

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMISSION

October 28, 2025

State of Illinois

Senators: Balkema, Ellman, Rose, Villanueva and Wilcox

Representatives: Elik, Manley, Meier, Moore and Rita

Rose: All right, we're going to go ahead and start this morning. Senator Chapin Rose and I call this meeting of the Legislative Audit Commission. Let me acknowledge the presence of, from the Senate Republican Caucus, Senator Balkema, Senator Wilcox, myself. From the House Republican caucus, we have Representative Meier, Representative Moore, and Representative Elik. From the Senate Democratic Caucus, we have Senator Ellman 1, and from the House Democrats, we have 1, Representative Manley. Nonetheless, we will go ahead and get started, and we eagerly anticipate the arrival of more Democrats, said no one ever on my side of the aisle. All right, we will acknowledge those members as they come in. Some auditors are joining remotely, so I would remind everyone who may be attending or speaking on Zoom to please keep yourselves muted unless you wish to speak, please use the raise your hand feature and I will call on you. Once you are called on, please say your name and begin to speak. I would remind everyone that LIS is recording and Blue Room Stream is providing video and audio to the public and the media so that others can be listening online. Just a note for university agency officials and members for transcribing purposes, please allow speakers to finish before the next question is asked. Please do your best to avoid talking over each other and also for those at the front, if you would identify yourself before you begin to speak. Our audits today are for the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the University of Illinois, who I saw walked into the room as we were beginning. The first review is of the Office of the State Fire Marshal, Marshal Pankow and other officials. Please make your way to the table. As you do that, I will ask the Auditor General to begin his comments.

Mautino: Thank you, Chairman Rose. The compliance examination of the Office of the State Fire Marshal for the two years ended June 30, 2022, was conducted by the staff of the Office of the Auditor General. The audit manager for the engagement was Courtney Dzierwa, who is now our Financial and Compliance Division Director. She is joined at the table by Maggie Skaggs, welcome Maggie, the audit supervisor on this engagement. Courtney will discuss the examination. Courtney.

Dzierwa: Good morning and thank you. There were 23 total findings in the compliance examination of the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Of the 23 findings, 14 were repeated and 9 were new. I will summarize a few.

In finding 3, we found the Office did not perform all inspections of public schools or always report identified violations to the regional superintendents.

- The Office did not perform annual fire safety inspections of each public school within the State. We noted 807 of 3,420 (24%) and 185 of 3,393 (5%) schools were not inspected during FY21 and FY22 respectively.
- The Office did not have sufficient controls in place to ensure violations identified during school inspections performed by qualified fire officials to whom the Office delegated its authority during the examination period were sent to the superintendent within 15 days of the completed inspection. In cases where local fire departments performed the necessary inspections, the Office relied on the local fire department to communicate the noted violations to the regional superintendent of schools, and the Office did not receive documentation to substantiate such communication had occurred in all instances.
- 54 of 60 (90%) sampled inspections of public schools conducted by the Office or a qualified delegated official contained violations noted by the inspector. For those 54 inspections containing violations, we noted 8 (15%) reports with violations did not have evidence the report had been submitted to the superintendent, and 1 report with violations was reported to the superintendent 2 days late.
- The Office was unable to provide supporting documentation for 1 of 60 inspections performed.

This finding has been reported since 2018.

We recommended the Office work with the Governor and General Assembly to ensure sufficient resources exist to timely conduct public school building inspections. In addition, we recommended the Office enhance its internal controls to provide assurance violation reports were timely sent to the school's applicable superintendent, and the Office could ensure copies of all inspections performed are retained.

The Office agreed with the finding and noted they have implemented a new internal procedure to ensure all public schools are inspected annually and achieved 100% compliance during the last school year. The Office also pointed to other corrective action in process to address the remaining conditions identified.

In finding 8, we found that the Office did not maintain adequate controls over state vehicles. Some of the more significant issues that we identified were:

- 20 of 26 vehicles tested (or 77%) did not have routine oil changes performed within the mileage or time intervals required by the Department of Central Management Services (DCMS). For those 20 vehicles containing violations, we noted that the oil change overages ranged from 57 to 29,449 miles beyond the allowed interval.
- The Office did not have annual inspections performed on each vehicle as required by the DCMS' *Vehicle Usage Policy*. We noted 16 of 26 (or 62%) and 11 of 26 (or 42%) of

vehicles were not inspected during Fiscal Year 2021 and Fiscal Year 2022 respectively.

- For 3 of 7 (or 43%) of accidents tested, the Office did not file its Motorist's Report of Illinois Motor Vehicle Accident Reports within a timely manner. We noted that the 3 accidents containing violations were reported to CMS 4 to 711 days late.
- The Office failed to inform CMS of the assignment of 3 of 26 individually assigned vehicles during the period. Additionally, the Office did not accurately report to CMS the assignment for 8 of 26 (or 31%) individually assigned vehicles during the period. Specifically, the Office incorrectly reported the name of the individual assigned to the vehicle.
- The Office's vehicle use policy did not include procedures regarding daily vehicle use logs, as required by the State Vehicle Use Act.

This finding has been reported since 2018.

We recommended the Office enhance controls to ensure required vehicle maintenance is provided and reported in a timely and accurate manner. Additionally, we recommended the Office ensure motor vehicle accidents are reported to CMS within the 7-day reporting period. Finally, we recommended the Office implement controls to monitor and record daily vehicle use.

The Office agreed with the finding and noted that they are moving to a new electronic recordkeeping system that will assist with recordkeeping and free the vehicle coordinator to perform more manual processes, like accident reporting. The Office also mentioned incorporating usage logs into the next revision of the Employee Manual.

This concludes our remarks on the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Rose: Thank you very much. Before we proceed to questions, I would ask the Office of State Fire Marshal to please respond and make any comments that they wish to make at this point in time and then we'll go to questions. Marshal, you're up.

Pankow: Good morning, Co-chairs Rose and Rita and the members of the Legislated Audit Commission. I'm State Fire Marshal Michelle Pankow and I joined the OSFM in July of 2025 after a 32-year career with the Rockford Fire Department. Throughout my career at the RFD, I served in various capacities and promoted through every rank in my organization with the final four years serving as Fire Chief. Since joining the OSFM a little over three months ago, I've learned about the work of the Agency and its commitment to public safety. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you here today about OSFM's fiscal year 21-22 compliance examination audit report and the work completed to address the findings and recommendations. The Office of the State Fire Marshal received the findings and recommendations from the fiscal year 21-22 compliance examination issued on November 22, 2023. The scope of the audit

report is July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2022, and since beginning my role with the OSFM, I have prioritized improving internal processes and coordination to increase timely compliance and reduce findings. The majority of the findings have been corrected with only five remaining open. A few examples of the findings we've resolved include our school inspection program finding number 3, user access rights finding number 6 and cybersecurity finding number 10. Nearly a quarter of the school inspections were not completed in 2021, and in 2022, while we did see an increase in the number of inspections, we still had 5% of the school inspections remained incomplete. For the past three years, the OSFM has had a 100% completion rate for school inspections. The increased completion rate for school inspections was due to additional staffing in the division and making school inspections one of the top inspection priorities for the agency. The office also resolved a finding related to documentation of user access rights reviews and cybersecurity finding, and in June of 2024, the OSFM implemented a user access rights and cybersecurity policy for the agency, and additionally the office hired an IT liaison whose role includes assisting OSFM with complying with all IT related policies and procedures. We continue to develop corrective action plans with OSFM's internal auditor tracking the findings and following up with management in order to expedite solutions. I believe the audit process is a very beneficial tool. The agency and I take reports and findings noted very seriously and we have worked diligently to address the issues identified in the report. We appreciate your continued support as we move forward and my team and I are available for any questions that you may have. Thank you.

Rose: Thank you, Marshal. Please add Representative Co-Chair Rita to the roll. And Senator Ellman, you are recognized for a question.

Ellman: Hi there. Glad to see you. I've got just a question just for my awareness. What is the headcount of the Office of State Fire Marshal? How many full-time employees or full time equivalent?

Pankow: Thank you for your question. I will defer to our CFO as he has the exact headcount, Ronny Wickenhauser.

Wickenhauser: Good morning. My name is Ronny Wickenhauser. I'm the Chief Administrative officer and CFO for the agency. As of today, our headcount is about 160.5. Our full-time equivalent headcount.

Ellman: Okay, thank you. I've got a couple of questions. The arsonist database appeared to be pretty interesting, and it looks like the solution that was implemented was that there's a database now ready to be populated and available to the public.

Pankow: That is correct.

Ellman: My understanding though is that the finding was actually on how the data

is populated in the first place that the State police aren't necessarily providing the information for that database.

Pankow: At this time the state police are providing information.

Ellman: Oh, okay, great. I was just wondering whether the courts might be a better source once that arsonist conviction is made, then that comes right out of the court, but if the state police are populating, great. I think I had another question. Oh, this is about the boilers. So, boiler inspections. It looks like there are a variety of different boilers out there, some high pressure, some low pressure, and the inspections of them are a little bit mixed up, and the way to categorize boilers or tanks, pressurized tanks, has been a little bit limited. I want to know how that might have been solved, and whether you think there is still a problem in conducting inspections and making sure that whole inspection process is closed out. You know, inspect findings, resolve, and whether the fire marshal's office has got resolution on that.

Pankow: Just to make sure that I have the questions accurate. First question is, have we determined the ability to separate the different types of boilers, and then from there is our process running up and running? Okay, thank you for your question. In terms of the process and the ability to differentiate, yes, they are, but I would like to defer to our resident expert on the boiler process again, our auditor, Nick.

Barnard: Nick Barnard, Chief Internal Auditor. So, the, I think the issue you're speaking of is where our populations were not accurate, we had boilers in the wrong type in the populations that we gave. The previous system we were using, called Jurisdiction Online, it had limitations that we had to manually adjust those lists and we didn't get some of them right. We now have a new system. We began that new system in August of 2025 and we're hoping that our new system, which is a national boiler system called JRS, we're hoping that that will address those population issues. Our boilers division lead is confident that it will.

Ellman: And so, if you don't mind, so, the inspection process, these are for tanks and boilers throughout the state, right? Privately held, publicly held, how do you know? Is there a registry? How do you know what's out there and then, so answer that, and then I've got another?

Barnard: So, within the system, we have, it has every listed, every licensed boiler within the state. So, there's an active listing, there's an inactive listing and I don't believe that getting them inspected was necessarily an issue in its entirety, but it was more the population issue, but we have a listing in the system that has every boiler that's registered with the state. Does that make sense?

Ellman: Yeah, it certainly does, and, okay, I've got one more question. So, are there other models out there for ensuring that boilers have got, you know, the integrity of holding

that pressure and releasing pressure and things like that are in place? Do owners and operators of these pressure tanks, are they required to have like a maintenance plan, you know, a pressure tank safety plan and is that informative when people are conducting those inspections?

Barnard: To answer the first part, I think that our team certainly knows of, you know, what should be inspected. We have checklists that need to be followed as how that communication occurs to the boiler owners. I would have to, you know, I think we'd have to defer and get back to you on that. I'd have to check with our boiler division manager because I don't, I don't know specifically how that communication happens.

Ellman: All right, thanks. I think that's it. I really appreciate you being here. Thank you.

Rose: Senator Balkema seems to have a question. Oh, no, Representative Meier.

Meier: While we're talking about the boilers and this was new to me with the antique shows that we have the antique thrashing machines and then all of a sudden, they say, well, we're not allowed to run it we just got notified that we don't have a permit for it. You know, what is that process, because they'd never even heard of it before? Some, you know, and there are different ones and they evidently do fall under this act.

Pankow: Thank you for the question. Yes, they do fall under the act and so again, I'm going to defer to our auditor for the specifics. Thank you.

Wickenhauser: And I do know that we have historical boilers. I didn't realize that we had some that couldn't operate, but I do know that we have some that aren't under pressure. So, they have different requirements from the other boilers when it comes to inspections, but as far as some that would show up at an exposition and not be able to operate, I'm not aware of that happening. So, I would have to ask Pat and get back with you on when that situation may have occurred.

Meier: That would be good, just so we know, because like I say, they take them out maybe once every two years, fire them up for that weekend only. You know, what is the permitting process? Does it have to be fired up for you to inspect it before that? You know, they're normally housed in well-kept areas and they don't have them out in the rain, but then they move out for a weekend and where they can fire them up. So, I'm just curious what we got to do so we don't run into these issues again. Thank you,

Rose: Senator Balkema.

Balkema: Director, it's good to see you in the position. I'm new as well, actually, it's

very few people that are newer than me. So, I came in in January and it's good to see you here. It's a little bit unfair, as I see, the audit is from 2020 to 2022. So, you and the team are following up on action items that occurred a few years before you had the job. I appreciate the spreadsheet overall that kind of lists all of the findings. Do we have a person that is accountable from an ownership perspective of each action item and charged with anything that's not implemented? Having an owner that wakes up every morning and realizes I need to complete this action item and then a targeted date for completion for all of the items in this report?

Pankow: Thank you for the question, Senator. I am going to once again going to defer to our auditor because he does truly know the inner workings and the accountability piece of your question.

Barnard: So, I have a tracking sheet that has all of our outstanding findings, whether it be external or internal, and I follow up on those, every 90 days, and I've also been given the, I'm very thankful that they provided me with someone to help manage my external audit process that does that follow up for me. So, I have an employee that tracks that now and we do quarterly follow ups.

Balkema: Is that information that you could make available to the commission?

Barnard: Absolutely.

Balkema: Okay. That'd be fantastic. And you joined in '25 as well?

Barnard: I joined in '22.

Balkema: You joined in '22. Okay, and then, so that'd be great if you could just send that because that's a wonderful ability to track, I think from a color chart perspective even that. Next up is the Health Department and Emily put together a really neat spreadsheet. Red, yellow, green of action items that are on target, completed, yellow and red, and just anything along those lines would be fantastic, and then as a guy growing up working on cars all my life, it pains me to, for the vehicles, I feel bad for the vehicles, for the ones on the oil changes. So, I'm so surprised that, so we had vehicles that didn't get oil changes up to 30,000 miles beyond the change interval, that I don't understand because it seems like there'd be a red light on the indicator that indicates that oil change is there. I'm just surprised and interested in how that all came to be.

Pankow: Thank you for the question. And for that I will refer to our chief administrative officer who could give a little more insight into that program.

Wickenhauser: I suspect that finding was more, we didn't have the records as opposed to the car not getting the oil change. We currently, as we stated, have a system in place. It's called

the FMS system, it tracks oil changes, it tracks annual reports, and it gives you green, yellow, red when you're getting close to getting an oil change or for an annual report. And that sends out reminders to people to do that. Additionally, the state is implementing something called Telematics, which is a box that's inserted on each vehicle, and it tracks the operation of that vehicle, including the oil life, that kind of stuff, so that will also help us in keeping track of that sort of stuff.

Balkema: Okay, so at this point, every vehicle out there, you think has got clean oil and a happy engine?

Wickenhauser: I hope so.

Balkema: So just, you know, in one sense, it's a smaller detail. In another sense, it's a reflection of kind of how the departments run. So, you know, if, if we take care of the little things, obviously from a safety perspective, which is one of the biggest goals of the department, and it just is kind of a clean house versus a cluttered house, maintenance vehicles versus un-maintenance vehicles kind of just reflects the overall leadership of that, and so it's great that you're working to have the small details in place which reflects the overall culture of the department in the big picture, so thank you.

Rose: Representative Elik.

Elik: Good morning. I'd like to start with a question with finding number 2 regarding the collections of accounts receivable. There is a note in here that says that as of June 30, 2022, the office reported receivables totaling 11.8 million, including 11.6, were more than 90 days past due. So, do you have the current balance and what kind of progress has been made on collecting old receivables?

Pankow: Thank you for the question, Representative. Yes, I am going to refer that to our CFO again, Ronny.

Wickenhauser: I don't have that number off the top of my head, but most of the \$11 million is for underground storage tank fines. Fines have been levied against individuals or businesses who aren't compliant with underground storage tanks, they have a court order against them. Sometimes those are very hard to collect because people may not have the means to collect them, but there's still a court order, so that shows up as a receivable. Oftentimes, I shouldn't say oftentimes, but sometimes the attorney general makes settlements with some of these people to get these off of the book, and if we deem them that they're just uncollectible then we'll take them off the books that way, but most of these are underground storage tank fines.

Elik: That's good to know, thanks.

Wickenhauser: I can get you that exact number.

Elik: That'd be great. So, would you say that there is an issue collecting other receivables, and I know in the finding, it was noted that it's often hard to determine who's actually responsible in getting tax ID numbers, has there been improvement in that?

Wickenhauser: We know for underground storage tanks because there's a court order against somebody. For boilers, it's more difficult to know because the issue we're having with boilers is we're never sure who's actually responsible for the boiler. So, for example, if you're a dry cleaner in a strip mall and you pay the fee for the boiler to operate that boiler, we don't know if you're responsible for that ultimately or if the owner of the building is responsible, because just because you pay the invoice doesn't mean that you're ultimately responsible for the boiler. So, and like you said, we're not collecting Social Security numbers or FEIN numbers from some of these people, and we're very careful about collecting that sort of information. So, we are struggling a little bit with this finding on trying to figure out how we get to a point where we can refer these to the comptroller offset system.

Elik: Yeah, do you think that's like something that a legislative fix is needed for to give you the authority to collect that information? I mean, I think it could be done. I mean, the person that pays the fee could help provide information if they're not the ones responsible.

Wickenhauser: We certainly would need legislative authority to do that.

Elik: Is that something you're working on?

Wickenhauser: We can take it under advisement and we'll talk about that.

Elik: Something to think about, and you're not the only agency probably even before us today that has that issue, so I don't know if it's something that's a more general something.

Wickenhauser: I mean, sometimes we try to get it, but if people aren't required to give us a Social Security number, they're not going to volunteer that information.

Elik: Well, you have to make sure then once you get it that the information is kept safe and secure too.

Wickenhauser: But yeah, we'll take that under advisement.

Elik: Okay. And then another question about number 4. You talked about the inspection of schools, and I guess my question is, I appreciate the follow up that the schools have been inspected, but what really is the responsibility of your office versus the local fire

departments on doing those inspections, or how do you decide who's going to actually do the inspection?

Pankow: Thank you for the question, so if I could understand, if you could just repeat the question, so I can understand exactly.

Elik: Sure, so who's actually ultimately responsible for doing the inspection of all the schools in the state is it your office, and then you contract with local departments to do the actual physical inspections?

Pankow: So, it would be a combination of that and for the specifics on the program, I would defer to Nick.

Barnard: Okay, so we are the ultimate responsibility to ensure that all public schools are inspected. That buck lies with us. So, what we have in place now is we have fire departments that do some inspections on our behalf. If those fire departments are not done by April 1st, then we take over and we ensure that the schools that they were in charge of are done, and that's why we've got 100% the last three years, because we don't wait on them anymore, we just do them.

Elik: I guess. I wonder, is there some, is it like smaller departments maybe don't have the manpower to do those inspections, or is there some, you know, factor that you can think of as to why they're not done and you have to ultimately do them?

Barnard: I would have to check with our division to get back with you on that, but it's not like, it's not like there's certain, the fire departments come to training for us and they volunteer to assist our office. So, it's not like you're, they're all assigned out. It's just kind of a, if you've taken our training and you say that you're going to do Springfield School District, you're going to do all the schools in Springfield. Well, we're going to, you know, use you to do those for us, and then if you don't get them done by April 1st, then we're going to finish that for you.

Elik: Okay. Understand. So, I guess one thing I would say is it was noted in here the communication to the State School Superintendent had been lacking in some cases, but I guess ultimately, if your office is doing the inspections, are you communicating to the local fire departments, because if there's a problem found, they're the ones that are going to be responding to an issue, so does that communication go that way as well?

Barnard: Yeah, so we have a process in place that was recently implemented where now we're requiring our partners in the fire service to send us a PDF copy of the email that they send to the superintendents, because it's the only way we can verify they get it done. They use a different software than we do. So, we can't see the communication on their side like we can on ours. I think that this, that part of the finding is almost exclusively with our fire service

partners. So that's why we started having them send us a PDF of the email, and that's for this cycle that started July 1 and we just implemented that.

Elik: Okay, just making sure that communication is between the State Superintendent but also the local, like everybody knows what the issues are in a school building, if there's issues, so that the responding department asked you know, probably more so than anybody acutely so. Okay. I think that's all I do. I also had the same concerns about the vehicle program. We see it often in this commission and frankly, I don't understand why, because since the dawn of vehicles, we've probably had those in Illinois. So, it seems like we should have this figured out again in all agencies and departments by now, but it keeps coming up, so I'm hopeful that someday we will get audits that don't have those findings in them. So, thank you very much.

Rose: Please add Senator Villanueva to the roll, and do we have any other questions for the fire marshal? Okay, I would simply point out, Marshall, that my questions around the school compliance as being a top priority but you've answered those, but obviously the audit findings here went up from the last time around. 20 plus findings are never a good thing. That's why you got invited to speak here today. You're new, we do not want to see 20 plus findings again. We need to see positive improvement in these findings. All right? We need to be going the right direction, and with that, no other. We do have one other question. Representative Manley.

Manley: Sorry. Can we have a list of the schools that were not inspected? You can get it to us later.

Pankow: Certainly.

Manley: And unrelated to the audit, do you still have a Youth Fire Setter Investigator?

Pankow: Yes, we do.

Manley: Okay, and are we adequately, I know that that's, I had some legislation around this a couple years ago and it kind of went by the wayside, and I'd like a chance to talk to you about that offline. So, Youth Fire Setter Program. Thank you.

Pankow: Thank you.

Rose: Thank you, Representative Manley. Again, we just want to see this go the right direction. So welcome to the position, Marshal. I'm glad with the answers you gave about our schools because that is certainly job one. So, with that, is there a motion to accept? Representative Manley files a motion. I've lost my notes here. Thank you. Representative Manley moves to accept the compliance out of the Office of State Fire Marshal. It is seconded

by Senator Wilcox. All in favor? All favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it and the audit is accepted. Thank you, Marshal.

Pankow: Thank you.

Rose: Next up, we have the Department of Public Health. Dr. Vohra, please bring you and your team to the front table as you're doing so, Auditor General, would you like to begin your remarks of this particular audit?

Mautino: Thank you, Chairman. The compliance examination of the Department of Public health for the two years ended June 30, 2023, was conducted by the firm of Roth and Company. Elda Arriola and John Reazo are here with us on behalf of the firm. The audit manager was Stacie Sherman. Welcome, Stacie. Courtney Dzierwa, our financial compliance Division Director, will discuss the examination. Courtney, if you would.

Dzierwa: Good morning and thank you. There were 39 total findings in the compliance examination, 27 were repeated and 12 were new. I will summarize a few. In finding one, we determined the Department did not exercise adequate internal controls over state vehicles. Their Fleet consisted of 109 vehicles with 36 personally assigned to employees as of June 30, 2022, and 98 vehicles with 41 personally assigned to employees as of Jun 30, 2023.

Some of the more significant issues we identified during testing are as follows:

- The Department was not able to provide the vehicle mileage log reports for 3 of 98 vehicles tested. As such, we were not able to determine whether they were properly maintained, efficiently used for operational needs of the Department, or if their mileage was reported properly.
- The auditors reviewed maintenance records for 22 vehicles and noted that they were not properly maintained. Nine of 22 or 41% of vehicles tested received oil changes 128 to 4,679 miles past the allowed oil change interval. Two vehicles did not receive an oil change at all during the two years ended June 30, 2023.
- Four of the vehicles tested, or 18% did not receive a tire rotation as required.
- Four vehicles did not undergo an annual inspection during the engagement period.
- And the Department was not able to provide the maintenance records for three of the 22 vehicles tested, and as such, we were not able to determine whether these vehicles were properly maintained.
- The Department did not exercise adequate control over the personal use of state vehicles. We noted 100% of the 72 monthly vehicle logs and vehicle use certification forms tested were not reviewed and reconciled for the determination of fringe benefit value submitted for tax purposes. The Department only used the commuting days reflected in the use certification forms to report fringe benefits. Additionally, five of 72 monthly vehicle logs and vehicle use certification forms tested differed as to the number

of commuting days the state vehicle was used, resulting in an overstatement of reported fringe benefit payments for tax purposes totaling \$45 in fiscal year '22 and an understatement of \$15 in fiscal year 2023.

- 37 of 72 vehicle use forms tested were not submitted to the payroll division on the 10th of the month following the usage. The vehicle use certification forms were submitted from 4 to 300 days late.
- The Department did not exercise adequate control over the required annual certifications of licensure and automobile liability coverage forms for their employees.
- 5 of 34 employees tested did not submit their certification forms during the two-year engagement period, and one of 34 employees tested submitted their certification form 124 days late.
- The Department did not timely and properly report vehicle assignments to the Department of Central management services or CMS. We noted the department submitted the FY22 individually assigned vehicle report five days late. The Department was not able to provide three of five vehicle assignment authorization forms requested for testing. One of 34 employees tested submitted the form 124 days late.

This finding has been repeated since 2007. We recommended the Department strengthen its controls over its state vehicles specifically to ensure vehicle mileage logs, log reports are maintained to monitor utilization and maintenance of the state vehicle. Ensure vehicle maintenance schedules to ensure vehicle safety to reduce future year expenditures for repairs and to extend the useful lives of vehicles. Enforce controls to ensure proper reporting of fringe benefits and documentation related to the personal use of state vehicles. Review and enforce procedures over the timely filing of the required annual certification of license and liability insurance, and remind staff of reporting requirements and develop a monitoring process to ensure all employee vehicle assignment changes as well as the required annual report on individually assigned vehicles are properly completed and submitted to CMS by the established due date.

The Department agreed with the finding and recommendations and stated they would ensure controls and processes are strengthened to comply with the finding.

In finding 5, we found the Department did not adequately administer and monitor its awards and grants programs during fiscal years 2022 and 2023. The Department expended over \$701 million of its approximately 1.7 billion total expenditures for awards and grants. We sampled 58 grant programs from the following offices, Health Promotion, Health Protection, Disease Control, Women's Health Preparedness and Response, and the center for Minority Health services. From the 58 grant programs selected for testing, we examined 60 grant agreements totaling \$55,095,365, and we noted the following:

- For 47 of 60 grant agreements tested, 426 quarterly or monthly program reports were submitted 1 to 305 days late.
- For 13 of 60 grant agreements tested, or 22%, 65 quarterly or monthly program

reports were not submitted to the Department by the grantee at all.

- For 25 of 60 grant agreements tested, or 42%, 58 quarterly or monthly program reports were not reviewed timely. They were reviewed 1 one to 280 days after receipt.
- For 14 of 60 grant agreements tested, or 23%, 26 quarterly or monthly program reports did not have evidence of review by Department personnel.

This finding has been reported since 2007. We recommended the Department strengthen its controls to ensure documentation and timely review of grantees required quarterly and monthly reports are maintained. In addition, we recommended the Department ensure grantees timely submit all required reports to comply with the provisions of the grant agreements. The Department agreed with the finding and stated it will work with the Office of Fiscal Administration, Office of Performance Management, Internal Audit, and the Division of Legal Services to develop clear and consistent standards on grant management across the agency, including a review of associated best practices and system improvements.

This concludes our opening remarks on the Department of Public Health.

Rose: Thank you. Thank you, Director Vohra, I will turn this over to you now to make your opening comments before we go to questions.

Vohra: Well, good morning. Good morning, Auditor General, Co-chair Rita, Co-chair Rose, and members of the Legislative Audit Commission. I'm Dr. Sameer Vohra and it's my privilege to serve as the Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health, a position I've held since August 2022. With me today at the table is our Interim Chief Financial Officer, Jacob Cisco, and our Chief Internal Auditor, Leighann Manning. As you all know, the job of public health is sprawling. It covers a lot of issues and affects every person in every corner of Illinois, and we have long recognized at IDPH that if we're effective in protecting the health and wellbeing of Illinoisans, it's vitally important that our agency functions at an optimal level of effectiveness. We've gone through great lengths during my time as Director to create a more efficient, resilient and responsive organization that manages our resources in a responsible and productive manner. We see before you 39 audit findings that I personally and members of my Director's Office are looking at routinely to improve our processes based on the recommendations from our audit. Although more work needs to be done, I feel strongly that as stewards of taxpayer funding and responsible for its welfare, it is our responsibility to constantly improve our organization to serve our residents better. Now, as we have looked at our audit findings, our priority has been working to correct repeat findings. We know correcting these findings will allow IDPH to better serve our partners and stakeholders. And me personally, I don't like looking at repeat findings. For example, finding number 1 focused on vehicle control policies and has been an audit finding, as just mentioned, since 2007. To improve that function, IDPH has implemented a comprehensive fleet management system that captures mileage on a monthly and daily basis as well as tracks maintenance schedules. After the launch of the new system in August 2024, our monthly completion rate has gone from at that time around 55% to

now 87.4% as of October 25th. Another example is that we've worked diligently to address simplifying our grant application process. Finding number 5 we have developed an electronic signature system to streamline the process, making it easier for our grantees to apply and get needed funds quickly. We've also improved the administration and monitoring of our grants in three ways. First, we have a comprehensive grant manual with standard operating procedures for each step the entire grant process. Second, we've implemented a monthly past due report ensuring our staff has a list of grantees out of compliance so that they can work with them to bring them back into compliance. Finally, the Department has hired a new Chief Accountability Officer and is moving the position into the Bureau of Finance, which will stream line and consolidate grant operations and create fiscal efficiencies. In addition to tackling repeat audit findings, we have prioritized our ability to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our internal processes. We realize that even within IDPH we can do more so that our now nearly 1,440 employees can devote the energy they need to find out the processes and have the tools to make our organization function more effectively. We've revamped our Internet, the internal online portal for IDPH employees, making it easier for them to find forms, documents, directives and guidance that need to do their jobs well. We've also within the last year completed a comprehensive review and update of our directives, the policies that guide every IDPH employee on best practices. IDPH has 46 directives and policies that provide now guidance, direction and individual accountability on issues such as personnel, finance, administration, information technology, legal practices, public affairs and program administration. In the last year, we've created new directives and policies regarding data use, social media, employee culture, recognition and wellness, and these directives and the need for any additional policies are now reviewed on an annual basis to ensure compliance, organization and accuracy. We've made smaller improvements too, as we work to fully implement certain areas that are only partially implemented at this time. Those include handheld scanners for more efficient and accurate property control to address, finding number 2. A centralized procurement team to streamline and improve our procurement process.

Finding number 4, the use of DocuSign for internal tracking and efficiency through approval processes and the development of an improved invoice intake system to ensure that payments are made quickly and correctly. We've also invested in human resources and made several adjustments around our notification and tracking for required training, finding 31, overdue timesheets, finding 13 and performance evaluations in response to those, finding 8 and all of these improvements have been leading to the biggest innovation we've undertaken, a reorganization of our department to improve efficiency, eliminate duplication, get our workers out of silos, and help us all work more effectively. Under this reorganization, we have moved the 16 distinct IDPH verticals into just five, all under a standardized organizational structure. Fiscal and grant operations will now be centralized under this new structure, which will allow us to move more quickly and improve both consistency and compliance. Part of this new structure is also a newly created Office of Transformation that will focus on driving innovation using external and internal performance metrics to Advance Public Health Priorities. It is my goal during my tenure as IDPH Director and to modernize public health for new and emerging challenges that we find ourselves facing. We have big goals. We want to update outdated data

systems, reorganize the agency, and transform our local department network. These ambitious goals require a well-functioning IDPH. As I often say to my employees, we cannot help our residents improve their health unless our organization is as healthy as possible. So, through all these challenges, our goal, eliminate bureaucratic hurdles so that we can deliver essential public health services in the most timely and cost-effective way. Per compliance report, 29 of our findings have been implemented or partially implemented and we continue to work on others. Our latest efforts now show that 36 of these 39 findings are implemented or partially implemented, corrected procedures. As I mentioned, the Director's Office and me personally are routinely monitoring the processes of these efforts to maintain the highest level of compliance and reduce our findings. I'm proud of our progress, but the goal is to have the least amount of audit findings as possible. As always, we couldn't do this without the support of Governor Pritzker and the General Assembly and we pursue our common goals together of improving the health of every resident and community throughout our great State. Thank you for your time and your interest in the Department of Public Health. I'm happy to take the commission's questions.

Rose: Thank you, Dr. Vohra. I wanted to note for the members that Dr. Vohra and his team have done something that I've never seen before, and we may have to put an asterisk next to this with Balkema's name on it somehow, but they have given us each this document summarizing where they're at in their response on the various findings, and, you know, we could start off as we normally do, discussing, you know, the 39 findings is not good, although to let you off the hook a little bit, this was an examination for two years, ended June 30, 2023. And you had only been on, you were only there for part of that, not even a majority of that time. So, it's good to see that this is going the right direction, but I just wanted to call everyone's attention how useful this actually is to see where they're at, and so I'm going to just kind of get two questions in here quickly from this document and then we'll go to the other members, but thank you because this is very helpful, and quite honestly, it probably will lead to less heartache for the Department of Public Health going forward. So, the first question is with respect to item 7, as far as the adequacy of surveyors for our nursing home system in Illinois, looks like you're partially impotent about 50%. Is that a budgetary issue or what is the issue there to keep that from, because that's one of the main concerns we have is that you get surveyors who are either not there or, you know, in a hurry as they go through because they're trying to get to the next place or whatever, but where are we at in getting that one implemented?

Vohra: Yeah, it's been an absolutely critical priority really since I started and based on a Manatt report that we received that showed we needed to ensure a one surveyor to 300 bed ratios, at the time of that report, we were one surveyor to nearly 530 plus beds. So, we've been working closely with the governor's office to get the right kind of budget to ensure that we improve and enhance the number of our surveyors. Partly through all of our processes, we were negotiating with the unions around a big reorganization that would not only allow us to improve the number of surveyors but also allow the cross training so we know that we review hospitals, nursing homes, specialized mental health rehabilitation facilities, as well as developmental

disability centers. As of this moment, we've improved by 23% on that ratio, but we're in the midst of a huge hiring run. We are planning to hire 112 new surveyors by the end of June 2026. We have 72 of those positions currently posted. By the end of 27 our goal is to add another 55 surveyors to reach that goal. Now, it did take some time during the reorganization as well as ensuring appropriate negotiations with the unions, but now that we've cleared that hurdle, we have really pushed in the goal of hiring with already, as I mentioned, 72 positions filled as 18 in the last month and we know we'll get even more into our IDPH facilities each month moving forward as we get to that June 2026 where we're planning to hire 112 more surveyors.

Rose: So, let's move into number 10 then with the distressed facilities one and look again, I'm going to tell you how I am actually quite impressed by this and if you figure there's 39 findings, I can count just by looking at the greens that 22 have been taken care of now 17 still isn't good, but at least we're moving the right direction here and then you've got several yellows, but item 10 is still red and I've been through this twice now and I don't want to do it again where I've had a distressed nursing home. One we were able to, I hate to use the word save, but one we were not and it's just horrific experience for the patients, for the employees, the staff and every family member with loved ones in these facilities. Where are we at on number 10?

Vohra: Yeah, we know the number 10, right and as you mentioned, and of the 39, it's one of those ones that's still in red. We are in the midst currently with negotiating with stakeholders, which was an agreement as part of the legislative process. We've been working to sort of draft and completed the draft on our end but working on that negotiation, as this committee knows, is really a crucial part before they go in front of JCAR and we've also wanted to make ensure that we were getting to a place in that negotiation prior to the filing of those rules. Once an agreement on implementation through rulemaking is made, we're going to plan to move through the JCAR process. It's something that we're working on very diligently and happy to continue to keep you and this committee updated on that process through the negotiation with the stakeholders.

Rose: So, the finding is based upon the idea that the negotiations with the stakeholders have not completed yet is that kind of the ...

Vohra: It's the rulemaking process that is not completed, which is what has caused that auditory.

Rose: First of all, thank you and I found you to be enormously, not only personable, but also willing to listen. Again, turning around this many findings is never easy and you've hit some momentum here, so that's good. I would just tell you that as an aside, in all practicality. We have to find a way to help nursing homes eliminate tags quicker because in both instances where I've had those issues, they end up in a death spiral because they were unable to eliminate tags because of the timelines, not on their end, but on the state's end and

so as you continue to correct things and move forward, and again, I'll just say I won't speak for anyone else here, but I think from my opinion, a positive way here, I would urge you to look at the timeliness of tag resolution because often times we have facilities just sitting out there waiting and they end up in a death spiral because they can't collect, in some cases they can't collect federal payments and then their cash flow and next thing you know, they're belly up. And that's exactly what happened in the case of my one that just recently closed. So anyway, I'm going to leave it open for comments from other members here and Balkema is smiling and I think he wants to take a victory lap, but who else do we have on the, oh, it's you, Senator Balkema.

Balkema: Where is Emily? Emily Spangler, is Emily here? I want to, there's Emily. Emily, thank you. Emily's the one I asked to put, you know, more detail together and she put that together so thank you. That is huge and then if you look on the back of what Senator Rose was talking about, there's, this is the condition that you were in in September of '24, which was a lot more red and yellow and just a few green and then in October of '25, as Senator Rose said, that's where we're at today. So, the stoplight chart is fantastic, if all 68 agencies that we audit and review, I believe is the number, had a stoplight chart like that, that would be incredible. So, thank you for that. A couple of questions in details then. the telematics system that the fire marshal team had just talked about, is that the system that you also implemented on the vehicles or is it different?

Vohra: So, it's a two-prong system. So, one, we have this now fleet management system that allows us to maintain and this was done before the telematic system was sort of moved forward through CMS and that allows us to sort of track the reporting, the monthly logs, the maintenance schedules and Senator Balkema, if any tips that you can give me around fixing cars, I'd appreciate that too, but it is important, right. These are vehicles that we hire stewards of to maintain and providing the easiest way for our vehicle owners, the individual owners that were mentioned to be able to track those things through a more automated system. Then the telematics we're up to 97% of our vehicles now have gone through the process to have the telematics installed. That's another function that allows us to kind of check it through both those channels. Again 2007 we've had this finding in the agency. We now are really happy to have these two systems in place that will continue to closely monitor. We really want to of course avoid duplication, but as something like this is so critical, this added redundancy for the moment, we'll monitor to see are we getting different things and still allowing us to maintain it or moving forward will we only need one of these systems?

Balkema: All right, very good and then the when do we think we'll have dates for the other two red items? Chapin covered number 10. Number 24, tobacco and then the three C's under study. What would we have for an estimated target date?

Vohra: Number 8, which sorry number finding number 24 is through our Tobacco Licensing Act and then so we're working to currently draft internally to require tobacco product

manufacturers to submit required annual written compliance to comply with the Act. We imagine that this will take about a six-to-nine-month period. The way that our rules move forward is that as they're ready, they go in front of our State Board of Health for review and approval and then allowing six to nine months after that presentation to move forward.

Balkema: So, like July '26?

Vohra: Yeah, I think that that's the range that we're aiming to complete. The other one that you mentioned is 35, which is the non-compliance with the Underlying Causes of Crime and Violence Study Act. So, we're working closely with the Department of Human Services on this audit finding as this sort of work travels between our two agencies and it's also part of our state health improvement plan, which is our Healthy Illinois 2028 Plan. I don't have a great date for you, but we're working through our state health improvement plan there. I think this one might be a little bit longer, but we hope by the end of that state health improvement plan cycle and working to sort of understand appropriate roles between the Department of Public Health and Department of Human Services. We can address this, this sort of third of our red understudy findings.

Balkema: And when does that study conclude?

Vohra: Senator Balkema, let me get back to you with that information, I don't have it on me.

Balkema: And then, you know, if you say by end of that study, we'll have a date, you know, then because if you had a date on that, you'd have a complete picture. That'd be amazing. You'd have a complete picture, red, yellow, green, target dates for every one of them. And then, last question, on the reorg process to go from 16 departments to 5, did you use any Six Sigma methodology or efficiency process as you walk through that?

Vohra: So, we worked closely with the Institution of Healthcare Delivery Design at the University of Illinois, part of their sort of population health wing, and we did sort of a deep landscape analysis of other states throughout the country, and it concluded that we have more verticals in almost every health department in the country. Part of this is sort of aligning very importantly like versus like and to address both audit findings and efficiency to the points that you have made around accountability. How do we appreciate accountability? There were moments early in my tenure we saw different offices applying to the same grant from the federal government. Right? And that does not allow us to maximize our dollars. This also allows us in different ways because each of those different verticals had different processes around fiscal and grant management that we also needed to streamline as our audit findings and so all of that now moving centralized in our Bureau of Finance, that allows us to track this work effectively. As we all know, reorganizations in government take time. They're not easy. It requires a lot of change management. But partly this is also a remnant from the COVID 19

Pandemic that public health has to act decisively. We need data to result in action. As Senator Ellman knows, we collect a lot of data at IDPH, but how do we make that data useful and one of these sort of big pet peeves for me is that often it was like, here's data from three years ago. How do we apply that, but really working more actionable, and to allow that to provide all of you our reports that are based on the most data? So, they did use different sort of change management and performance metric qualities. In our new Bureau of Performance Management, we plan to use sort of lean Six Sigma techniques. We also know that work in government is slightly different than work in the corporate sector, too but understanding those constraints and being as efficient as possible.

Balkema: Thank you very much.

Rose: Others, see look at that, Doctor. All right. Well, with that seeing no more questions, Senator Balkema moves to accept the compliance audit. The Department of Public Health seconded by Senator Villanueva. All in favor, say aye. Opposed, say nay. In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it and the audit is accepted. Thank you.

Vohra: Thank you very much.

Rose: Members of your staff. Next, we're going to hear from the University of Illinois President Tim Killeen and other university officials. Please make your way to the table as they do so. Auditor General. Who, where's Frank? We're going to pause for a moment. Auditor General. We're getting ready to proceed with the University of Illinois. Whenever you are ready, sir.

Mautino: Thank you, Chairman Rose. The compliance examination of the University of Illinois was conducted by the firm of RSM US LLP. Dan Sethness is here in person and Kelly Kirkman is participating remotely on behalf of the firm. The audit manager for this engagement was Tom Kizziah, also participating remotely. Courtney Dzierwa, our Financial and Compliance Division Director, will discuss the engagement. Courtney, if you would. Thank you.

Dzierwa: Thank you. There were 22 total findings in the FY23 compliance examination.

In Finding 13, we noted the University does not require all employees to submit time reports as required by the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (Act) and does not have adequate procedures to ensure accurate employee time reporting.

During testing of payroll, we selected 60 employees across all three campuses and noted the following:

- Seven (or 12%) of employees tested (including three from the Urbana-Champaign campus and four from the Springfield campus) did not file time reports as required by the Act. University management stated faculty, postdoctoral employees, instructors, and

lecturers continue to track their time using a “negative” timekeeping system whereby the employee is assumed to be working, unless noted otherwise.

- One (or 2%) employee tested receiving a monthly salary from the Urbana-Champaign campus failed to follow the University’s state time reporting policies and did not submit a timecard as required by the Act.

This finding was first noted during the examination for the year ended June 30, 2005. In subsequent years, the University has been unsuccessful in implementing a corrective action plan.

We recommended the University implement procedures to ensure all employees submit time sheets as required by the Act.

University officials accepted the finding and stated they are working to seek legislative remedy.

In Finding 15, we found the University did not report certain automobile accidents involving University vehicles to the Department of Central Management Services (CMS) in a timely manner. During our testing of the operation of university vehicles, we noted the University reported 169 accidents involving University employees to the Department of Central Management Services (CMS) during fiscal year 2023. The Urbana-Champaign campus reported 136 accidents, the Chicago campus reported 32 accidents and the Springfield campus reported one accident.

- Of the 136 accidents reported by the Urbana-Champaign campus, 22 accidents (or 16%) were not reported timely and ranged from one to 56 days late.
- Of the 32 accidents reported by the Chicago campus, 12 accidents (or 38%) were not reported timely and ranged from one to 12 days late.
- Upon further review of the University’s listing of accidents, we noted the Urbana-Champaign campus did not report one accident to CMS at all.

In addition, we noted the following:

- Of the 136 accidents reported to the Urbana-Champaign campus, 24 accidents (or 18%) were not reported timely to the Urbana-Champaign campus’ motor pool and ranged from one to 42 days late.
- Of the 32 accidents reported to the Chicago campus, nine accidents (or 28%) were not reported timely to the Chicago Campus’ Transportation Office and ranged from one to seven days late.
- Upon further review of the University’s listing of accidents, we noted the Urbana-Champaign campus submitted one accident claim to CMS but did not include it on the University’s listing.

We recommended the University implement procedures to ensure accidents are reported in a timely manner. We also recommended the University ensure policies and procedures are

clearly understood and followed by all personnel responsible for the oversight of university vehicles within each department. University officials accepted the finding.

This concludes our opening remarks on the compliance examination for the year ended June 30, 2023, of the University of Illinois.

Rose: Thank you. I'm going to ask President Killeen to please introduce his team. And I would also remind our auditors that are on Zoom that if you wish to speak to, please raise your hand. And we've got someone hopefully paying attention to that to tell me to recognize them. So, all right, President Killeen, by the way, what happened Saturday, first of all? This would have gone a lot better. This would have gone a lot better. That's all I got to say. Okay.

Killeen: Is that a finding? Excuse me. Yeah. Good morning, Chairman Rose. Thanks. Chairman Rita, and Members of the Commission, thank you for your work on behalf of the state and I'm pleased to be here with our team to respond to your specific questions about the University of Illinois System's fiscal year 2023 audit findings. Specifically, there are three members of the team here. Nick Jones is here, Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs. So, I'll look to him to speak to academic issues. Paul Ellinger is our Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Comptroller and Brent Rasmus is Associate Vice President, Comptroller and Deputy Comptroller and keeps track of everything. Just to make sure that's understood. Before we turn to your questions, I do want to take a moment to thank the legislature for its continued support of and investment in public higher education. In partnership with our elected leaders in Springfield, the U of I System continues to work for the people of Illinois as we have since our founding almost 160 years ago. Now we're devoted to the public good, helping build our state's future and we want to do that with integrity, commitment, transparency and resourcefulness. The U of I System has produced generations of well-educated graduates, thinkers, leaders, citizens who provided their innovations and engagement vital for economic dynamism and meeting with our alumni all across the state, we do an annual road tour, you can see it in their accomplishments and in their commitment to their communities and that includes, of course, many members of the legislature.

Right now, there are a record 101,081 students enrolled across our three Universities with the largest education system at 3.4% more than a year ago and obviously involves more human beings, more transactions, more complexity, and 25.9% more than a decade ago. So, there's been substantial growth and that means increased access to a world class education and we're very proud that 79.3% of our undergraduates are from Illinois. U of I Systems impact stretches far beyond our campuses too. According to a new U of I System Economic Impact Report from Lightcast that we can share in FY23, the U of I system added \$24.9 billion in income to the Illinois economy. That's equal to 2.6% of the state's total gross state product, almost the equivalent of Illinois's entire construction industry. And if you want to think about the impact we have, and obviously the complexity, the U of I System supports directly or indirectly over 225,000 jobs in FY23 and that's one out of every 37 jobs in the state and we continue to train the next generations of doctors, nurses and other healthcare

professionals and provide healthcare for people in Chicago and beyond through UI Health. These initiatives and so many more provide real impact at scale, generating an incredible return on investment for the people of our state. As one of the largest and most complex organizations in this state, we take very seriously our responsibilities to steward public resources with integrity, accountability and transparency and we deeply appreciate the partnership with yourselves. This includes maintaining strong internal controls that are actively monitored, regularly evaluated and continuously improved and the FY23 audit findings remind us that there is room for progress. We take these findings seriously and view them as opportunities to strengthen our systems and practices and I'm pleased, I think, as you know, to report that we have made significant strides. The significant reduction in findings from 22 in FY23 to just 10 in FY24 demonstrates extensive efforts to address these specific findings and our desire to work towards complete compliance. Regarding the federal compliance findings, the system again received an unmodified opinion for all major programs and the costs that were questioned there at the federal level totaled less than \$700 and this, we believe, is a significant accomplishment considering the System had almost \$1.5 billion in federal expenses in FY23. The results of our FY23 financial and compliance audits have been shared with the full University of Illinois Board of Trustees and discussed by its audit budget, finance and facility committees and as was pointed out, management accepted all of the recommendations and findings in the FY23 budget. As a publicly supported institution, we must hold ourselves to the highest standards of transparency and accountability. The board and I remain fully committed to open communication about our performance, compliance and stewardship, state and federal resources. We are grateful for your continued oversight and partnership as we work to ensure that the University of Illinois system continues to serve the people of our state with integrity, efficient and trust at ever greater scale and we now look forward to your questions.

Rose: Thank you, President Killeen. I'm going to have questions but do we. Anyone on the Zoom have anything they want to add before we go to questions from the members? Questions from the members. Senator Balkema.

Balkema: So, if I translate the last group stoplight chart to yours, it looks like we've got 13 green. I said seven yellow and two red only because on the yellows the findings two through the 22 that have dates for completion in '25 or '26, then there was two that we are saying we have partial implementation but no date, that's six and seven. So, for the, is there a reason or could we set a target date for 6 and 7? If you had dates for those two, then to your point earlier, you would have a plan for resolving all remaining 10 open items.

Killeen: Yeah. Thank you for the question. Six is cash management, timeliness of subrecipient payments and the 30-day issue and ask Brent Rasmus to address that. Seven is the ...

Rose: Mr. President Killeen, can you address the microphone?

Killeen: Yeah.

Rose: Thank you.

Killeen: Seven is errors in reporting for the NSLDS, the Student Data System and we accept both of those findings but they have continued to repeat as you pointed out, so could I ask Mr. Rasmus to.

Rasmus: Yes. In answer to the timeliness or the timeliness of subrecipient payments, the expected date for corrective action is December of 2025 and then for the errors in reporting and NSLDS, we thought that the corrective action was going to be implemented in June 2024. It involved a software patch for one of our ERP systems. However, that patch apparently was not applied correctly. The vendor supplied a corrective patch in October of 2024. So, we're awaiting resolution for the FY25 audit to conclude that we have implemented that successfully.

Balkema: So, you think that one's implemented, you just are testing, using the next audit as a test process?

Rasmus: Yes, correct.

Balkema: Then you're complete. Then you've got December '25 and then really item 7 is considered green because you think it's implementing and you're going to validate it. So just and to compliment on the President Killeen's points, the fact that you're running such a large organization and educating all types of folks that are going out into the all different service organizations, corporate world, you know, engineering and all of that and you're really putting out the best of the best from an Illinois education perspective, to have a clean audit and having your own, you know, backyard completely cleaned up is a huge point of praise and so I look forward to coming back and having a green audit completely.

Killeen: Thank you, Senator. We want to get to zero. I would say that 10 in FY 2024 is a significant improvement over the average over my whole period. My first round was 30 and we've managed to tweak it down, I think successfully. The 22 from FY23 was a little upward bump and I appreciate the opportunity to clean up all of those particular aspects and as I hope you realize; we've taken each one seriously.

Balkema: Yeah, and I love the fact that you're tracking from when you first got there, going from 30 to where you are now on the way to zero and to be able to talk openly about zero is not a concept but an actual black and white plan on a piece of paper.

Killeen: If I could just say it's going to be hard because we are a big decentralized, complex organization. We have a lot of, you know, many, many units that are accountable for their decisions. So, training and policy implementation and recurrent processes are, really

important for an institution like ours. It's not a strictly top-down institution. So, we may well talk about safety, traffic, things, that's a product of the great decentralization of our overall system. Thank you.

Rose: Questions from other members. Okay, I've got a few. So, let's talk about that getting to zero because the faculty timesheets have been on here since 2005 and you've been president for 10 years and there's on the next audit that hasn't come out yet, or I guess hasn't come out yet, but the one that we're going to hear next time, that's still on there. So how are you getting to zero with that one?

Killeen: Well, we would like a path that is legislative and in fact we did introduce language into the omnibus bill that did not move forward. As you know, that would take that one off the list. It is a chronic recurring issue and it's to deal with our tenure track faculty and our tenured faculty. We've done comparisons and we've looked at other Universities in the Big ten, etcetera. So, we're not an outlier from the perspective of a large research-intensive University.

Rose: But you are an outlier for state law.

Killeen: Yes.

Rose: Even Chicago State got it right.

Killeen: Right, and we will get there. Our path that we're on currently is a legislative path. But I could ask Nick to comment if that's okay.

Rose: Go ahead, Nick.

Jones: Good morning. Nick Jones, Executive Vice President Vice President for Academic Affairs. Just a little bit of context. Faculty at research intensive universities like the University of Illinois face significant challenges with detailed time reporting requirements. Unlike hourly employees, faculty are salaried professionals whose work is defined by broad responsibilities, teaching, research, mentoring, service, administration that often extend well beyond the standard workweek and are not easily captured in quarter hour increments. Faculty routinely work more than 40 hours per week with their schedules fluctuating based on grant deadlines, student needs and institutional priorities. The federal Fair Labor Standards Act, or FLSA, recognizes this complexity and exempts faculty from hourly reporting, as do most peer institutions. However, the current State Officials and Employees Ethics Act requires both positive time reporting, that is documenting hours worked each day, and negative time reporting, documenting only time taken off, which creates a duplicative and unnecessarily administrative redundancy. Comparatively, our peers in the Big Ten and the Association of American Universities or AAU use flexible percentage-based effort reporting systems such as full time equivalent. These systems meet federal grant accountability requirements while

avoiding excessive bureaucracy. The AAU and other higher education organizations advocate for reporting policies that respect professional autonomy, which are essential for world class research and teaching. Senator Rose's concerns about compliance are absolutely understandable, but it is important to reassure you that the University of Illinois is committed to accountability and transparency and that adopting best practices from peer institutions will ensure compliance without sacrificing the University's core mission. Removing the redundancy through previously proposed legislation would align Illinois with national standards, eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy and allow faculty to focus on the high impact work that benefits students and the state.

Rose: So that was a nice script there, Nick. Let me ask you some questions about what you just said. What peer institutions don't do it? You said most do, some don't. Give me an example one that doesn't.

Jones: I don't have the list in front of me.

Rose: It's fair to say that some do positive timekeeping requirements.

Jones: I'm sure that is the case. Yeah.

Rose: Okay. So, it is doable. Whether you're Chicago State or a U of I peer, it is doable. What is special about a faculty member that makes them any different than a carpenter? Why does the carpenter have to fill out a timesheet?

Jones: I would respond that generally carpenters are paid on an hourly basis and they need to document each hour they work. Whereas faculty ...

Rose: Your U of I employees, are salaried. So why does the guy in the shop, on South First Street have to fill out a timesheet but the English Department doesn't? What's so special if all labor is equal as we're told time and again by folks in the English Department? What's so special about faculty? They don't have to in 20 years, they don't have to follow the law. Everybody else does.

Jones: Yeah, well, I don't think it's that we think faculty are special. It's just the nature of their work and work obligations is such that positive time reporting is very difficult to implement negative time reporting.

Rose: Too hard for the PhDs to fill it out.

Jones: Well, it's difficult to implement because it's somewhat incompatible with the nature of the work. I mean, they don't work eight-hour days, they work evenings, they work weekends. It's complicated to keep track of hours worked on specific items of job responsibility

in 15-minute intervals.

Rose: So, let's fast forward to President Killeen, who unfortunately made you answer the questions. So, President, I heard the notion that somehow, it's too difficult. There's something special though. No one can define what the difference is at the end of the day, the reason the law exists isn't to burden people, but it is to make sure that the taxpayers are getting fair value for their dollar. While I would absolutely agree with what Nick asserted that most days of the week, most professors are getting, you know, the state of Illinois is getting more than fair dollar, you know, for their taxpayer dollar. I would also assert that there's some that show up for class and you can never find them after class. They're not in their classroom, they're not teaching and they're not in the rooms after they come out of the classroom. They're not available for students to talk to. Maybe email, maybe they respond, maybe they don't. Maybe they're doing something else, completely has nothing to do with the state of Illinois. So how do we know without the timekeeping requirements that were put in the law and the reason they're put in the law, by the way, is because a lot of people were doing things that had nothing to do with state work on state dollars and you know, if you go back in time, I remember the day that one of your Champagne County Board Members was printing off his flyers at the Geology Department Xerox machine. I'm sure he was not on state time when he was using state resources to print off his campaign flyers on the Geology Department copy machine. No, that was in the 1990s. That's a long time ago. But that's why those rules exist and if you don't follow the rules, then how do we know if they're actually on state time or not? How do you prove a negative? I mean, if you see someone out campaigning on 2 o' clock on a Tuesday at 2, how do we know they actually took the time off to go do that under positive or whatever, this negative timekeeping reporting?

Killeen: Well, I completely appreciate your, the way you've articulated the issue. I can say in agreement that I think Michigan State goes through a time reporting but you look at Michigan, you look at other Iowa, you look at other peer institutions with which we compete for faculty, they don't. So, this is now you say they're not special. I'm very proud of our faculty. Our faculty are very instrumental in teaching 100,000 students, most of them from Illinois. Our faculty are very instrumental in bringing resources to the state in spin off companies.

Rose: No one's arguing the altruistic goodwill here, they're arguing the 10% that aren't doing what they're supposed to be doing and how do you ever hold them accountable when you don't have time sheets? But more importantly, how do you go 20 years just ignoring the law in 10 years of you as President?

Killeen: We do hold our faculty accountable. Our faculty are regularly assessed. They have to, you know, to gain promotion and tenure they go through a very detailed review process that ensures that they are productive. So that's part of the answer to the question. I think where we have common purpose is perhaps in a legislative resolution of this long-standing problem. Yeah, and it's been 10 years and I'm intimately interested and associated with this

issue. It's very difficult to implement this in a research University that is world class.

Rose: So really what it comes down to is it just, there's something special about this category and they should play by a different set of rules than everyone else.

Killeen: Each category is different, I think carpenters. I wished I could have become a carpenter when I was younger, that was something that had allure to me. They're very special too. Every form of human endeavor is special. I would say that faculty at the University of Illinois system are an amazing asset to the state. Extremely hardworking. Generally, you can find one or two probably that are taking a day off without ...

Rose: Do you ever walk through the. let's just pick one, Lincoln Hall and knock on the doors of the people and see if they're in their office.

Killeen: I don't really do that as a general rule. How about they do walk around Lincoln Hall and other institutions and I see a lot of dynamism, a lot of activity.

Rose: Let's go to, since we're on a deal here about getting to zero, which would be fantastic. P-cards, this one's been around for a while and it does look like there's been a little bit of progress. How are we going to get to zero on P-cards?

Killeen: Yeah, we're moving in the right direction. And I would like to ask Brent as well to tell you the things we put in place on P-cards, again, we have thousands of them and they're very effective in keeping our costs under control and when you do an audit, you can find specific things that we want to wring out of the system but let me ask Brent to comment on the specifics. P-cards and T-cards, perhaps.

Rasmus: So, one example would be that our own policy was contributing to the finding. So, there was a policy in place that all P-card transactions had to be reconciled within three days, which was a good goal but there's not necessarily a legitimate business reason why it absolutely had to be approved within three days and so that issue alone, which it's been rectified now, that would have eliminated five exceptions from our FY24 audit and so if we would have implemented that sooner, we would have only had one P-card exception for fiscal year 2024. So that's one example.

Rose: And then, so that's good news and on the other one here about the property control, I do want to dive into that a little bit because and look, I fully recognize the fact that size and scale of the University of Illinois, you're not going to be able to necessarily know where every last item on the inventory list is, but it is worrisome when things just go missing, right? I mean, were they outdated, nonfunctional, were just tossed in the trash or did someone take it home and you know, and I think we all have plenty of examples of items that have turned up in people's homes as still fully functional. So where are we at on the equipment controls? Yeah, I

think you should let him answer everything.

Rasmus: So yeah, on this one it's definitely related to human error not understanding the policies and procedures that we have set into place. So that would include affixing property tags, the way that we report and handle disposals and the unlocated items sometimes are due to where the items are located. So, for example, you have a movable ultrasound machine that's inside one of the medical units in Chicago and so you move that to room to room and so the room that it's assigned to may be different just based on the need. So, there's scenarios kind of like that.

Rose: So, I think I'm more if you ever get an instance of, you know, malfeasance, right? Where it's not just a matter of it was nonfunctional and tossed in the trash or it ended up in the wrong room and it was just simply, you're in the wrong place. What are the procedure when you end up with an instance of malfeasance? Like there's a legitimate articulable suspicion that maybe somebody walked off with whatever "it" is.

Rasmus: If we thought that was the case, then we would absolutely involve the authorities and pursue it that way. It's usually a matter of forgetting to process the disposal through our systems and so for equipment that's been "missing", that would, you know, that's typically what it relates to.

Rose: Yeah, I mean it's every time I go through campus, I walk through the halls and I, you know, and then into the bowels and the ductworks in the basements and you'll invariably find all kinds of equipment just sitting there. Right. Free for the taking.

Rasmus: I think our equipment custodians are diligent at what they do. They have competing priorities just like everybody else. There's just a lot of workload demands and they generally want to do the right thing. It's just I think that that also plays a part of it. Just the workload that everybody has and lack of staffing. But. Yeah.

Rose: The News Gazette, the Champagne News Gazette ran a pretty extensive series on P-cards a few years ago going back to P-Cards and you know, it was, some of it is what you'd expect out of a big company and some of it was fairly salacious and not so good. Are you going to assure me that we've gotten rid of the salacious and not so good and it's now we're downtown down to tiddlywinks on this stuff?

Rasmus: We have several controls in place for P-Cards. There's mandatory training that you have to go through. There is ongoing transaction monitoring to try to find anomalies. There is a tracking of each instance of P-Card noncompliance and it's three strikes, you're out rule. So, if you don't comply with policy three times, then your card's taken away. That doesn't mean that it's not an appropriate business expense. That just means that it didn't follow the other rules of ...

Rose: Timeliness, things like that.

Rasmus: Yes.

Rose: Okay.

Rasmus: So, I feel like we have pretty good controls over P-Card and the fact that like I mentioned earlier in FY24, if the policy would have been changed earlier, then we would have only had one exception for FY24.

Rose: So. Okay, thank you. And President Killeen, thank you for appearing for your audit here. I know you weren't particularly excited about showing up, so we're glad we finally got you here. I want to, I know we can't talk about the other audit that's ongoing, but if you are serious about getting to zero, something's going to have to be done about this, the timekeeping issue. 20 years, you're never going to get to zero as long as that's on your, on your scorecard and I will tell you I'm going to do my own audit. I'm going to go out on a Wednesday or Thursday afternoon, just walk around all those little doors and see who's actually in and who's out and then you're going to tell me it doesn't matter because I have no way to prove if they're working or not proven because it's a not a timekeeping system that you keep, even though it's a State Law.

Killeen: Happy to do that with you, Senator.

Rose: I'll hold you to it. That'll be fun. Be very eye opening, I think. All right. Chris, Senator Balkema.

Balkema: Just one couple follow ups on the poke in a process of manufacturing. A lot of times there's which I think you teach in your manufacturing world Pokey Oak process, which means that if a person has the option of selecting a square peg or a round peg, you know they can't. It doesn't fit in terms of controls in place. So, you said training transactional process, this is for the P-cards and then tracking are the three things. So, if there's anything that you can do actually using perhaps from your own departments there that are more of a stop process where the person can't proceed to the next step unless they do the appropriate card and that the goal would be to eliminate human error wherever possible. So, I think there's even in a complicated process like that there's ways to Pokey Oak the process or foolproof it so that we take as much human error out of question as possible. That's for that one. Second one, actually I was very impressed with Senator Rose because he suggested exactly what a lot of times you do is if you have a repeat finding which we've had from other Universities to Chapin's point, kind of the go see act, let's just go see and put ourselves in the shoes of the person and understand the environment in that and so I will volunteer to drive down on the day that the President Killeen and Senator Rose are together doing the go see act.

Rose: It will be unannounced.

Balkema: Unannounced. That's even better to just understand so that we put ourselves in ourselves in the person's shoes that we're asking to follow the process because it is to Chapin's point, some Universities seem to be squeaky clean, others don't and it's just one of those nagging things that I bet, you know, Illinois is so great in so many areas and so the University. I bet if we put our heads together, we can solve this one and then make sure we get to zero and then Chapin's blood pressure will be low every time you guys come in for audits.

Rose: If Illinois wins, my blood pressure will be low.

Killeen: Thank you. I think one of the things on the P-cards is we've worked hard to reduce the number of individuals with P-card privileges and that was done over the years and that's helped get the problem at a lower level. Expunging it completely. I mean one sounds like a good number for FY24. But I think training and building a sense of compliance in our community is incredibly important. The tone from the top is incredibly important. So, thank you for your comments.

Rose: Co-chair Rita.

Rita: Not that I want to belabor, what's it finding number 13? I didn't quite understand your answer about the timekeeping, how you answered that this finding that has been around for 20 years.

Killeen: We have, maybe Nick can comment on this, we have gone forward with a legislative remedy that has not moved all the way through to a bill that's being approved but was articulated in the last year. That would be for us the best solution.

Rita: So, the legislative remedy would allow you to continue to do what you're doing, which is an audit finding that has not advanced through the General Assembly essentially? I mean that's what I thought I heard and that's why I wanted to give you a chance to clarify our other universities complying with this and maybe you don't know that, but.

Killeen: I know enough and maybe slightly dated information, but I think the preponderance of the research-intensive Universities that we consider as peers, competitors do not require their faculty to do but there are some that do and as you've noted, Chicago State and perhaps even Northern has moved in the direction of requiring.

Rita: What would be the plan moving forward if there isn't a legislative remedy for you to continue to do what you're doing and continue to have this audit finding?

Killeen: I'm optimistic that we will find a joint partnership remedy that will retain the vibrancy and the incredible creativity of our faculty and not cause us to lose faculty to other states and other institutions because of a sense of bureaucratic oversight.

Rita: Well, maybe I'll resay this, so if there isn't a legislative remedy and you continue to have this audit finding, is there a plan B?

Killeen: We will attend these commission meetings I think into the future, but maybe I'd ask Nick, who's been point person.

Rita: I mean the object is to address and come up with remedies to not continue to have an audit finding or just completely disregard what the auditors and what this commission does. I mean I just, I find it. You don't have a plan B.

Killeen: Nick.

Jones: It's correct that at this point, well, actually there, there is and I want, I want to assure you that there is a process in place for, for faculty right now where they through negative time reporting indicate when they are in and when they are not in and those reports that are done regularly are reviewed by their supervisors and so the case that Senator Rose described before, where a faculty member is off doing something else, supervisor will review those submissions and if the faculty member is not doing work that is state related business, then that should be picked up in the process.

Rita: Okay, but I don't think you're answering my question. Is there a plan B?

Jones: We don't have a plan B at this time, but I get a sense that you would like to hear one.

Rita: Well, yes. I mean it's a repeated finding for over 20 years. I mean, I guess that's why. Yeah. What would a plan B be?

Killeen: Options for automated responses based on, we fulfill all the federal requirements for faculty time use. You know, most of our faculty have grants, many of them from federal resources that need regular reporting on the time allocation of that. So, we have, we're compliant on the federal side. But as pointed out here, we're not on the State side in this one category. That's research faculty predominantly, but we will take your comments to heart.

Rita: I'm hearing you, Mr. President. I'm hearing you. I guess I'm just wondering what's the plan B? It's pretty simple. I mean to come up with a different approach if your legislation is not advanced or what I'm hearing is you're going to continue to have this audit finding and part of what we do here is to try to correct measures and address these audit

findings, no matter what these are or what the agency is and we just heard from Public Health, which had a significant amount of findings and a significant amount of repeat findings and they had a nice chart there, which I think, thanks, Senator. That was really helpful. When you look at it, you could see the green, the yellow, the red, what they're addressing. It was pretty simplified. So, our job is to dig down into trying to address these issues and I'm not hearing anything except we have a legislative remedy that can't get passed and I don't know who your sponsors are and how you've tried to advance that, but you have no all just that's the only action you're looking to take on this specific audit finding that has been repeated and it's pretty simple. What would be an alternative to fix this audit finding and is there recommendations from our auditors on maybe on how to fix this?

Jones: I think that the plan B would be to come up with a methodology that could make what is being required work for a typical faculty member's work habit, if you will. Because the incompatibility between how faculty members work and the obligations of the time reporting system make it make it difficult for faculty members to do this. We would have to find a way to make that workable.

Rita: In my understanding, there are some institutions that are complying with this, so I wonder what they're doing?

Jones: Well, we would talk to them and. Find out what model they're using.

Killeen: Rep Rita, and Senator Rose, we will take these comments to heart and we will follow up with a serious meeting of our leadership to see if we can articulate a plan B. As I've mentioned, we do have some legislative strategies that I feel optimistic would move forward.

Rita: I might add, maybe a plan C too, in case plan B don't work. I hate to, you know, make it pretty simple and you know, but it seems like something that could be remedied if we put some time and effort into trying to figure out what would work for the institution and what would work for our auditors. It doesn't seem like this would be that difficult to implement.

Jones: We will look at that.

Killeen: We'll forge a partnership. Are you working with the auditors as well to see if there's some automation or some departmental level ...?

Rita: Email, documentation of some sort? I mean, I'm not an auditor. I'm just a guy from the south side.

Killeen: We don't want to lose the baby ...

Rita: What's happened is you caught my attention here on how you answered

that and to me, just a legislative remedy that can't or has not passed is seems like you've run into some roadblocks that may never ever get done and so, let's start looking at plan B, C to address this. Thank you.

Rose: Thank you. Representative Rita. Senator Balkema, your recognized.

Balkema: I think if the so, I changed this one from yellow to red, that's okay because the target date for completion was May of 2026 and I think that's when we were hoping we'd pass the law that says we don't have to do it anymore. So, I think based on a bipartisan, you know, full body, Republicans, Democrats, all probably speaking the same language here, if you tried to change the law, you probably would get resistance and we probably wouldn't want to vote for it anyway. So, I'm more motivated now to say let's not change the law, let's just help the University, "the greatest University in Illinois", which I agree with because you're sitting here, let's fix it. Let's not change the law so we don't have to do it anymore because it strikes an emotion in people differently psychologically, like if we're talking about oil changes in cars, you know, I got fired up about that because I'm a mechanic. Well, that's probably not going to have the same emotional response of thirteen million people, if you polled them on the street on how important it is to change oil in your car. This one is tracking timesheets of faculty, which stirs up a whole lot more emotions than lots of people for different reasons. Historical reasons of people not complying, but then overall it's like the human beings that are teaching our kids, if they can't track a timesheet, it obviously elevates emotion. So why don't, why don't you all go back and put a plan in place and fix this and clearly if you fix this one, it makes the other nine that are open peanuts, it makes them small potatoes. Let's fix this one, but don't go say we're just going to hoping to change law so we don't have to do it anymore. It's a cop out. I wouldn't do that. I would actually take; you're teaching the kids in one of the greatest Universities here. Use your own horsepower inside to go create a plan where everybody's held accountable for their time and then this nagging issue goes away. But it does. The more we talk about it, the more emotion it strikes because it's like don't camp out on we're just going to hope to change laws, so don't do it anymore. If you poll the average person on the street, they would say that's probably not the best idea. So, let's not do that. I hope the bill doesn't ever see the light of day, 1870, I looked it up because I'm rooting for you to fix it and so, if we do a go see act and talk to the, if you call up the Chicago State, that's a great thing. If you talk to the auditing team and ask them for processes, that's great. But I would say use your own folks because I bet you got some people teaching some of these world class initiatives that would allow you to have a timekeeping process that you could use yourselves.

Rose: Thank you Senator Balkema. Other questions for members. Nick, I just wanted to follow up. So, the process that you mentioned is that they would report time off is what you're saying and by the way, listen, I'm the son in law of two faculty members and they were both pianists. I would routinely watch my in laws practice until 11 or 12 o' clock at night on no time sheet. Okay, So I totally get that 90% of our faculty are putting in more than 40 hours a week. I don't begrudge that. I salute it. I don't deny it. But I do need to point out that you can't

just say we're not going to follow the law for 20 years. So, Nick, what is it that you guys. Is it they report their time off only?

Jones: They report their time off and their sick leave. Yes.

Rose: Okay and then is that for all employees or is it just the professors?

Jones: I am certain that faculty, I guess it's all employees do that. Yeah. Including, including faculty. For example, the person sitting three seats to my right does it and I review his every month before it's submitted.

Rose: So, the, the individual in the auto body shop is under the same system as the professors under. I thought they were. He said something about them hourly, but I may have been confused on what.

Killeen: Brent, do you want to speak to that. For sick time? Yes.

Rose: Okay, for sick time. But what about time off? Okay. All right. All right. Thank you and I do, I do think the problem is you have a 20-year finding of just saying we're not going to follow the law and I don't care who you are, that's not okay. I mean, it's the law, so. Okay. Anything else? Thank you for your time, University of Illinois. We are now going to make a motion to accept the compliance audit of the University of Illinois before us today. Looks like maybe Senator Wilcox is making that motion. Seconded by Representative Meier and all in favor say aye, opposed to say nay. In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it and the audit is accepted. Thank you, President and team. We're now going to turn the consent calendar. Appearing today, there are 25 reports that do not appear to require the presence of agency officials. If there's no objection to any of the individual audits on the report. On a motion made by Representative Manley, seconded by Senator Ellman to accept the consent calendar and ask that all in favor say aye. Oppose say nay. In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it and the consent calendar is accepted. We have the minutes from the audit commission meetings from October 14, 2025. If there's no objection on motion made by Senator Balkema, seconded by Representative Elik, we accept the meeting minutes. All in favor say aye. Opposed say nay. In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it. Next are four DHS audits that we heard at the August meeting. If you will recall, we held these open for further review and for further response. The Department has responded. Based upon the response, I think we're in a position to now accept those audits but feel free to disagree with me. On a motion made by Representative Manley, seconded by Senator Balkema, we're going to go ahead and accept those compliance audits at this time, we're going to say all in favor say aye. Opposed say nay. In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it. And those audits are accepted. We now acknowledge receipt of two items which do not require commission action. We've received the Auditors General's quarterly report for the first quarter of FY 2026 and fiscal year 2025 lapse period and that again, we do not need to do anything other than just make note that we've accepted those reports.

Looking ahead, the Audit Commission will meet again next year in Springfield at a yet to be determined date. Please look forward to Commission Director Ray reaching out to you to check your calendars. Is there any other further business to come before us? Senator Balkema.

Balkema: Just to reflect the record. I appreciate Director Ray had put together an action item list of all the audits that we're kind of behind on and it would be great if we could put some extra dates in the calendar either yet this fall or in the spring to try trying to get caught up and trued up.

Rose: So, so Senator Balkema, there's a, I think we've had a couple conversations this morning on that and we can chat after.

Balkema: Excellent.

Rose: And I think we're going to dispatch with most of those in short order and then we'll have a few here. So, but we will get back on schedule. Any other business? See no further business before the Legislative Audit Commission today, on a motion from Representative Manley and seconded by Co-chair, Representative Rita. The meeting is adjourned. Thank you.