



SR1186

LRB100 16326 ALS 31452 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Quincy Veterans' Home, founded in 1886, is the largest and oldest of the Illinois Veteran Homes; and

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WHEREAS, The Quincy Home has approximately 400 residents and employs over 500 full-time staff; and

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WHEREAS, Legionnaires' disease is a severe, often lethal, form of pneumonia caused by a bacterium found in both potable and nonpotable water systems; and

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WHEREAS, In July 2015, the first cases of Legionnaires' disease were discovered at the Quincy Veterans' Home and would shortly claim the lives of twelve residents; and

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WHEREAS, In 2016, more than fifty residents and staff contracted Legionnaires' disease, leading to the death of another resident veteran; and

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WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control conducted a study of the Legionnaires' disease outbreak at the Quincy Veterans' Home in 2015 and had an extensive list of recommendations for the Home; and

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WHEREAS, In 2016, the Quincy Veterans' Home followed the

1 recommendations of the CDC and completed renovations of parts
2 of its plumbing system, which included the construction of a
3 water treatment plant capable of providing higher quality
4 water; and

5 WHEREAS, In Fall 2017, an additional three residents
6 contracted Legionnaires' disease after infrastructure updates
7 were made; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Auditor General is
10 directed to conduct a performance audit of the Illinois
11 Department of Veterans' Affairs' management of Legionnaires'
12 disease outbreaks; and be it further

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

15 (1) The responses of the Department of Veterans'
16 Affairs to the outbreaks of Legionnaires' disease in 2015,
17 2016, and 2017, including the recommendations made in the
18 2015 study by the Centers for Disease Control and the
19 Department's actions to address those recommendations;

20 (2) The type, cost, and timing of any infrastructure or
21 other building improvements intended to contain the
22 further spread of Legionnaires' disease or prevent its
23 reoccurrence;

1 (3) The nature of changes made by the Department in
2 operating protocols and staff training thereon, intended
3 to contain the further spread of Legionnaires' disease or
4 prevent its reoccurrence;

5 (4) The nature and extent of monitoring conducted by
6 the Department to determine whether the improvements and
7 protocols put in place are effective to ensure the safety
8 of residents and staff at the Quincy Veterans' Home;

9 (5) The amount of State moneys received and the amount
10 of state moneys expended by the Department or any other
11 State agency during State fiscal years 2015, 2016, 2017,
12 and 2018 for infrastructure improvements, monitoring, and
13 other measures taken to address the Legionnaires' disease
14 outbreaks; and

15 (6) To the extent information is available, whether the
16 Quincy Veterans' Home has been the subject of any reviews
17 since 2015 to determine its compliance with applicable laws
18 and regulations with regard to the care of its residents
19 and, if so, the results of those reviews; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Veterans'
21 Affairs and any other State agency or other entity or person
22 that may have information relevant to this audit cooperate
23 fully and promptly with the Auditor General's Office in its
24 audit; and be it further

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

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