



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**OFFICE OF THE  
 AUDITOR GENERAL**

Frank J. Mautino, Auditor General

**SUMMARY REPORT DIGEST**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Compliance Examination  
 For the Two Years Ended June 30, 2021

Release Date: March 2, 2023

FINDINGS THIS AUDIT: 4	New	Repeat	Total	AGING SCHEDULE OF REPEATED FINDINGS			
				Repeated Since	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Category 1:	0	0	0	2017			21-2
Category 2:	2	1	3	2015		21-1	
Category 3:	0	1	1				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>				
FINDINGS LAST AUDIT: 4							

**SYNOPSIS**

- (21-1) The Human Rights Commission (Commission) had not implemented adequate internal controls related to cybersecurity programs, priorities and control of confidential information.

**Category 1:** Findings that are **material weaknesses** in internal control and/or a **qualification** on compliance with State laws and regulations (material noncompliance).

**Category 2:** Findings that are **significant deficiencies** in internal control and **noncompliance** with State laws and regulations.

**Category 3:** Findings that have **no internal control issues but are in noncompliance** with State laws and regulations.

**FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**WEAKNESSES IN CYBERSECURITY PROGRAMS  
AND PRACTICES**

**Weaknesses in cybersecurity  
program**

The Human Rights Commission (Commission) had not implemented adequate internal controls related to cybersecurity programs, practices and control of confidential information.

The Commission had computer systems that contained confidential or personal information.

During the examination of the Commission's cybersecurity program, practices and control of confidential information, we noted the Commission had not:

- Developed a formal, comprehensive, adequate, and communicated security program (including policies, procedures, and processes as well as clearly defined responsibilities over the security of computer programs and data) to manage and monitor the regulatory, legal, environmental and operational requirements.
- Developed a project management framework to ensure new applications were adequately developed and implemented in accordance with management's expectations.
- Developed a risk management methodology, conducted a comprehensive risk assessment, or implemented risk reducing internal controls.
- Developed policies and procedures governing the maintenance and destruction of their data.
- Developed a data classification methodology or classified its data to identify and ensure adequate protection of information.
- Required contractors to acknowledge receipt of obtaining and understanding the Commission's Policy Manual.
- Require its employees and contractors to complete cybersecurity training. (Finding 1, pages 12-14)

We recommended the Commission work with the Department of Innovation and Technology to obtain an understanding of each party's responsibilities as it related to cybersecurity controls. Additionally, we recommended the Commission:

- Develop a formal, comprehensive, adequate, and

communicated security program (including policies, procedures, and processes as well as clearly defined responsibilities over the security of computer programs and data) to manage and monitor the regulatory, legal, environmental and operational requirements.

- Develop a project management framework to ensure new applications are adequately developed and implemented in accordance with management's expectations.
- Develop a risk management methodology, conduct a comprehensive risk assessment, and implement risk reducing internal controls.
- Develop policies and procedures governing the maintenance and destruction of their data.
- Develop a data classification methodology and classify its data to identify and ensure adequate protection of information.
- Require contractors to acknowledge receipt of obtaining and understanding the Commission's Policy Manual.
- Require employees and contractors to complete cybersecurity training.

#### **Commission officials agree**

The Commission agreed with the finding.

#### **OTHER FINDINGS**

The remaining findings pertain to vacancies on the Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission (ITIRC), ITIRC decisions not being deposited with the Illinois State Library, and inadequate controls over travel expenditures. We will review the Commission's and ITIRC's progress towards the implementation of our recommendations in our next compliance examination.

#### **ACCOUNTANT'S OPINION**

The accountants conducted a compliance examination of the Commission for the two years ended June 30, 2021, as required by the Illinois State Auditing Act. The accountants stated the Commission complied, in all material respects, with the requirements described in the report.

This compliance examination was conducted by the Office of the Auditor General's staff.

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JANE CLARK  
Division Director

This report is transmitted in accordance with Section 3-14 of the Illinois State Auditing Act.

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FRANK J. MAUTINO  
Auditor General

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