended. The notes to the financial statements provide additional information that is essential to achieve a full understanding of the data provided in the basic financial statements.
- 2. Required Supplementary Information. The required supplementary information consists of three schedules and related notes concerning actuarial information, funded status, information on State contributions, and investment returns.
- 3. Other Supplementary Schedules. Other supplementary schedules include more detailed information pertaining to the System, including the schedule of payments to consultants.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The fiduciary net position increased by \$6.8 million during fiscal year 2024. This change was primarily the result of increases in investments of \$7.2 million during fiscal year 2024.
- The System's Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a percentage of the Total Pension Liability was 24.2% as of June 30, 2024.
- The overall rate of return for the Illinois State Board of Investment (ISBI) Commingled Fund was a gain of 9.3% in fiscal year 2024. The System's annual money-weighted rate of return on its investment in the ISBI Commingled Fund was a gain of 9.3% for fiscal year 2024.

	(in modounds)	Increase/(Decrease) from
	As of June 30,	
	2024 2023	_ 2023 to 2024
Cash	\$ 6,265.0 \$ 6,546.1	\$ (281.1)
Receivables	22.8 26.2	(3.4)
Investments, at fair value *	84,869.3 77,717.0	7,152.3
Capital Assets, net	54.8 51.5	3.3
Total assets	91,211.9 84,340.8	6,871.1
Liabilities *	1,239.3 1,120.5	118.8
Total fiduciary net position	\$ 89,972.6	\$ 6,752.3

Condensed Statements of Fiduciary Net Position (in thousands)

* Including securities lending collateral

ADDITIONS TO FIDUCIARY NET POSITION

Additions to Fiduciary Net Position include employer and participant contributions and net income from investment activities. Participant contributions increased from \$1.3 million in 2023 to \$1.5 million in 2024. Participant contribution rates are set by statute as a percentage of gross salary. Employer contributions decreased from approximately \$28.1 million in fiscal year 2023 to \$26.5 million in fiscal year 2024. This decrease was the result of the actuarially determined employer contributions required by the State's funding plan.

DEDUCTIONS FROM FIDUCIARY NET POSITION

Deductions from Fiduciary Net Position are primarily benefit and refund payments. During fiscal years 2023 and 2024, the System paid out approximately \$27.5 million and \$28.2 million in benefits and refunds, respectively. This increase of 2.4% from 2023 to 2024 is mainly the result of the annual scheduled 3% increase in retirement and other benefit payments. The administrative costs of the System represented less than 2% of the total deductions in each of the fiscal years presented within the condensed statements.

Condensed Statements of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position

(in thousands)

			Increase/(Decrease) from
	For the Year	Ended June 30,	2023 to 2024
	2024	2023	
Additions			
Participant contributions	\$ 1,505.0	\$ 1,304.5	\$ 200.5
Employer contributions	26,474.0	28,081.2	(1,607.2)
Net Investment income gain/(loss)	7,267.5	4,585.3	2,682.2
Total additions	35,246.5	33,971.0	1,275.5
Deductions			
Benefits	28,059.5	27,413.3	646.2
Refunds	93.2	70.0	23.2
Administrative expenses	341.5	345.7	(4.2)
Total deductions	28,494.2	27,829.0	665.2
Net increase/(decrease) in	6 750 0	6 1 / 0 0	¢ 610.2
fiduciary net position	6,752.3	6,142.0	\$ 610.3
Beginning Balance	83,220.3	77,078.3	
Ending Balance	\$ 89,972.6	\$ 83,220.3	

FUNDED RATIO

The funded ratio of the plan measures the ratio of the fiduciary net position against the total pension liability and is one indicator of the fiscal strength of a pension fund's ability to meet obligations to its members. An annual actuarial valuation is performed. The most recent available valuation showed the funded status of the System was 24.2% on June 30, 2024. The amount by which the total pension liability exceeded the fiduciary net position was \$282.3 million on June 30, 2024.

INVESTMENTS

Investments of the System are combined in an internal commingled investment pool held by the Illinois State Board of Investment (ISBI). The other entities participating in this commingled pool are the Judges' Retirement System, State Employees' Retirement System, and one other state agency. The investments of this other state agency are immaterial to the total commingled investment pool. Each participating entity owns an equity position in the pool and receives proportionate investment income from the pool in accordance with respective ownership percentage. Investment gains or losses are reported in the Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position of each participating entity.

The net investment gain of the total ISBI Commingled Fund was approximately \$2,201.6 million during fiscal year 2024, resulting in a positive return of 9.3%. The actual rate of return earned by the System will vary from the return earned on the total ISBI Commingled Fund as the result of overall market conditions at the time of additional investments in or withdrawals from the ISBI Commingled Fund. For the three, five, and ten year periods ended June 30, 2024, the ISBI Commingled Fund earned a compounded rate of return of 2.9%, 7.4%, and 6.8%, respectively.

The ISBI is exposed to general market risk. This general market risk is reflected in asset valuations fluctuating with market volatility. Any impact from market volatility on the ISBI's investment portfolio depends in large measure on how deep the market downturn is, how long it lasts, and how it fits within fiscal year reporting periods. The resulting market risk and associated realized and unrealized gains and losses could significantly impact the ISBI's financial condition. In light of the current global events and associated national and global economic volatility, readers of these financial statements are advised that financial markets remain volatile and may experience significant changes on a daily basis.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2024 funding valuation were based on the experience review for the three years ended June 30, 2021, and annual review of all economic assumptions. The state's statutory employer contribution for fiscal year 2025 will decrease by \$0.3 million, or 1.0%.

Tier 2 active members' annual earnings on which they can contribute were capped at \$138,094 in 2024 and will be capped at \$141,408 in 2025. The caps on Tier 2 members' earnings decreases the anticipated amount of future earnings credit as well as the associated contributions.

Benefit payments are projected to continue to grow at a rate of approximately 2% to 5%, primarily as a result of the increasing numbers of retirees and the 3% annual COLA.

The ISBI plans to continue to improve the overall investment portfolio performance by increasing reliance on passive investment strategies and reducing investment advisor and management fees.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the System's finances. For questions concerning the information in this report or for additional information, contact the Accounting Division of the State Retirement Systems at <u>srsacctgdiv@srs.illinois.gov</u>.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RETIREMENT SYSTEM, STATE OF ILLINOIS

Statement of Fiduciary Net Position June 30, 2024

Assets	
Cash \$	6,265,005
Receivables: Refundable annuities Interest on cash balances	716
Total receivables	22,788
Investments: Investments - held in the Illinois State Board of Investment Commingled Fund at fair value Securities lending collateral with State Treasurer	83,731,283 1,138,000
Total Investments	84,869,283
Capital Assets, net	54,858
Total Assets	91,211,934
Liabilities	
Benefits payable	15,409
Administrative expenses payable	33,551
Due to Judges' Retirement System of Illinois Securities lending collateral	52,354 1,138,000
Total Liabilities	1,239,314
Net position – restricted for pensions	89,972,620

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RETIREMENT SYSTEM, STATE OF ILLINOIS

Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position for the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Additions: Contributions: Participants Employer Total contributions	\$ 1,504,970 26,474,000 27,978,970
Investment income: Net appreciation/(depreciation) in fair value of investments Interest and dividends Less investment expense Net investment income (loss)	6,128,670 1,222,897 (84,079) 7,267,488
Total Additions	35,246,458
Deductions: Benefits: Retirement annuities Survivors' annuities Total benefits	22,755,212 5,304,281 28,059,493
Refunds of contributions Administrative expenses Total Deductions Net increase/(decrease) in net position	93,165 341,453 28,494,111 6,752,347
Net position - restricted for pensions:	
Beginning of year	83,220,273
End of year	\$ 89,972,620

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RETIREMENT SYSTEM, STATE OF ILLINOIS

Notes to Financial Statements June 30, 2024

1. Reporting Entity

Generally accepted accounting principles require that the financial reporting entity include (1) the primary government, (2) organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable and (3) other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

The General Assembly Retirement System (System) is administered by a Board of Trustees consisting of seven persons, which include: three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one person elected from the member annuitants. Operation of the System and the direction of its policies are the responsibility of the Board of Trustees.

Based on the criteria of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) No. 61, there are no other state agencies, boards or commissions, or other organizations required to be combined with the System. However, GASB 84 stipulates that the System is a fiduciary component unit and pension trust fund of the State of Illinois financial reporting entity, and is to be combined and included in the State of Illinois' annual financial report.

At June 30, 2024, the System membership consisted of:

Retirees and beneficiaries currently receiving benefits:	
Retirement annuities	314
* Survivors' annuities	111
Reversionary annuities	-
	425
Inactive participants entitled to benefits	
but not yet receiving them	44
Total	469
Active participants:	
Vested	52
Nonvested	76
Total	128

* Excludes 13 alternate payees resulting from Qualified Illinois Domestic Relations Orders (QILDRO's)

2. Plan Description

The System is the administrator of a single-employer defined benefit public employee retirement system (PERS) established and administered by the State of Illinois to provide pension benefits for its participants. The plan is comprised of two tiers of contribution requirements and benefit levels. Tier 1 pertains to participants who first became a participant of the System prior to January 1, 2011. Tier 2 pertains to participants who first became a participant of the System on or after January 1, 2011.

a. Eligibility and Membership

The General Assembly Retirement System covers members of the General Assembly of the State and persons elected to the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Comptroller and Attorney General for the period of service in such offices and the Clerks and Assistant Clerks of the respective Houses of the General Assembly. Participation by eligible persons is optional.

b. Contributions

In accordance with Chapter 40, Section 5/2-126 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, participants contribute specified percentages of their salaries for retirement annuities, survivors' annuities, and automatic annual increases as shown below. Tier 1 participants contribute based on total annual compensation. Beginning January 1, 2011, Tier 2 participants contribute based on an annual compensation rate not to exceed \$106,800 with limitations for future years increased by the lesser of 3% or the annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index. The compensation limitation for 2024 was \$138,094. Contributions are excluded from gross income for Federal and State income tax purposes. The total contribution rate is 11.5% as shown below:

8.5%	Retirement annuity
2.0%	Survivors' annuity
1.0%	Automatic annual increases
11.5%	

The statutes governing the General Assembly Retirement System provide for optional contributions by participants, with interest at prescribed rates, to retroactively establish service credits for periods of prior creditable service.

The Board of Trustees has adopted the policy that interest payments by a participant, included in optional contributions to retroactively establish service credits, shall be considered an integral part of the participant's investment in annuity expectancies and, as such, shall be included as a part of any refund payable.

The payment of (1) the required State contributions, (2) all benefits granted under the System and (3) all expenses in connection with the administration and operation thereof are the obligations of the State to the extent specified in Chapter 40, Article 5/2 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes.

c. Benefits Retirement Annuity: Tier 1

Participants have vested rights to full retirement benefits beginning at age 55 with at least 8 years of credited service or at age 62 with at least 4 years of credited service.

The retirement annuity is determined according to the following formula based upon the applicable final salary:

3.0% for each of the first 4 years of service

3.5% for each of the next 2 years of service

4.0% for each of the next 2 years of service

4.5% for each of the next 4 years of service

5.0% for each year of service in excess of 12 years.

The maximum retirement annuity is 85% of the applicable final salary. Annual automatic increases of 3% of the current amount of retirement annuity are provided.

Retirement Annuity: Tier 2

Participants have vested rights to full retirement benefits at age 67 with at least 8 years of credited service or reduced retirement benefits at age 62 with at least 8 years of credited service.

The retirement annuity provided is 3% for each year of service based upon the applicable final average salary. The maximum retirement annuity is 60% of the applicable final average salary. Annual automatic increases equal to the lesser of 3% or the annual change in the Consumer Price Index are provided.

Other Benefits

The General Assembly Retirement System also provides survivors' annuity benefits, reversionary annuity benefits, and under certain specified conditions, lump-sum death benefits.

Participants who terminate service may receive, upon application, a refund of their total contributions. Participants who are not married are entitled to refunds of their contributions for survivors.

3. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Plan Asset Matters

a. Basis of Accounting

The financial transactions of the System are maintained and these financial statements have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Participant and employer contributions are recognized as revenues when due pursuant to statutory requirements. Benefits and refunds are recognized as expenses when due and payable in accordance with the terms of the plan.

b. Cash

The System retains all of its available cash in a commingled investment pool managed by the Treasurer of the State of Illinois (Treasurer). All deposits are fully collateralized by the Treasurer.

"Available cash" is determined to be that amount which is required for the current operating expenditures of the System. The excess of available cash is transferred to the Illinois State Board of Investment (ISBI) for purposes of long-term investment for the System.

c. Implementation of New Accounting Standards

GASB Statement No. 100 "Accounting Changes and Error Corrections" is an amendment of GASB No. 62 and requires accounting changes (or changes in accounting principles, changes in estimates and/or changes to or within the financial reporting entity) be identified prospective or retrospective upon implementation. The GASB is effective for periods after June 15, 2023 (fiscal year 2024.) There was no impact on the System's financial statements for fiscal year 2024.

GASB Statement No. 101 "Compensated Absences" requires compensated absences' liabilities be recognized for a) leave that has not been used and b) leave that has been used but not yet paid in cash or non-cash means. The GASB is effective for reporting periods after December 15, 2023 (fiscal year 2025) and is being reviewed for possible impact on the System's financial statements.

GASB Statement No. 102 "Certain Risk Disclosures" requires an assessment as to whether a "concentration" or "constraint" makes the System vulnerable to risk of a substantial impact. Furthermore, the Statement requires determination as to whether the "concentration" or "constraint" could cause the substantial impact to occur within 12 months of the date the financial statements are issued. The GASB is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2024 (fiscal year 2025), and is being reviewed for possible impact on the System's financial statements.

GASB Statement No. 103 "Financial Reporting Model Improvements" requires information presented in MD&A be limited to the related topics discussed in five sections: (1) Overview of the Financial Statements, (2) Financial Summary, (3) Detailed Analyses, (4) Significant Capital Asset and Long-Term Financing Activity, and (5) Currently Known Facts, Decisions, or Conditions. Furthermore, detailed analyses should explain why balances and results of operations changed rather than simply presenting the amounts or percentages by which they changed. The statement also includes guidance on (1) unusual or infrequest items, (2) the presentation of the proprietary fund statement of revenues, expenses and changes in fund net position, (3) major component information and (4) budgetary comparision information. The GASB is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2025 (fiscal year 2026), and is being reviewed for possible impact on the System's financial statements.

GASB Statement No. 104 "Disclosure of Certain Capital Assets" requires certain types of: capital, lease, intangible right-to-use, and subscription assets to be disclosed separately in the applicable asset note disclosures. In addition, this Statement requires intangible assets other than the aforementioned asset types to be disclosed separately by major class. The GASB is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2025 (fiscal year 2026), and is being reviewed for possible impact on the System's financial statements.

d. General Litigation

The System is subject to claims and lawsuits that arise primarily in the ordinary course of business. It is the opinion of management that the disposition or ultimate resolution of such claims and lawsuits will not have a material adverse effect on the fiduciary net position or the changes in fiduciary net position of the System.

e. Methods Used to Value Investments

Investments are managed by the ISBI pursuant to Chapter 40, Article 5/22A of the Illinois Compiled Statutes (ILCS) and are maintained in the ISBI Commingled Fund.

Investments owned are reported at fair value. Units of the ISBI Commingled Fund are issued to the participating entities on the last day of the month based on the unit net asset value calculated as of that date. Net investment income of the ISBI Commingled Fund is allocated to each of the participating entities on the last day of the month on the basis of percentage of accumulated units owned by the respective systems. Management expenses are deducted monthly from income before distribution.

The investment authority of the ISBI is provided in Chapter 40, Section 5/22A-112 of the ILCS. Such investment authority requires that all opportunities be undertaken with care, skill, prudence and diligence given prevailing circumstances that a prudent person acting in like capacity and experience would undertake.

f. Actuarial Experience Review

In accordance with Illinois Compiled Statutes, an actuarial experience review is to be performed at least once every three years to determine the adequacy of actuarial assumptions regarding the mortality, retirement, disability, employment, turnover, interest and earnable compensation of the members and beneficiaries of the System. An experience review was last performed for the period from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021 resulting in the adoption of new assumptions as of June 30, 2022. Assumptions changes include changes to the investment returns, rate of inflation, mortality and others as detailed in the Required Supplementary Information of this financial report.

g. Administrative Expenses

Expenses related to the administration of the System are financed through investment earnings and employer retirement contributions. These expenses are budgeted and approved by the System's Board of Trustees.

Administrative expenses common to the General Assembly Retirement System and the Judges' Retirement System are allocated 20% to the General Assembly Retirement System and 80% to the Judges' Retirement System.

Invoices/vouchers covering common expenses incurred are paid by the Judges' Retirement System, and the appropriate amount is allocated to and reimbursed by the General Assembly Retirement System. Administrative expenses allocated to and reimbursed by the General Assembly Retirement System as of June 30, 2024 was \$193,776. The total administrative expenses attributable to the General Assembly Retirement System is \$341,453 for fiscal year 2024.

h. Risk Management

The System, as part of the primary government of the State, provides for risks of loss associated with workers' compensation and general liability through the State's self-insurance program. The System obtains commercial insurance for fidelity, surety, and property. There have been no commercial insurance claims in the past three fiscal years.

i. Use of Estimates

In preparing financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, the System makes estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, as well as the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates and assumptions.

4. Investments

Introduction

Investments of the System are combined in a commingled internal investment pool and held by the Illinois State Board of Investment (ISBI). The System owns approximately 0.3% (\$83,731,283) of the net position of the ISBI commingled fund as of June 30, 2024. A schedule of investment expenses is included in the ISBI's annual report.

For additional information on ISBI's investments, please refer to their Annual Report as of June 30, 2024. A copy of the report can be obtained from the ISBI at 180 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2015, Chicago, Illinois 60601 or by visiting their website, https://www.isbinvestment.com.

Summary of the ISBI Fund's investments at fair value by type

	June 30, 2024
U.S. govt. agency and municipal obligations Domestic Equities International Equities Domestic Bank Loans Domestic Obligations International Obligations Commingled Funds Real Estate Funds Private Equity Funds Private Credit Funds Infrastructure Funds Hedge Funds	\$ 571,490,082 5,409,030,026 294,926,367 113,775,903 264,253,456 23,501,295 11,151,296,164 2,615,502,773 2,614,816,926 2,169,869,322 644,775,916 143,589
Money market instruments	242,631,619
Total investments	\$ 26,116,013,438

Rate of Return

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the annual money-weighted rate of return on the System's pension plan investments, net of pension plan investment expense, was 9.32%. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

Deposits

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of a financial institution failure, the System's and ISBI's deposits may not be returned. All non-investment related bank balances at year-end are insured or collateralized with securities held by the Illinois State Treasurer or agents in the name of the State Treasurer. As of June 30, 2024, the ISBI had a non-investment related bank balance of \$667,058. A Custodial Credit Risk Policy was implemented by the ISBI staff and formally adopted by the ISBI Board in July of 2007. The policy outlines the control procedures used to monitor custodial credit risk. These assets are under the custody of Northern Trust. Northern Trust has an A+ Long-term Deposit/Debt rating by Standard & Poor's and an A2 rating by Moody's. Certain investments of the ISBI with maturities of 90 days or less would be considered cash equivalents; these consist of short-term investment funds and U.S. Treasury bills with maturities of 90 days or less. For financial statement presentation and investment purposes, the ISBI reports these types of cash equivalents as Money Market Instruments within their investments. As of June 30, 2024, the ISBI had an investment related bank balance of \$19,728,164. This balance includes USD and foreign cash balances. Cash held in the investment related bank account is neither federally insured nor collateralized for amounts in excess of \$250,000. However, the ISBI is the beneficiary of multiple policies and bonds held by Northern Trust providing for recovery of various potential losses related to services provided by Northern Trust as the ISBI's custodian. At any given point and time, the foreign cash balances may be exposed to custodial credit risk.

General Assembly Retirement System, State of Illinois

Investment Commitments

The ISBI had total investment commitments of \$4.7 billion at the end of fiscal year 2024. The ISBI's real estate, private equity, infrastructure and private credit investment portfolios consist of passive interests in limited partnerships. The ISBI would fund outstanding commitments by utilizing available cash and then selling liquid securities in the portfolio as necessary.

Investment Liquidity

The majority of the ISBI's portfolio is highly liquid. However, the ISBI holds investments in hedge funds, real estate funds, private credit funds, private equity funds, commingled funds, bank loans and infrastructure funds that are considered illiquid by the very nature of the investment. Market risk exists with respect to these investments as the ISBI may not be able to exit from the illiquid investments during periods of significant fair value declines.

Fair Value Measurements

Fair value is the amount that would be received to sell the investment in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (i.e. exit price). The fair value measurements are determined within a framework that utilizes a three-tier hierarchy, which maximizes the use of observable inputs and minimizes the use of unobservable inputs. Investments measured and reported at fair value are classified and disclosed in one of the following categories:

- Level 1 Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets.
- Level 2 Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset, either directly or indirectly. These inputs include:
 - a. quoted prices for similar assets in active markets;
 - b. quoted prices for identical or similar assets in markets that are not active;
 - c. inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset; or
 - d. inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.
- Level 3 Inputs that are unobservable for the asset. The valuation of these investments requires significant judgment due to the absence of quoted market values, inherent lack of liquidity, and changes in market conditions.

Money market instruments are valued at amortized cost which approximates fiar value.

Valuation methodologies for level 2 assets are as follows:

- U.S. Treasuries and U.S. Agencies: quoted prices for identical securities in markets that are not active;
- International Obligations: quoted prices for simialr securities in active markets and quoted prices for identical or similar assets in markets that are not active;
- · Corporate Bonds: quoted prices for similar securities in active markets;
- Municipal Bonds: quoted prices for similar securities in active markets;
- Bank Loans: inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset;
- Derivative Instruments (currently comprised of rights/warrants reported within equity securities): valued using a market approach that considers foreign exchange rates.

Investments classified as Level 3 are valued using best available sources, including discounted cash flow models, weighting of best available pricing inputs and third-party pricing services. The values are supplied investment managers or general partners who hold those or similar assets in investment vehicles they oversee. These pricing sources may or may not be indicative of realizable exit values attainable for the assets.

The recurring fair value measurements for ISBI total portfolio for the year ended June 30, 2024 are as follows:

At June 30, 2024								
		Fair Value Measu	remen	its Using				
		Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Totals
Investments by fair value level								
Debt Securities								
US Government, agency, and	•	007.055	•	574 000 407	•		•	574 400 000
municipal obligations	\$	227,955	\$	571,262,127	\$	-	\$	571,490,082
Domestic bank loans		1 501 040		84,456,563		29,319,340		113,775,903
Domestic corporate obligations		1,531,348		243,049,080 21,236,850		19,673,028 2,264,445		264,253,456 23,501,295
International obligations Total debt securities	\$	1,759,303	\$	920,004,620	\$	51,256,813	\$	973,020,736
Total debt securities	Ψ	1,759,505	Ψ	320,004,020	Ψ	51,250,015	Ψ	970,020,700
Equity Securities								
Domestic equities	\$	5,392,307,684	\$	-	\$	16,722,342	\$	5,409,030,026
International equities	,	294,451,171				475,196		294,926,367
Total equity securities	\$	5,686,758,855	\$	-	\$	17,197,538	\$	5,703,956,393
							_	
Other								
Commingled funds ¹	\$	8,989,210,596	\$	-	\$ \$	-	\$	8,989,210,596
Total other	\$	8,989,210,596	\$	-	\$	-	\$	8,989,210,596
Total investments by fair value level	\$	14,677,728,754	\$	920,004,620	\$	68,454,351	\$	15,666,187,725
Investments measured at the Net Asset Value (NA	<u>م</u> (۷)							
Commingled fund	(*)						\$	2,162,085,568
Real estate funds							•	2,615,502,773
Private equity funds								2,614,816,926
Private credit funds								2,169,869,322
Infrastructure funds								644,775,916
Hedge funds								143,589
Total investments measured at the NAV							\$	10,207,194,094
Investments not measured at fair value Money market instruments							\$	242,631,619
Total investments not measured at fair value							\$	242,631,619
Total investments							\$	26,116,013,438

1. Commingled funds with readily determinable fair value reported as Level 1.

Investments valued using the net asset value (NAV) per share (or its equivalent) are considered "alternative investments" and, unlike more traditional investments, generally do not have readily obtainable market values and take the form of limited partnerships. The ISBI values these investments based on the partnerships' audited financial statements. If June 30 statements are available, those values are used preferentially. However, some partnerships have fiscal years ending at other than June 30. If June 30 valuations are not available, the value is adjusted from the most recently available valuation taking into account subsequent calls and distributions, adjusted for unrealized appreciation/depreciation, other income and fees.

	June 30, 2024					
	Fair Value	Unfunded Commitments	Redemption Frequency	Redemption Notice Period		
Commingled funds	\$ 2,162,085,568	\$ -	Quarterly	90 Days		
Real estate funds	2,615,502,773	952,840,660	Quarterly	90 Days		
Private equity funds	2,614,816,926	1,492,271,493	N/A	N/A		
Private credit funds	2,169,869,322	1,948,635,143	N/A	N/A		
Infrastructure funds	644,775,916	330,436,858	Quarterly	90 Days		
Hedge funds	143,589	-	Quarterly	90 Days		
Total Investments measured at the NAV	\$10,207,194,094			-		

The following table presents the unfunded commitments, redemption frequency (if currently eligible), and the redemption notice period for alternative investments measured at NAV:

1) Commingled Funds measured at NAV – The ISBI's assets in this category consist of various investments that are blended together in order to provide economies of scale, allowing for lower trading costs per dollar of investment and diversification. These investments provide primarily liquid exposure to publicly traded equity and fixed income markets. The equity and fixed income portfolios provide diversification benefits and return enhancement to the overall fund in both domestic and international markets. Commingled funds are also called "pooled funds" and "master trusts". The ISBI's current NAV measured Commingled fund exposure consists of investments in forty-eight total funds, including public equity (forty-four) and fixed income (four) funds. Sixteen of these funds are domestic and twenty-one are international. The fair value of these investments is based on audited financial statements of the funds adjusted for activity from the audit date to year-end. The ISBI has no plans to liquidate these investments as of June 30, 2024.

2) Real Estate Funds – The ISBI's assets in this category consist of investments in Core and Non-Core Real Estate Fund categories. The ISBI's current Real Estate exposure consists of investments in eighty funds with the goals of diversifying the ISBI's overall portfolio, providing capital appreciation and supplementing the total return of the portfolio through exposure to private real estate assets in both open-end and closed-end structures. Investments in this category are globally diversified and consist of office, industrial, multi-family, retail, storage and other types of assets. Core assets are expected to provide strong diversification through primary markets and high-income potential. Non-Core assets are typically higher risk assets with stronger capital appreciation. The fair value of these investments is based on audited financial statements of the funds adjusted for activity from the audit date to year-end. The ISBI has no plans to liquidate these investments as of June 30, 2024.

3) Private Equity Funds – The ISBI's assets in this category consist of investments in funds not listed on public exchanges. The ISBI's current Private Equity exposure consists of investments in one hundred and twenty-nine funds with the goals of generating returns significantly greater than typically available in the public market and diversifying the ISBI's overall portfolio that is comprised predominantly of equity and fixed income assets. The strategies of Private Equity funds include, but are not limited to, leveraged buyouts, venture capital and growth capital. Returns are commensurate with the risks presented by this asset class which include illiquidity. These funds have underlying portfolio investments that cannot be redeemed with the funds but rather these funds will make distributions of capital as the funds liquidate their underlying portfolio investments over the average 10-year life of the funds. The fair value of these investments is based on

audited financial statements of the funds adjusted for activity from the audit date to year-end. The ISBI has no plans to liquidate these investments as of June 30, 2024.

4) Private Credit Funds – The ISBI's assets in this category consist of investments in private fixed income markets. The ISBI's current Private Credit exposure consists of investments in one hundred and fourteen funds with the goals of diversifying ISBI's overall portfolio, providing downside protection through assets that are capital collateralized, and supplementing the total return of the portfolio which is comprised predominantly of equity and fixed income assets. These funds are have underlying portfolio investments that cannot be redeemed with the funds but rather these funds will make distributions of capital as the funds liquidate their underlying portfolio investments over the average 10-year life of the funds. The fair value of these investments is based on audited financial statements of the funds adjusted for activity from the audit date to year-end. The ISBI has no plans to liquidate these investments as of June 30, 2024.

5) Infrastructure Funds– The ISBI's assets in this category consist of investments in funds that target infrastructure assets that provide essential services or facilities to a community (ports, bridges, toll roads, etc.). The ISBI's current infrastructure exposure consists of investments in twenty four funds that seek to diversify the ISBI's overall portfolio (comprised predominantly of equity and fixed income assets) and provide capital appreciation and income generation through both open-end and closed-end structures. Investments in this category are globally diversified and consist of Core and Non-Core assets. Core assets are expected to provide strong diversification through primary markets and high-income potential. Non-Core assets are typically higher risk assets with stronger capital appreciation. The fair value of these investments is based on audited financial statements of the funds adjusted for activity from the audit date to year-end. The ISBI has no plans to liquidate these investments as of June 30, 2024.

6) Hedge Funds – The ISBI's assets in this category have historically consisted of investments in funds that seek to generate better than average return and provide a hedge against a downward trend in the overall market. The ISBI is currently in the process of transitioning investments in hedge fund vehicles to long-only equity vehicles. The ISBI's current Hedge Fund exposure consists of investments in two funds including hedge fund and long only equity assets. Returns are commensurate with the risks presented by this asset class which include illiquidity. The fair value of these investments is based on audited financial statements of the funds adjusted for activity from the audit date to year-end. The ISBI has no plans to liquidate these investments as of June 30, 2024

Custodial Credit Risk for Investments

The custodial credit risk for investments is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty to a transaction, the ISBI will not be able to recover the value of investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of a counterparty. ISBI's Investment Policy places no limit on the amount ISBI may invest in any one issuer. As of June 30, 2024, there were no investments that were uninsured and unregistered securities held by the counterparty or by its trust department or agent but not in the ISBI's name.

Interest Rate Risk

The ISBI manages its exposure to fair value losses arising from interest rate risk by diversifying the debt securities portfolio and maintaining the debt securities portfolio to an effective weighted duration consistent with the Barclay's U.S. Universal Index (benchmark index). As of June 30, 2024, the effective weighted duration of the ISBI's fixed income portfolio was 6.8 years and the effective duration of the benchmark index was 5.9 years.

Duration is the measure of a debt investment's exposure to fair value changes arising from changing interest rates. It uses the present value of cash flows, weighted for those cash flows as a percentage of the investment's fair value. The effective duration measures the sensitivity of market price to parallel shifts in the yield curve. The table below shows the detail of the duration by investment type as of June 30, 2024:

Investment Type	Fair Value	Effective Weighted Duration Years
U.S. government, agency, and municipal obligations U.S. Government U.S. federal agency Total U.S. government, agency, and municipal obligations	\$ 571,262,127 <u>227,955</u> 571,490,082	8.4 0.0
Domestic obligations Banks Insurance Other Total domestic obligations	54,991,439 999,776 208,262,241 264,253,456	3.8 1.1 2.3
International obligations Grand Total	23,501,295 \$ 859,244,833	1.2

For the ISBI's bank loan portfolio, the appropriate measure of interest rate risk is weighted average maturity. Weighted average maturity is the average time it takes for securities in a portfolio to measure weighted in proportion to the dollar amount that is invested in the portfolio. Weighted average maturity measures the sensitivity of fixed-income portfolios to interest rate changes. At June 30, 2024, the weighted average maturity of the ISBI's bank loan portfolio was 3.8 years.

Concentration of Credit Risk and Credit Risk for Investments

The ISBI's portfolio of investments is managed by professional investment management firms. These investment management firms are required to maintain diversified portfolios. Each investment manager must comply with risk management guidelines individually assigned to them as part of their investment management agreement. The ISBI did not have any single issuer investment that exceeded 5% of the total investments of the fund as of June 30, 2024. The table on the next page, presents the quality ratings of debt securities held by the ISBI as of June 30, 2024.

Moody's Quality Rating

U.S. Government and Agency Obligations		¢	E71 400 000
Total U.S. Government and Agency Obligations	AAA	\$\$	571,490,082 571,490,082
Domestic corporate obligations Banks	A B NR	<u>∳</u> \$	26,917,856 19,703,123 8,370,460
Total banks		\$	54,991,439
Insurance Total insurance	CAA	<u>\$</u> \$	999,776 999,776
		φ	999,770
Other	AAA AA BAA BA BA CAA Not rated	\$	7,619,457 1,880,446 18,317,420 69,531,843 15,492,785 3,752,568 27,560,134 64,107,588
Total other		\$	208,262,241
Total domestic corporate obligations		\$	264,253,456
Domestic bank loans			
	BAA CAA Not rated	\$	22,380,231 4,778,061 86,617,611
Total bank loans		\$	113,775,903
International obligations	AAA BAA BA CAA Not rated	\$	1,006,477 9,246,626 1,862,185 2,254,519 9,131,488
Total international obligations		\$	23,501,295
Money market instruments	Not rated	\$	242,631,619
Total Rated Securities		· ·	1,215,652,355

Foreign Currency Risk

The ISBI's international portfolio is constructed on the principles of diversification, quality, growth, and value. Risk of loss arises from changes in currency exchange rates and other factors. Certain investments held in Real Estate, Private Equity, Private Credit, and Infrastructure funds trade in a reported currency of Eurobased or British Pound-based dollars valued at \$122,101,178 as of June 30, 2024. ISBI does not set specific foreign denominated investment limits within its investment policy. The table below presents the foreign currency risk by type of investment as of June 30, 2024.

Currency	Interr	national Equities	 Foreign Obligations
Australian Dollar Brazilian Real British Pound Sterling Canadian Dollar Danish Krone Euro Currency Hong Kong Dollar Japanese Yen Israeli Shekel Taiwan dollar Norwegian krone Singapore dollar South Korean Won Swedish Krona Swiss Franc United Arab Emirates dirham Foreign investments denominated in U.S. Dollars	\$	6,874,755 4,954,165 28,170,444 13,834,810 3,861,904 93,930,734 6,788,379 52,356,267 431,393 3,498,790 1,911,296 1,647,157 15,781,600 4,930,513 11,230,323 750,694 43,973,143	\$ 1,014,361 - - 476,591 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -
Total	\$	294,926,367	\$ 23,501,295

Securities Lending

Cash and cash equivalents included in the System's Statement of Fiduciary Net Position consist of deposits held in the State Treasury. The Illinois Office of the Treasurer invests the deposits held and allocates investment income on a monthly basis.

The State Treasurer lends securities to broker-dealers and other entities for collateral that will be returned for the same securities in the future. The State Treasurer has, through a Securities Lending Agreement, authorized Deutsche Bank AG to lend the State Treasurer's securities to broker-dealers and banks pursuant to a form of loan agreement.

During fiscal year 2024, Deutsche Bank AG lent U.S. Agency securities and U.S. Treasury securities and received as collateral U.S. dollar denominated cash. Borrowers were required to deliver collateral for each loan equal to at least 100% of the aggregate fair value of the loaned securities. Loans are marked to market daily. If the fair value of collateral falls below 100%, the borrower must provide additional collateral to raise the fair value to 100%.

The State Treasurer did not impose any restrictions during fiscal year 2024 on the amount of the loans of available, eligible securities. In the event of borrower default, Deutsche Bank AG provides the State Treasurer with counterparty default indemnification. In addition, Deutsche Bank AG is obligated to indemnify the State Treasurer if Deutsche Bank AG loses any securities, collateral or investments of the State Treasurer in Deutsche Bank AG's custody. There were no losses during fiscal year 2024 resulting from a default of the borrowers or Deutsche Bank AG.

During fiscal year 2024, the State Treasurer and the borrowers maintained the right to terminate all securities lending transactions on demand. The cash collateral received on each loan was invested in repurchase agreements with approved counterparties collateralized with securities approved by Deutsche Bank AG and marked to market daily at no less than 102%. Because the loans are terminable at will, their duration did not generally match the duration of the investments made with cash collateral. The State Treasurer had no credit risk as a result of its securities lending program as the collateral held exceeded the fair value of the securities lent. The securities lending collateral received that was invested in repurchase agreements and the fair value of securities on loan for the State Treasurer as of June 30, 2024 were \$6,315,526,626 and \$6,212,419,117, respectively. The System's portion of securities lending collateral that was invested in repurchase agreements as of June 30, 2024 was \$1,137,711.

Derivative Securities

A derivative security is an investment whose payoff depends upon the value of other assets such as commodity prices, bond and stock prices, or a market index. The ISBI currently only invests in derivative instruments consisting of rights and warrants. The ISBI's derivatives are considered investment derivatives.

Rights and warrants allow the ISBI investment managers to replicate an underlying security they wish to hold (sell) in the portfolio. Rights and warrants provide the holder with the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell a company's stock at a predetermined price. Rights usually expire after a few weeks and warrants can expire from one to several years. These investments are reported at fair value in the investment section of the Statement of Net Position within the domestic and international equity classifications. The gain or loss associated with rights and warrants is recognized in the net increase/decrease in the fair value of investments in the ISBI Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position.

The table below presents the investment derivative instruments aggregated by type that were held by the ISBI as of June 30, 2024.

-	Changes in Fair Value	Fair Value at Year-End	Notional Amount Number of Shares		
Rights/Warrants	\$ (3,015)	<u>\$ 362,097</u>	288,070		
	\$ (3,015)	\$ 362,097	288,070		

Derivative transactions involve, to varying degrees, credit risk and market risk. Credit risk is the possibility that a loss may occur because a party to a transaction fails to perform according to terms. Derivatives which are exchange traded are not subject to credit risk. No derivatives held are subject to custodial credit risk. Market risk is the possibility that a change in interest (interest rate risk) or currency rates (foreign currency risk) will cause the value of a financial instrument to decrease or become more costly to settle. The market risk associated with derivatives, the prices of which are constantly fluctuating, is regulated by imposing strict limits as to the types, amounts and degree of risk that investment managers may undertake. These limits are approved by the Board of Trustees and management of the ISBI and the risk positions of the investment managers are reviewed on a periodic basis to monitor compliance with the limits.

5. Funding - Statutory Contributions Required & Contributions Made

On an annual basis, a valuation of the liabilities and reserves of the System is performed by the System's actuarial consultants in order to determine the amount of contributions statutorily required from the State of Illinois. For fiscal year 2024, the actuary used the projected unit credit actuarial method for determining the proper employer contribution amount.

For fiscal year 2024, the required employer contribution was computed in accordance with the State's funding plan. This funding legislation provides for a systematic 50-year funding plan with an ultimate goal to fund the cost of maintaining and administering the System at an actuarial funded ratio of 90%.

In addition, the funding plan provides for a 15 year phase-in period to allow the state to adapt to the increased financial commitment. Since the 15-year phase-in period ended June 30, 2010, the state's contribution will remain at a level percentage of payroll for the next 35 years until the 90% funded level is achieved.

The total amount of statutorily required employer contributions for fiscal year 2024 was \$26,474,000. The total amount of employer contributions received from the state and other sources during fiscal year 2024 was \$26,474,000.

6. Net Pension Liability of the State

The components of the State's net pension liability for this plan at June 30, 2024 are as follows:

Total Pension	Plan Fiduciary	Net Pension	Plan FNP
Liability (TPL)	Net Position (FNP)	Liability	as % of TPL
\$ 372,273,371	89,972,620	282,300,751	24.17%

The System is significantly underfunded which raises concerns about its future financial solvency should there be a significant market downturn coupled with the State's inability or unwillingness to pay the employer contributions.

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2024, using the following actuarial assumptions, which were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Actuarial Cost Method:	Entry Age Normal
Mortality rates: Post retirement:	Pub-2010 Above-Median Income General Healthy Retiree Mortality tables, sex distinct, with no scaling factors, and the MP-2021 two-dimensional generational mortality Improvement scale, providing a margin for future mortality improvements.
Pre-retirement:	Including terminated vested members prior to attaining age 50. Pub-2010 Above-Median Income General Employee Mortality tables, sex distinct, with no scaling factors, and the MP-2021 two-dimensional generational mortality improvement scale. This assumption provides a margin for future mortality improvements. Future mortality improvements are reflected by projecting the base mortality tables forward from the year 2010 using the MP-2021 projection scale.
Inflation:	2.25%
Investment rate of return:	6.5%
Salary increases:	2.5% per year (consisting of an inflation component of 2.25% per year, a productivity component of .25% per year).

- Group size growth rate: Based on recent experience, the size of the current active group is projected to decrease by approximately 45% by the year 2056 due to the assumption that 45% of future members will elect to opt out of participating in the System.
 Post-retirement increase: Tier 1: 3.0% per year, compounded annually. Tier 2: 3.0% per year or the
 - st-retirement increase: Tier 1: 3.0% per year, compounded annually. Tier 2: 3.0% per year or the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index, whichever is less, compounded annually.

Long-term Expected Return on Plan Assets

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments is reviewed annually by the System's actuary, Gabriel Roeder Smith & Company (GRS), as part of the economic assumptions review. The actuarial assumptions are developed using historical data and projections employed to model future returns as provided by the Illinois State Board of Investments (ISBI) in conjunction with its investment consultant. The assumed rate of inflation which must be combined with the projected real return is 2.25%.

The target allocations and forward looking annualized geometric real rates of return for each major asset class, which are applicable for a 20-year projection period, are summarized in the following table. The 20-year projections produced an estimated annual real return of 5.55% and a standard deviation of 12.34% for the aggregate portfolio.

	Ass	set Allocation
	Target	20 Year Simulated
Asset Class	Allocation	— Real Rate of Return
U.S. Equity	22%	6.5%
Developed Foreign Equity	13%	7.6%
Emerging Market Equity	8%	7.8%
Private Equity	10%	8.8%
High Yield Bonds	2%	5.1%
Private Debt	10%	6.8%
Investment Grade Bonds	14%	2.5%
Long-term Government Bonds	5%	2.8%
TIPS	3%	2.3%
Real Estate	10%	5.6%
Infrastructure	3%	6.1%
Total	100%	

Discount Rate

A single discount rate of 6.43% was used to measure the total pension liability as of June 30, 2024. This represents no change from the discount rate used for the June 30, 2023 valuation, 6.43%.

The single discount rate was based on the June 30, 2024 expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 6.5% and a municipal bond rate, based on an index of 20-year general obligation bonds with an average AA credit rating as published by the Federal Reserve, of 3.97% as of June 30, 2024. The projection of cash flows used to determine the single discount rates assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that employer contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between statutory contribution rates and the member rate. Based on these assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position and future contributions were sufficient to finance the benefit payments through the year 2074 at June 30, 2024. As a result, for fiscal year 2024, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to projected benefit payments through 2074, and the municipal bond rate was applied to all benefit payments after that date.

General Assembly Retirement System, State of Illinois

Sensitivity of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

For fiscal year 2024, the following table presents the plan's net pension liability using a single discount rate of 6.43%, as well as what the plan's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a single discount rate that is 1-percentage point lower or 1-percentage point higher.

	June 30, 2024						
		Current					
	1% decrease	Discount Rate	1% increase				
	5.43%	6.43%	7.43%				
State's net pension liability	\$320,498,382	\$282,300,751	\$250,021,761				

7. Administrative Expenses

A summary of the administrative expenses for the General Assembly Retirement System for fiscal year 2024 is listed below.

Personal services	\$101,347
Employee retirement contributions paid by employer	1,709
Employer retirement contributions	53,447
Social Security contributions	7,336
Group insurance	25,264
Contractual services	131,832
Equipment	1,515
Travel	455
Printing	100
Commodities	22
Telecommunications	274
Information technology	15,868
Automotive	274
Amortization	3,737
Depreciation	575
Change in accrued compensated absences	(2,302)
Total	\$341,453

8. Compensated Absences

Employees of the General Assembly Retirement System are entitled to receive compensation for all accrued but unused vacation time upon termination of employment. Additionally, employees of the System are entitled to receive compensation for one-half of the unused sick days that were earned on and after January 1, 1984 and before January 1, 1998, upon termination of employment. Accrued compensated absences, which are included in administrative expenses payable, are shown in the following table:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deletions	Ending Balance
Accrued Compensated Absences	\$ 7,593	\$ 10,282	\$ (12,584)	\$ 5,291

9. Pension Plan & Other Post-Employment Benefits

Plan Description. All of the System's full-time employees who are not eligible for participation in another statesponsored retirement plan participate in the State Employees' Retirement System (SERS), which is a pension trust fund in the State of Illinois reporting entity.

The SERS is a single-employer defined benefit public employee retirement system (PERS) in which state employees participate, except those covered by the State Universities, Teachers', General Assembly, and Judges' Retirement Systems.

The financial position and results of operations of the SERS for fiscal year 2024 is included in the State of Illinois' Annual Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2024. The SERS also issues a separate annual report that may be obtained by writing to the SERS, 2101 South Veterans Parkway, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9255 or by calling 217-785-7202.

The State of Illinois' annual financial report may be obtained by writing to the State Comptroller's Office, Financial Reporting Department, 325 West Adams St., Springfield, Illinois 62704-1858 or by calling 217-782-2053.

A summary of SERS' benefit provisions, changes in benefit provisions, employee eligibility requirements including eligibility for vesting, and the authority under which benefit provisions are established, are included as an integral part of the SERS' annual financial report. Also included is a discussion of employer and employee obligations to contribute and the authority under which those obligations are established.

Other Post-Employment Benefits. The State provides health, dental, vision, and life insurance benefits for retirees and their dependents in a program administered by the Department of Central Management Services. Substantially all State employees become eligible for post-employment benefits if they eventually become annuitants of one of the State sponsored pension plans. Health, dental, and vision benefits include basic benefits for annuitants and dependents under the State's self-insurance plan and insurance contracts currently in force. Annuitants may be required to contribute towards health, dental, and vision benefits with the amount based on factors such as date of retirement, years of credited service with the State, whether the annuitant is covered by Medicare, and whether the annuitant has chosen a managed health care plan. Annuitants who retired prior to January 1, 1998, and who are vested in the State Employees' Retirement System do not contribute towards health, dental, and vision benefits. For annuitants who retired on or after January 1, 1998, the annuitant's contribution amount is reduced 5% for each year of credited service with the State allowing those annuitants with twenty or more years of credited service to not have to contribute towards health, dental, and vision benefits. Annuitants also receive life insurance coverage equal to the annual salary on the last day of employment until age 60, at which time the benefit becomes \$5,000.

The State pays the System's portion of employer costs for the benefits provided. The total cost of the State's portion of health, dental, vision, and life insurance benefits of all members, including post-employment health, dental, vision, and life insurance benefits, is recognized as an expenditure by the State in the Illinois Annual Financial Report. The State finances the costs on a pay-as-you-go basis. The total costs incurred for health, dental, vision, and life insurance benefits are separated by individual department or fund for annuitants and their dependents and active employees and their dependents after the State adopted GASB Statement No. 75, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions. The System and the State Comptroller has determined that it would be inappropriate for the System to record its allocated share of the State's other post-employment benefits (OPEB) expense and liability associated with its employees because accounting standards would require that those costs be reallocated and recovered from other state agencies and funds through employer pension contributions.

A summary of post-employment benefit provisions, changes in benefit provisions, employee eligibility requirements including eligibility for vesting, and the authority under which benefit provisions are established are included as an integral part of the financial statements of the Department of Central Management Services. A copy of the financial statements of the Department of Central Management Services may be obtained by writing to the Department of Central Management Services, Stratton Office Building, 401 South Spring Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706.

10. Capital Assets Capital assets over \$1,000 are capitalized at their cost at the time of acquisition. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of the asset. The estimated useful lives are as follows: (1) office furniture - 10 years, (2) equipment - 6 years, (3) certain electronic data processing equip-ment - 3 years, and (4) internally developed software - 20 years. The summary of changes in Capital Assets for fiscal year 2024 is as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Current Year Additions	Current Year Deletions	Ending Balance
Capital Assets Equipment Capitalized Software Costs	\$ 3,188 <u> 67,228</u>	\$ 113 7,508	\$ (135)	\$
Total	70,416	7,621	(135)	77,902
Accumulated Depreciation Equipment Capitalized Software Costs	(2,476) (16,391)	(575) <u>(3,737)</u>	135	(2,916) (20,128)
Total	(18,867)	(4,312)	135	<u>(23,044)</u>
Net Capital Assets	<u>\$ </u>	<u>\$ 3,309</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 54,858</u>

SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE STATE'S NET PENSION LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2024 through 2014

	2024	2023	2022
Total pension liability Service cost Interest on the total pension liability Difference between expected and actual experience Assumption changes Benefit payments Refunds Administrative expense (1) Net change in total pension liability	\$ 2,501,192 23,070,266 3,437,563 - (28,059,493) (93,165) - - 856,363	\$ 2,146,080 22,916,177 4,972,131 - (27,413,341) (69,978) - 2,551,069	\$ 2,289,470 23,454,110 (4,132,828) (10,232,350) (26,930,235) (3,767) - (15,555,600)
Total pension liability - beginning Total pension liability - ending (a)	_371,417,008 \$372,273,371	<u>368,865,939</u> \$371,417,008	<u>384,421,539</u> \$368,865,939
Plan fiduciary net position Contributions - employer Contributions - participant Net investment (loss) income Benefit payments Refunds Administrative expense Net change in plan fiduciary net position	\$ 26,474,000 1,504,970 7,267,488 (28,059,493) (93,165) (341,453) 6,752,347	\$ 28,081,200 1,304,491 4,585,362 (27,413,341) (69,978) <u>(345,723)</u> 6,142,011	\$ 28,500,400 1,179,469 (5,090,040) (26,930,235) (3,767) (386,506) (2,730,679)
Plan fiduciary net position - beginning Plan fiduciary net position - ending (b)	83,220,273 \$ 89,972,620	77,078,262 \$ 83,220,273	79,808,941 \$ 77,078,262
State's net pension liability - ending (a)-(b)	\$282,300,751	\$288,196,735	\$291,787,677
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	24.17%	22.41%	20.90%
Covered payroll	\$ 13,212,724	\$ 12,206,279	\$ 10,107,391
State's net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll	2,136.58%	2,361.05%	2,886.87%
Single discount rate, Beginning of Year Single discount rate, End of Year	6.43% 6.43%	6.43% 6.43%	6.30% 6.43%
Long-term municipal bond rate Long-term municipal bond rate date	3.97% 6/28/24	3.86% 6/30/23	3.69% 6/30/22

(1) Prior to fiscal year end 2022, administrative expenses were included in the service cost.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<pre>\$ 2,729,135</pre>	\$ 2,859,384	\$ 3,280,072	\$ 3,535,911	\$ 3,879,813	\$ 3,577,188	\$ 5,957,132
23,603,996	23,720,171	24,852,899	24,541,949	24,045,958	22,395,292	19,911,100
(314,744)	(1,547,100)	4,007,760	1,197,364	2,093,742	(5,400,812)	2,366,032
2,676,810	1,929,204	(8,252,643)	(1,213,112)	(2,430,609)	42,122,612	(70,538,690)
(26,064,329)	(25,709,904)	(24,558,440)	(23,283,020)	(22,362,526)	(21,841,237)	(21,274,949)
(154,312)	(137,810)	(168,920)	(44,856)	(130,885)	(141,817)	(191,755)
(330,616)	(400,697)	(389,833)	(348,384)	(355,711)	(382,340)	(394,695)
2,145,940	713,248	(1,229,105)	4,385,852	4,739,782	40,328,886	(64,165,825)
<u>382,275,599</u>	381,562,351	382,791,456	378,405,604	373,665,822	333,336,936	397,502,761
\$384,421,539	\$382,275,599	\$381,562,351	\$382,791,456	\$378,405,604	\$373,665,822	\$333,336,936
\$ 27,299,000	\$ 25,754,000	\$ 23,253,426	\$ 21,155,000	\$ 21,721,000	\$ 16,073,000	\$ 15,870,941
1,238,024	1,205,930	1,317,187	1,255,232	1,284,707	1,309,697	1,487,346
14,809,371	2,581,064	3,449,416	3,733,504	5,140,250	(539,494)	2,287,916
(26,064,329)	(25,709,904)	(24,558,440)	(23,283,020)	(22,362,526)	(21,841,237)	(21,274,949)
(154,312)	(137,810)	(168,920)	(44,856)	(130,885)	(141,817)	(191,755)
(330,616)	(400,697)	(389,833)	(348,384)	(355,711)	(382,340)	(394,695)
16,797,138	3,292,583	2,902,836	2,467,476	5,296,835	(5,522,191)	(2,215,196)
63,011,803	59,719,220	56,816,384	54,348,908	49,052,073	54,574,264	56,789,460
\$ 79,808,941	\$ 63,011,803	\$ 59,719,220	\$ 56,816,384	\$ 54,348,908	\$ 49,052,073	\$ 54,574,264
\$ 304,612,598	\$319,263,796	\$321,843,131	\$325,975,072	\$324,056,696	\$324,613,749	\$278,762,672
20.76%	16.48%	15.65%	14.84%	14.36%	13.13%	16.37%
\$ 10,082,079	\$ 10,190,658	\$ 10,159,312	\$ 10,711,024	\$ 10,996,284	\$ 11,297,614	\$ 11,587,285
3,021.33%	3,132.91%	3,167.96%	3,043.36%	2,946.97%	2,873.29%	2,405.76%
6.37%	6.41%	6.68%	6.66%	6.60%	6.91%	5.11%
6.30%	6.37%	6.41%	6.68%	6.66%	6.60%	6.91%
1.92%	2.45%	3.13%	3.62%	3.56%	2.85%	3.80%
6/30/21	6/30/20	6/30/19	6/30/18	6/30/17	6/30/16	6/30/15

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Notes to the Schedule of Changes in the Net Pension Liability and Related Ratios

Valuation Date: June 30, 2024

Key Assumption Changes Related to the Schedule of Changes in the Net Pension Liability and Related Ratios

2024 Changes in Assumptions:

• There were no significant assumption changes.

2023 Changes in Assumptions:

• There were no significant assumption changes.

2022 Changes in Assumptions:

- The mortality tables were updated to the Pub-2010 Above-Median Income General Healthy Retiree and Employee Mortality Tables with no adjustments and future mortality improvements using the scale MP-2021.
- The normal retirement rates for Tier 1 were updated to better reflect observed experience.
- The current turnover rates were increased from 6% to 7% for both Tier 1 and Tier 2 members.
- The opt-out assumption for new active members in the population projection was decreased from 50% to 45%.

2021 Changes in Assumptions:

• There were no significant assumption changes.

2020 Changes in Assumptions:

• There were no significant assumption changes.

2019 Changes in Assumptions:

- The investment rate of return assumption decreased from 6.75% to 6.5%.
- The rate of inflation decreased from 2.5% to 2.25%.
- The salary increase assumption decreased from 2.75% to 2.5%.
- The mortality tables were updated to Pub-2010 Above-Median Income General Healthy Retiree and Employee Mortality Tables with adjustments for the System's credibility factors and future mortality improvements using scale MP-2018.
- The normal and early retirement rates were updated to better reflect observed experience.
- The turnover rates were updated to better reflect observed experience.

2018 Changes in Assumptions:

- The rate of inflation decreased from 2.75% to 2.50%.
- The salary increase assumption was decreased to 2.75% from 3.00%.

2017 Changes in Assumptions:

• There were no significant assumption changes.

2016 Changes in Assumptions:

- The rate of inflation decreased from 3.00% to 2.75%.
- The investment return assumption was decreased from 7.00% to 6.75%.

- The salary increase assumption was decreased from 3.5% to 3.00%.
- Turnover rates were increased for both Tier 1 and Tier 2 members. For Tier 2 members with less than five years of service, the turnover rate was increased to a flat rate of 10%.
- The overall salary increase rates were decreased to better reflect observed experience.
- The overall normal retirement rates were increased to better reflect observed experience.
- Generational mortality improvement factors were added to reflect future mortality improvements. The new mortality tables move from a single dimensional age-based table to a two dimensional table where the year of a person's birth influences their mortality rate.

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT RETURNS

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Annual money-weighted rate of return, net of investment expense	9.3%	6.9%	(6.8)%	26.0%	4.7%	7.2%	7.5%	12.3%	0.3%	3.2%

SCHEDULE OF STATE CONTRIBUTIONS

Fiscal Year <u>Ended June 30</u> 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023	Actuarially determined <u>contribution</u> \$ 16,900,876 17,140,656 26,984,621 32,082,644 32,650,450 34,410,810 34,432,777 35,005,692 35,160,750	Contributions received \$ 15,870,941 16,073,000 21,721,000 21,155,000 23,253,426 25,754,000 27,299,000 28,500,400 28,081,200	Contribution (deficiency) excess \$ (1,029,935) (1,067,656) (5,263,621) (10,927,644) (9,397,024) (8,656,810) (7,133,777) (6,505,292) (7,079,550)	Covered payroll \$ 11,587,285 11,297,614 10,996,284 10,711,024 10,159,312 10,190,658 10,082,079 10,107,391 12,206,279	received as a percentage of covered <u>payroll</u> 136.97% 142.27% 197.53% 197.51% 228.89% 252.72% 270.77% 281.98% 230.06%	
	35,160,750	28,081,200	(7,079,550)	12,206,279		
2024	34,724,251	26,474,000	(8,250,251)	13,212,724	200.37%	

Notes to Schedule of Contributions:

Valuation Date:June 30, 2022NotesActuarially determined contribution rates are calculated as of June 30, which is
12 months prior to the beginning of the fiscal year in which the contributions will
be made.Methods and Assumptions as of the
Actuarial Cost Method:Valuation Date:
Projected Unit Credit
Projected Unit Credit
Amortization Method:Normal cost plus a 20 year level percentage of capped payroll closed-period
amortization of the unfunded accrued liability.Remaining Amortization Period:13 years, closed.

Asset Valuation Method: 5 year smoothed market

Inflation: 2.25%

Contributiono

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Salary Increases: Post Retirement Benefit:		2.5% per year (2.25% inflation and 0.25% productivity components per year).			
		Post-retirement benefit increases of 3.00%, compounded, for Tier 1; and 3.00% or the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index, whichever is less, compounded, for Tier 2.			
Investment Rate of Return:		6.5%			
	Retirement Age:	Experienced based table of rates that are specific to the type of eligibility.			
Mortality:	Post-retirement:	Pub-2010 Above-Median Income General Employee Mortality tables, sex dis- tinct, with no scaling factors, and the MP-2021 two-dimensional generational mortality improvement scale.			
	Pre-retirement:	Pub-2010 Above-Median Income General Employee Mortality tables, sex distinct, and the MP-2021 two-dimensional generational mortality improvement scale.			

SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS TO CONSULTANTS Year Ended June 30, 2024

Actuary Audit fees	\$ 48,000 44,353
Legal services	-
Total	\$ 92,353



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Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*

Independent Auditor's Report

Honorable Frank J. Mautino, Auditor General - State of Illinois

Board of Trustees, General Assembly Retirement System of the State of Illinois

As Special Assistant Auditors for the Auditor General, we have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the General Assembly Retirement System of the State of Illinois (the System), a fiduciary component unit of the State of Illinois, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the System's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated December 19, 2024. Our report also includes an emphasis of matter paragraph which states "As discussed in Notes 5 and 6 of the financial statements, the actuarially determined net pension liability, calculated as required by GASB Statement No. 67, is dependent on several assumptions, including the assumption that future required contributions from all State sources are made based on statutory requirements in existence as of the date of this report. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter."

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the System's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the System's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the System's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

35

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Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the System's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE

Schaumburg, Illinois December 19, 2024