



OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

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Performance Audit

Follow-Up Report

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Management Audit of the Boards and Commissions Audit Follow-Up

In June 2024, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) released a management audit of Boards and Commissions. The audit was conducted pursuant to House Resolution Number 677. The audit contained four recommendations directed towards the Governor's Office of Executive Appointments. This is the first follow-up conducted. The current status of the recommendations is shown in the table below.

STATUS OF PERFORMANCE AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

As of June 30, 2025

Rec. No.	Recommendation Description	Agency	Current Status		
			Implemented	Partially Implemented	Not Implemented
1	Appointments List and Website	Office of the Governor		X	
2	Inactive Boards and Commissions	Office of the Governor		X	
3	Vacancies and Expired Terms	Office of the Governor			X ¹
4	Work Products Submitted to the Governor's Office	Office of the Governor	X		

¹ Testing for the recommendation was conducted as part of the FY24-FY25 Governor's Office compliance examination.

Source: Summary of OAG follow-up.

Recommendation 1: Appointments List and Website

The Governor's Office of Executive Appointments should ensure that all boards and commissions with governor appointments are included on the appointments list and website as required by the Gubernatorial Boards and Commissions Act (15 ILCS 50). Boards and commissions that should not be included, such as those that do not require governor appointments or that were repealed, should be excluded from the list and website.

Current Status: Partially Implemented

During the Boards and Commissions audit, the website maintained by the Governor's Office of Executive Appointments was not accurate and contained outdated information. Five boards and commissions were not listed on the website that should have been listed. Additionally, 12 boards and commissions were included on the website that should not have been included. Of those 12, there were 6 boards and commissions that had their statutory authority repealed prior to or during the audit period but were still listed on the appointments website as of September 2022.

During the current follow-up, auditors determined that all five boards and commissions that should have been listed were added to the Governor's Office of Executive Appointments website. Also, the 12 boards and commissions that should have been removed had been removed from the website. Auditors compared the Governor's Office of Executive Appointments website list as of June 30, 2025, to the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA) report. There were seven boards and commissions that had been removed from the COGFA report but were still listed on the website even though they had been repealed or dissolved. According to the Governor's Office, these boards and commissions did not have the sunset/repeal date included when added to the website and therefore, had not

been caught in past reviews for removal. The website had been updated, however there were still problems with boards and commissions not being removed from the website after being repealed.

Recommendation 2: Inactive Boards and Commissions

The Governor's Office of Executive Appointments should ensure that boards and commissions that have completed their work and/or been repealed are removed from the Governor's Office of Executive Appointments' list and website. Additionally, in consultation with relevant State agencies, the Governor's Office of Executive Appointments should review all inactive boards and commissions and make recommendations to:

1) the Governor regarding any boards or commissions created by executive order that are no longer needed and could be abolished; and

2) the General Assembly regarding any boards and commissions that could have their statutory authority repealed.

Current Status: Partially Implemented

During the Boards and Commissions audit, 101 of the 390 (26%) boards and commissions reviewed were identified as being inactive. There were seven primary reasons the boards and commissions were inactive, including not having enough members to conduct business, being created during 2021 and 2022, and being inactive since at least 2018. There were 50 boards and commissions that were inactive but still authorized by statute or executive order. Ninety-nine of the 101 inactive boards and commissions were listed on the appointments website as of September 2022.

During the current follow-up, the Governor's Office stated that there had been discussions with the General Assembly regarding boards and commissions that could be repealed. Pursuant to those discussions, legislation to address the review of boards and commissions and to repeal inactive boards and commissions was drafted and submitted to the legislative leaders. This legislation was not acted on during the Spring 2025 legislative session. Legislation was introduced and passed the General Assembly in October 2025, after the audit period ended on June 30, 2025. Public Act 104-0435 was signed by the Governor on November 21, 2025.

Additionally, there were discussions between the Governor's Office of Executive Appointments and the Governor's Office administration regarding issuing an executive order. However, it was decided that legislative action would be explored first. During testing, a Governor's Office official stated that if legislative action does not occur, Executive Appointments will again review and discuss the appropriateness of issuing an executive order. Also, as discussed for Recommendation 1, the Governor's Office of Executive Appointments was not ensuring that boards and commissions that were repealed had been removed from the website.

Recommendation 3: Vacancies and Expired Terms

The Governor's Office of Executive Appointments should ensure that members are appointed to boards and commissions for which the Governor has appointment authority, so the boards and commissions can fulfill their defined responsibilities. Therefore, the Governor's Office of Executive Appointments should:

1) fill vacancies in a timely manner by appointing members to boards and commissions; and

2) re-appoint members to boards and commissions or make new appointments in a timely manner, so members are not serving on expired terms.

Current Status: Not Implemented

During the Boards and Commissions audit, of the 339 boards and commissions analyzed as of June 30, 2022, 217 (64%) had one or more board member vacancies, and 196 (58%) reported having at least one gubernatorial appointment vacancy. As of June 30, 2022, there were 1,313 total vacancies, and of those vacancies, 839 were to be appointed by the Governor. In addition, 91 (27%) boards and commissions reported having at least one member serving on an expired term as of June 30, 2022.

During the current follow-up, testing for this recommendation was conducted as part of the FY24-FY25 Governor's Office compliance examination. Thirty-six of 49 (73%) operational boards, commissions, councils, committees and other entities tested for the compliance examination did not have the required number of Governor-appointed members. Additionally, 11 of 49 (22%) entities had members serving on expired terms. There were also boards, commissions, councils and committees that were considered non-operational by the Governor's Office and lacked current appointments as of June 30, 2025. See Findings 2025-001 and 2025-002 in the FY24-FY25 Governor's Office compliance examination for further details.

Recommendation 4: Work Products Submitted to the Governor's Office

The Governor's Office of Executive Appointments should work with other units of the Governor's Office to improve the process for the submission of required work products by:

- 1) establishing procedures for the tracking, receiving, and maintenance of work products; and*
- 2) publicizing the central email address for submitting work products.*

Current Status: Implemented

During the Boards and Commissions audit, there was no formal process in place for tracking work products that were required to be submitted to the Governor when completed. Also, the preferred method for submitting the work products was not publicized. In addition, once the work products were received by the Office of the Governor, there were no tracking mechanisms in place. The work products were saved locally on a shared drive, but there was no tracking of whether the work products were submitted versus not submitted (nor were there any formal procedures for handling work products when submitted).

During the current follow-up, the preferred email address for submitting work products was listed on both the Office of the Governor's website and the website maintained by the Governor's Office of Executive Appointments. The email addresses were added to the websites in March 2024. Additionally, the Boards and Commissions Reports Policy and Procedure was implemented in February 2024. This policy established a process among the different teams of the Governor's Office that deal with boards and commissions and the reports that are submitted.

Follow-up was conducted as part of the Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 State compliance examination by staff from the Office of the Auditor General. This was the first time follow-up has been done on the recommendations from the June 2024 management audit.