WHEREAS, The LaSalle Veterans' Home, founded in 1990, is one of five veterans' homes in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, The LaSalle Veterans' home cares for up to 184 residents, including 40 special needs veterans; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, a new coronavirus discovered in 2019; the virus is thought to spread mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks; some people who are infected may not have symptoms; and

WHEREAS, In November 2020, the LaSalle Veterans' Home experienced an outbreak of COVID-19 cases among its residents and staff; and

WHEREAS, On November 6, 2020, VISN 12 leadership was notified by Hines VA Hospital that the LaSalle Veterans' Home was experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19; on November 10, 2020, an infection control lead at the LaSalle Veterans' Home contacted the administration and then conducted a telephone assessment on November 11, 2020; and
WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Public Health assessed the LaSalle Veterans' Home and made recommendations concerning screening, testing, point of care testing, ventilation, environment of care, and staff management and infectious control practices; and

WHEREAS, The LaSalle Veterans' Home began implementing corrective measures recommended by the Illinois Department of Public Health, which included replacing non-alcohol containing hand sanitizer, wearing proper personal protection equipment, seeking separate consultation regarding HVAC/ventilation and negative pressure concerns, staff management, testing with PCR every three days until transmission under control, and ensuring appropriate protocols are followed for terminal cleanliness; and

WHEREAS, In December 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak continued to spread through the LaSalle Veterans' Home, where 108 residents and 102 staff had contracted COVID-19; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Auditor General is directed to conduct a performance audit of the State's response to the management of the COVID-19 outbreak at the LaSalle Veterans' Home; and be it further
RESOLVED, That this performance audit include, but not be limited to, the following determinations:

(1) The response of the Department of Veterans' Affairs to the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020 at the LaSalle Veterans' Home, including the recommendations made in the November 13, 2020 site visit by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Department's actions to address those recommendations;

(2) The type, cost, and timing of any infrastructure or other building improvements intended to contain the further spread of COVID-19 or prevent its reoccurrence at the LaSalle Veterans' Home;

(3) The nature of changes made by the Department in operating protocols and staff training thereon, intended to contain the further spread of COVID-19 or prevent its reoccurrence at the LaSalle Veterans' Home;

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

(5) The amount of State moneys received and the amount of State moneys expended by IDPH or any other State agency during State fiscal years 2020 and 2021 to address the COVID-19 outbreaks at the LaSalle Veterans' Home; and

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
delivered to the Auditor General.