AGENDA ITEM 4.

ETHICS LEGISLATION

Submitted for: Information

Summary: In its Fall 2003 legislative session, the Illinois General Assembly passed, and Governor Blagojevich signed into law as Public Acts 93-0615 and 93-0617, two significant new legislative initiatives that collectively created the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act [5 ILCS 430/et. seq.]

This Act, which represents a comprehensive ethics reform package, creates a nine-member Executive Ethics Commission that is responsible for reviewing various state agency practices and cases brought before it by the state inspectors general. The Act requires state agencies to develop personnel policies that have a work time requirement, travel reimbursement guidelines and an additional time sheet for agency policy makers that documents time on official state business. Other requirements include yearly ethics training for all state employees, including Commissioners; official documentation of ex parte communication during the rulemaking process; and, a revolving door law which prohibits a state employee, who is involved in the decision to award a state contract, from accepting fees for service from the contractor. The same prohibition applies to regulatory and licensing decision-makers in relation to the entity about which a decision was made. The Act modifies the Gift Ban Act by eliminating certain exceptions and limiting others. The Act strengthens prohibitions against state employees campaigning during the workday or on state property. The Act also prohibits lobbyists or those with a financial conflict of interest from serving on state boards or commissions.

At the April meeting, Karen Salas, ISAC's General Counsel and Ethics Officer, will present to Commissioners those portions of the Act that are relevant to the Commission.

Action requested: None