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**State of Illinois**  
**COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT**  
**FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

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May 2, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Patrick Quinn, Governor, State of Illinois  
The Honorable John Cullerton, President of the Senate  
The Honorable Michael Madigan, Speaker of the House of Representatives  
The Honorable Christine Radogno, Minority Leader of the Senate  
The Honorable Tom Cross, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives  
The Honorable Jesse White, Secretary of State  
Richard H. Calica, Director, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

**RE:** Advisory Opinion of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability  
Regarding the Closure of the DCFS Skokie Office

The Commission met on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at 10:30 am to take final action on the proposed closure of the DCFS Skokie Office (Skokie Office) and to accept or reject the recommendation for closure submitted by the Department of Children and Family Services for that facility. The Commission, on a vote of 10-0, accepted the recommendation by the Department of Children and Family Services to close the Skokie Office in Skokie, Illinois. A copy of the motion to accept the recommendation for closure and the vote tally is attached.

**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

The Department of Children and Family Services officially notified the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (the Commission) of the intent to close the DCFS Skokie Office on February 24, 2012. The Commission requested a recommendation for closure on March 1, 2012. The recommendation must be filed within 30 days after the Commission delivers the request for recommendation to the State executive branch officer."

The Department of Human Services submitted the recommendation for closure to the Commission on March 29, 2012. The holding of a local public hearing was at the discretion of the Commission for this facility because of it not falling under the requirements that mandate these types of hearings for specific State facilities under the State Facility Closure Act. Due to a

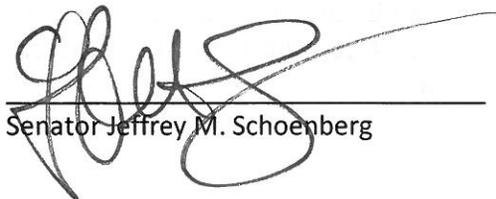
lack of public interest, likely attributable to no jobs being lost only transferred approximately 11 miles, the Commission chose not to hold a public hearing related to this closure. As an example of the lack of public interest, no public comments were received regarding the proposed closure of this office during the 30 day public comment period.

The Skokie Office is located at 8140 N. McCormick Blvd., in Skokie, IL. Approximately 90-100 state employees currently work at the office, according to DCFS. The Department intends to move most of these employees to a new office in Deerfield, IL, on the fifth floor of a state-owned building currently in partial use by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. Six employees currently at the Skokie office, currently working as Administrative Case Reviewers will be relocated to the DCFS office at 1911 S. Indiana in Chicago, IL as per the request from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

The Department has noted in their recommendation for closure that the move to the Deerfield location is optimal for numerous reasons. The Deerfield office will be larger and have more room for expansion of DCFS obligations. Also, the Deerfield Office is closer to I-294 and I-94. The six Administrative Case Reviewers in the Skokie Office will be moved to the DCFS Chicago office to better facilitate the accommodation of clients through public transportation. The Deerfield office will also be less expensive to operate than the current Skokie office (\$696,000 and \$771,435 respectively). As the Skokie office is privately owned and rented by the State, whereas the Deerfield office is owned by the state, rent will be paid to the state and a currently vacant office area (the fifth floor of the Deerfield office) will be utilized.

Given the availability of public transportation and the relative closeness of the two offices, DCFS does not believe that there will be any significant issues with continuance of service to the public or major economic impact on the population currently served by the Skokie office. Moving costs are estimated to be \$15,038, and no maintenance costs or other expenses are expected to be incurred from the Skokie office after the move.

After reviewing the recommendation for closure from the Department of Children and Family Services, the Commission accepted the Department of Children and Family Services recommendation to close the DCFS Skokie Office on a vote of 10-0.



Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg



Representative Patricia R. Bellock

**MOTION:  
TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION FOR CLOSURE OF  
SKOKIE DCFS OFFICE**

Pursuant to the State Facility Closure Act (30 ILCS 608), after reviewing the proposed closure of **Skokie DCFS Office in Skokie, Illinois**, I move that the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability accept the recommendation for closure submitted by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services regarding Skokie DCFS Office

# MOTION / VOTE

## Skokie DCFS Office

Date: May 1, 2012 - 10:30 a.m. in Room 212, State House

Commission Member	YES	NO
Representative Patricia Bellock (R)	✓	
Senator Michael Frerichs (D)	✓	
Representative Kevin McCarthy (D)	VACANT	
Senator Matt Murphy (R)	✓	
Representative Elaine Nekritz (D)	✓	
Representative Raymond Poe (R)	✓	
Representative Al Riley (D)	—	
Senator Suzi Schmidt (R)	✓	
Senator Jeffrey Schoenberg (D)	✓	
Senator David Syverson (R)	✓	
Senator Donne Trotter (D)	✓	
Representative Michael Tryon (R)	✓	
<b>VOTE to Motion</b>	10	—

MOTION:

Bellock

2<sup>nd</sup> MOTION:

Nekritz