



**OFFICE OF THE
AUDITOR GENERAL**

June 12, 2025
Performance Audit

Follow-Up Report

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Management and Program Audit of the
Illinois State Police's Division of Forensic Services

Audit Follow-Up

In March 2009, the Office of the Auditor General released a management and program audit of the Illinois State Police's Division of Forensic Services (DFS). The audit contained 16 recommendations. As part of the compliance examination of the Illinois State Police (Department) for the period ended June 30, 2022, predecessor auditors followed up on the status of the recommendations made in the March 2009 report and reported that 14 recommendations were fully implemented and 2 recommendations were partially implemented. As part of the compliance examination of the Department for the period ending June 30, 2024, auditors followed up on the status of the two partially implemented recommendations reported in the June 30, 2022 report. The current status of the recommendations is shown in the table below. One of the two remaining partially implemented recommendations has now been implemented.

STATUS OF PERFORMANCE AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

As of June 30, 2024

Rec. No.	Recommendation Description	Agency	Current Status		
			Implemented	Partially Implemented	Not Implemented
1	Lab Conditions	State Police	X		
2	Fee Funding	State Police	X		
3	Lapsed and Transferred Funding	State Police		X	
4	Grant Funding	State Police	X		
5	Lack of Formal Staffing Studies	State Police	X		
6	DNA Backlog Reporting	State Police	X		
7	Backlog Reduction/Elimination Plan	State Police	X		
8	Lab Site Visits	State Police	X		
9	Notifying External Agencies with Results of Reviews	State Police	X		
10	Quality Assurance Questionnaire and Regional Advisory Board Meetings	State Police	X		
11	Notifying Investigative Entities of Coverdell Requirements	State Police	X		
12	Independent Investigations	State Police	X		
13	Drug Investigations	State Police	X		
14	Case Selection for Outsourcing	State Police	X		
15	Outsourced Cases	State Police	X		
16	Outsourcing Procurement Activity	State Police	X		

Source: Summary of OAG follow-up.

Recommendation 1: Lab Conditions

The Illinois State Police should develop a comprehensive plan to address the environmental issues at its forensic labs.

Current Status: Implemented

During the prior year examination, the Department's Division of Forensic Services (DFS) worked closely with the Division of Justice Services (DJS), which is tasked with oversight of the Department's facilities, to implement the

recommendation. In Fiscal Year 2021, DFS received funding from the Capital Development Board (CDB) for the planning and construction of a new forensic laboratory to replace the existing aging, outdated Joliet Forensic Science Laboratory. Consequently, the renovation of the existing Joliet Laboratory commenced in August 2022 to address urgent health and safety issues.

During the current examination, the Department has completed the renovation of the existing Joliet Forensic Science Laboratory, which re-opened in April 2024.

The Department added that in addition to the renovation of the Joliet Forensic Science Laboratory, the Department finalized in January 2024 the architectural drawings for the planned construction of a new Joliet Forensic Science Laboratory facility to replace the existing aging facility. The new Joliet Forensic Science Laboratory is currently in a site-assessment stage. The bidding process for the construction is underway and to be determined by CDB.

Finally, the Department received accreditation from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) National Accreditation Board for its Forensic Sciences Command for fulfilling the requirements for Forensic Testing and Calibration, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories and for DNA Databasing Laboratories. Eleven laboratories, including the new Joliet Laboratory, were included in the scope of accreditation.

Recommendation 3: Lapsed and Transferred Funding

The Illinois State Police should ensure that resources provided by the General Assembly are fully utilized for the mission of the Division of Forensic Services, including the reduction of case backlogs, rather than allowing this funding to transfer or lapse. Additionally, the Illinois State Police should take the steps necessary to determine the funding level needed to operate its lab system.

Current Status: Partially Implemented

During the prior examination, the DFS has continued to make modifications and improvements to the Laboratory Information System to facilitate the reduction of forensic case backlogs through effective management and tracking of forensic case submissions. However, there were still backlogs totaling 7,887 forensic assignments at the end of Fiscal Year 2022.

During the current examination, the Department was unable to fully staff all forensic positions due to staffing challenges related to hiring limitations. The understaffing resulted in backlogs in forensic assignments of 8,723 and 10,175 as of the end of Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024, respectively. The DFS Forensic Services Command was appropriated \$24,118,286 and \$22,750,000 for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2023 of which DFS expended a total of \$17,662,358 (73%) and \$14,919,391 (66%), respectively. The DFS Forensic Services Command was appropriated \$22,750,000 and \$24,118,286 for Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024 of which DFS expended a total of \$14,919,391 (66%) and \$17,662,358 (73%), respectively.

Follow-up was conducted as part of the Fiscal Year 2023 and 2024 State compliance examination by our special assistant auditors, Adelfia, LLC. This was the eighth time follow-up has been done on the recommendations from the March 2009 performance audit.