

STATE OF ILLINOIS



HOUSE JOURNAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

78TH LEGISLATIVE DAY

REGULAR & PERFUNCTORY SESSION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2006

11:42 O'CLOCK A.M.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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78th Legislative Day**

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[January 18, 2006]

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The House met pursuant to adjournment.

Speaker of the House Madigan in the chair.

Prayer by Rosemary Connelly Sr., RSM Executive Director of Misericordia Home in Chicago, IL and Pastor Barbara Paige Kell, with the Bethany of Fox Valley United Methodist Church in Aurora, IL.

Representative Golar led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

By direction of the Speaker, a roll call was taken to ascertain the attendance of Members, as follows:

116 present. (ROLL CALL 1)

By unanimous consent, Representatives Bassi and Patterson were excused from attendance.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

January 18, 2006

Mark Mahoney
Chief Clerk of the House
402 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Clerk Mahoney:

Please be advised that I am extending the Final Action Deadline to March 3, 2006, for the following House Bills:

House Bills 572 and 3650.

If you have questions, please contact my Chief of Staff, Tim Mapes, at 782-6360.

With kindest personal regards, I remain.

Sincerely yours,
s/Michael J. Madigan
Speaker of the House

TEMPORARY COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative Lyons replaced Representative Hannig in the Committee on Rules on January 18, 2006.

Representative Osmond replaced Representative Hassert in the Committee on Rules on January 18, 2006.

TEMPORARY COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR COMMITTEES NOT REPORTING

Representative Black replaced Representative Bost in the Committee on Higher Education on January 18, 2006.

Representative Sacia replaced Representative Brady in the Committee on Higher Education on January 18, 2006.

Representative Beaubien replaced Representative Bost in the Committee on Transportation and Motor Vehicles on January 18, 2006.

Representative Giles replaced Representative Patterson in the Committee on Electric Utility Oversight on January 18, 2006.

Representative Currie replaced Representative Franks in the Committee on Electric Utility Oversight on January 18, 2006.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Representative Currie, Chairperson, from the Committee on Rules to which the following were referred, action taken on January 18, 2006, reported the same back with the following recommendations:

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES APPROVED FOR FLOOR CONSIDERATION:

That the bill be reported "approved for consideration" and be placed on the House Calendar Order of Concurrence: HOUSE BILL 3650.

That the resolution be reported "recommends be adopted" and be placed on the House Calendar: HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 81.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES ASSIGNED TO COMMITTEE:

Agriculture & Conservation: HOUSE BILLS 4377 and 4459.
 Computer Technology: Motion to Concur with SENATE AMENDMENT No. 1 to HOUSE BILL 3650.
 Consumer Protection: HOUSE BILLS 4428 and 4444.
 Elections & Campaign Reform: HOUSE BILLS 4130 and 4311; HOUSE RESOLUTION 801.
 Elementary & Secondary Education: HOUSE BILLS 4409, 4414, 4533, 4614, 4643, 4696 and 4740; HOUSE RESOLUTIONS 717, 761 and 770; HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 79.
 Environmental Health: HOUSE BILL 4462.
 Environment & Energy: HOUSE BILLS 4364 and 4455; HOUSE RESOLUTION 773.
 Executive: HOUSE RESOLUTION 824.
 Financial Institutions: HOUSE BILLS 4345, 4402 and 4736.
 Health Care Availability and Access: HOUSE BILLS 4202 and 4413; HOUSE RESOLUTIONS 729, 796, 812 and 813; HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 71.
 Higher Education: HOUSE BILLS 4209 and 4318.
 Housing and Urban Development: HOUSE BILL 4342.
 Human Services: HOUSE BILLS 4242, 4526, 4597 and 4598; HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS 75 and 77.
 International Trade & Commerce: HOUSE BILLS 4147 and 4604.
 Judiciary I - Civil Law: HOUSE BILLS 4216, 4383, 4425 and 4432.
 Judiciary II - Criminal Law: HOUSE BILLS 572, 4121, 4132, 4203, 4227, 4396, 4398, 4434, 4438, 4446, 4465, 4532, 4606, 4607, 4711 and 4739.
 Labor: HOUSE BILLS 4453 and 4525.
 Local Government: HOUSE BILLS 4286 and 4468.
 Public Utilities: HOUSE BILL 4419.
 Revenue: HOUSE BILLS 4259 and 4605; HOUSE RESOLUTION 760.
 State Government Administration: HOUSE BILLS 4114, 4197, 4334, 4397, 4412, 4424, 4449 and 4456; HOUSE RESOLUTIONS 711, 722, 765, 779 and 806; HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS 74 and 76.
 Transportation and Motor Vehicles: HOUSE BILLS 4204, 4451, 4521 and 4699; HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 73.
 Veterans Affairs: HOUSE BILL 4561.
 Developmental Disabilities and Mental Illness: HOUSE RESOLUTION 732.

The committee roll call vote on the foregoing Legislative Measures is as follows:

3, Yeas; 2, Nays; 0, Answering Present.

Y Currie, Barbara(D), Chairperson

N Black, William(R), Republican Spokesperson

Y Hannig,Gary(D)
Y Turner,Arthur(D)

N Hassert,Brent(R)

Representative Currie, Chairperson, from the Committee on Rules to which the following were referred, action taken on January 18, 2006, (A) reported the same back with the following recommendations:

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES ASSIGNED TO COMMITTEE:

Judiciary I - Civil Law: HOUSE AMENDMENT No. 2 to SENATE BILL 1681.

The committee roll call vote on the foregoing Legislative Measure is as follows:

3, Yeas; 2, Nays; 0, Answering Present.

Y Currie(D), Chairperson
Y Lyons,J(D) (replacing Hannig)
Y Turner(D)

N Black(R), Republican Spokesperson
N Osmond(R) (replacing Hassert)

CHANGE OF SPONSORSHIPS

With the consent of the affected members, Representative Daniels was removed as principal sponsor, and Representative Biggins became the new principal sponsor of HOUSE BILL 4411.

With the consent of the affected members, Representative Sacia was removed as principal sponsor, and Representative McGuire became the new principal sponsor of HOUSE BILL 280.

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were offered and placed in the Committee on Rules.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 816

Offered by Representative Madigan:

WHEREAS, Misericordia Heart of Mercy, one of the State of Illinois' most benevolent and widely respected not-for-profit organizations, was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1921 on the South Side of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Originally a home that cared for unwed mothers, the Sisters of Mercy saw a greater need in society and in 1954 changed Misericordia's mission to support individuals with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Sister Rosemary Connelly joined Misericordia as its Executive Director in 1969 and with the help of many generous benefactors has turned Misericordia into a national model, providing exceptional programs for persons living with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, In order to provide services for a growing number of individuals, Misericordia moved in 1976 to the former Angel Guardian Orphanage in Rogers Park on Chicago's Far North Side; and

WHEREAS, Misericordia currently supports 550 children and adults with mild to profound developmental disabilities from all racial, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, Misericordia has been a true Godsend to many families that otherwise would have been left alone to cope with a vast array of demanding challenges; and

WHEREAS, Misericordia offers a wide range of programs and treats the individual needs of each disabled person, offering residential placement and day-to-day support, physical, occupational, and music therapy as well as vocational and job opportunities and health and fitness guidance; and

WHEREAS, In the fall of 2005, Misericordia opened a state-of-the-art skilled nursing residence, which provides innovative care for individuals with developmental disabilities and complex medical issues; and

WHEREAS, Misericordia has a waiting list of 600 disabled persons, and it remains committed to the vision of further growth while retaining the highest quality of care; and

WHEREAS, The hard work, sacrifice and dedication of Misericordia Heart of Mercy serve as an example to all; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize Misericordia Heart of Mercy for its many important contributions to the quality of life of the developmentally disabled in Illinois, and we hereby express our most sincere best wishes as it continues to fulfill the highest and most noble aspirations of its mission; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Sister Rosemary Connelly, R.S.M., Executive Director of Misericordia Heart of Mercy.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 824

Offered by Representative Madigan:

WHEREAS, The Illinois House of Representatives recognizes that predatory lending is a serious problem that victimizes homeowners throughout our State through the provision of financing that they cannot afford and that, for many, results in default, foreclosure, and the loss of their home; the highest concentration of these victims is found among our most vulnerable citizens, especially the elderly; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois House of Representatives further recognizes that the practice of predatory lending serves to undermine the health and quality of life in local communities throughout Illinois because the growing volume of foreclosures caused by this unprincipled activity results in dense clusters of vacant and abandoned homes severely compromising the physical safety and home equity value of surrounding neighbors; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, the Illinois General Assembly enacted the High Risk Home Loan Act to provide additional protection from predatory lending to Illinois home loan borrowers by (i) establishing standards for lenders engaged in high risk lending, (ii) endowing high-risk loan borrowers with the right to pursue civil remedies against both the originator and secondary market holder of the loans, and (iii) allowing the Illinois Attorney General to pursue civil actions against unscrupulous lenders under the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act; the High Risk Home Loan Act is recognized as one of the toughest state laws on predatory lending in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Illinois law is intended to target abusive lending practices and protect Illinois citizens with credit problems who have taken out loans with higher fees and interest rates than the fees and rates charged to people with better credit; and

WHEREAS, Lenders that make home loans to people with fragile credit are lobbying Congress for federal rules that could roll back the robust protections now available under Illinois law; and

WHEREAS, Lenders have rallied behind the Responsible Lending Act (H.R. 1295), legislation that would impose uniform national regulations on the industry and, by preempting state law, strip individual states of the ability to protect their citizens from predatory lending practices; and

WHEREAS, While lenders argue that a uniform system of federal regulation would allow them to better provide lending products to a segment of the population that is in dire need of specialized home ownership resources, the federal legislation they support is merely an attempt to eliminate barriers to predatory lending practices throughout the nation; in fact, the Responsible Lending Act would reduce the number of Illinois citizens protected under current law, override essential protections in Illinois law prohibiting equity stripping, roll back provisions of Illinois law that prohibit prepayment on loans with interest rates above 8%, and damage the rights and remedies of Illinois citizens with respect to foreclosure and the right to rescind an abusive home loan; and

WHEREAS, The more consumer-friendly Prohibit Predatory Lending Act (H.R. 1182) has also been introduced in Congress; that legislation would not strip the states of their ability to more stringently regulate predatory lenders and would provide for additional protections for vulnerable borrowers, such as a strict ban on pre-payment fees and on the home-equity stripping practice of "flipping", in which lenders encourage borrowers to refinance quickly, and a requirement for borrowers to get counseling before signing contracts for higher-cost loans; and

WHEREAS, Illinois citizens deserve the right to vigorous protection against abusive predatory lending practices; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge Congress to defeat the Responsible Lending Act and all other proposals that would undermine Illinois predatory lending laws and the important protections they provide; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be presented to the President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and each member of the Illinois congressional delegation.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 81

Offered by Representative Currie:

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the two Houses shall convene in Joint Session on Wednesday, January 18, 2006 at the hour of 12:00 o'clock noon for the purpose of hearing his Excellency Governor Rod Blagojevich present to the General Assembly his Report on the Condition of the State, required by Article V Section 13, of the Constitution of the State of Illinois.

AGREED RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were offered and placed on the Calendar on the order of Agreed Resolutions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 815

Offered by Representative Flider:
Mourns the death of Roger D. Klukis of Bethany.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 817

Offered by Representative Sacia:
Congratulates the Aquin Catholic High School Bulldogs football team on winning the IHSA Class 1A State Championship.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 818

Offered by Representative Sacia:
Congratulates the Dakota High School Indians football team on winning the IHSA Class 2A State Championship.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 819

Offered by Representative Sacia:
Mourns the death of Lance Corporal Andrew Grant Patten of Byron on the battlefield in Iraq.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 820

Offered by Representative Rose:
Congratulates Jim Manley on the occasion of his retirement after nearly 33 years of service at WDWS-WHMS radio.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 821

Offered by Representative Granberg:

Congratulates Melissa Cockburn and Sheila Stowers of Mount Vernon on achieving National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 822

Offered by Representative Brauer:

Congratulates Gilbert N. Stein, the co-founder of International Dairy Queen, Inc., on being conferred with an Honorary Doctor of Letters by the University of Illinois at Springfield.

SUSPEND POSTING REQUIREMENTS

Pursuant to Rule 25, Representative Madigan moved to suspend the posting requirements in Rule 21 in relation to HOUSE RESOLUTION 816.

The motion prevailed.

RESOLUTIONS

HOUSE RESOLUTION 816 was taken up for consideration.
 Representative Burke requested that all members be added as Co-Sponsors.
 Representative Madigan moved the adoption of the resolution.
 The motion prevailed and the Resolution was adopted.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 81 was taken up for consideration.
 Representative Currie moved the adoption of the resolution.
 The motion prevailed and the resolution was adopted.
 Ordered that the Clerk inform the Senate and ask their concurrence.

RECESS

At the hour of 12:04 o'clock p.m., Speaker of the House Madigan moved that the House do now take a recess for the Governor to address the Joint Session.

The motion prevailed.

JOINT SESSION 12:04 O'CLOCK P.M.

The hour having arrived, the time heretofore fixed by Joint Resolution adopted by the Senate and the House of Representative, the Joint Session convened for the purpose of receiving the Governor to deliver the State of the State Message in person to the Ninety-Fourth General Assembly.

The Senate, preceded by the Honorable President Jones, and Members of the Senate, appeared in the Hall of the House of Representative and, by direction of the Speaker, took the seats assigned to them.

The two Houses being convened in Joint Session, President of the Senate announced that a quorum of the Senate was present.

Speaker Madigan, of the House of Representatives, announced that a quorum of the House was present.

A majority of each House of the General Assembly being present, the Speaker of the House announced the Joint Session duly formed.

Representative Currie offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

JOINT SESSION RESOLUTION 4

RESOLVED, That a committee of ten be appointed, five from the House, by the Speaker of the House, and five from the Senate, by the President of the Senate, to wait upon His Excellency Governor Rod Blagojevich and invite him to address the Joint Assembly.

The motion prevailed.

The President of the Senate announced his appointments, as Members of such Committee, on the part of the Senate: Senators Mike Jacobs, Wendell Jones, Antonio Munoz, Arthur Wilhelmi and Rick Winkel.

The Speaker of the House announced the appointments, as Members of such Committee, on part of the House: Representatives John D'Amico, Jim Durkin, Bob Flider, Rich Myers and Karen Yarbrough..

His Excellency, Governor Rod Blagojevich, was admitted into the Hall of the House of Representatives, and was presented to the General Assembly, to deliver his message in person as follows:

2006 STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

Governor Rod Blagojevich January 18, 2006

A little more than three years ago, the people of Illinois decided to bring us together to chart a new course. To make Illinois once again the land of opportunity. To shake up the system here in Springfield that accepted mediocrity and failure. To make state government begin again to work for the people, rather than the other way around.

Despite facing one of the most challenging periods in our state's history, Illinois today is now leading the nation in taking steps that help real people, people who work, middle class families, build better lives. We are making real progress – but there is much more to do.

I believe in the basic democratic principle that government can be - and must be - a force for good. An active government that helps people and rights wrongs is what our founding fathers envisioned, it's what Abraham Lincoln believed in, it's what makes serving in government worthwhile.

When we came together three years ago to begin our journey, we walked into a mess. To understand where we are today, we must remember how far we've come. We inherited a recession, a \$5 billion deficit, and a government that was bloated, ineffective and had all the wrong priorities: education was neglected, health care was a privilege, the minimum wage was too low, and jobs were too scarce.

In spite of these difficult times, we've made real progress for people. Instead of just sitting on the sidelines and using these challenges as an excuse for inaction, we embraced them as an opportunity to change the old ways, to re-order and re-prioritize government and make it start working for people again.

I believe that if things weren't so bad back then, we wouldn't have been able to make the changes we've made to make things so much better right now.

Yes, the \$5 billion budget hole could have been filled with massive cuts in health care. We could have cut education. We could have raised taxes and asked people to have less money in their paychecks.

A lot of people said you couldn't increase funding for schools, provide health care for kids, eliminate the deficit and do it all without raising taxes.

But we found a different way.

And that way didn't mean asking the working people of our state to bail us out. Families across Illinois are struggling enough to make ends meet. It's not their job to bail us out. It's our job to help them.

That has been our governing principle: do everything you can to help families get ahead and build better lives.

That means an Illinois where every family - and especially every child - has access to good, affordable health care; an Illinois where every child can get a good education; and an Illinois where those same children can then afford to go to college so they can develop their skills and get a good job.

It means an Illinois where good jobs remain good jobs – jobs that stay in this state and stay in this country. An Illinois that's safe from street crime, safe from gang crime, safe from terrorism.

And an Illinois that treats everyone equally and fairly, no matter where you come from or what you look like.

That's our vision for this state.

And it's a vision we've worked hard to turn into reality over the past three years. It hasn't come without a struggle. It hasn't always been easy. But then again, nothing in life worth having ever is.

Today, state government now works more for the people out there and less for the special interests around here.

We have turned things around, dramatically changed priorities, and the results are clear.

Illinois is now the only state that guarantees access to affordable, comprehensive health care for every single child.

Illinois now leads the nation in making health care available to working men and women. 400,000 people who didn't have health care three years ago now have health care today.

Illinois now does more than any other state to help senior citizens pay for the high cost of prescription drugs.

We're now a state that has invested more money in its schools in the last three years than any other state in the Midwest, and more money in our schools than 43 other states across the nation.

We raised graduation standards for the first time in 21 years so that students will learn more.

And to help children start learning sooner, we've dramatically expanded pre-school, putting us among the top three states in the nation.

We're now a state that led 44 others in job creation in the last year – a state where businesses are investing and industries like coal are coming back to life.

We're now a state where crime has fallen by nearly 7%, and a state that has a homeland security record better than almost any other.

We are well on our way to being the only state to convert its entire tollway to Open Road Tolling. That means drivers no longer having to stop or even slow down just to pay a toll.

And today – Illinois is a fairer state – than we were three years ago. We're a state that guarantees more rights and more opportunities to African Americans, to Latinos, to immigrants, to women, and to gays and lesbians – in short, more opportunities for men and women across our state who for far too long have been denied an equal chance to live a better life.

Ladies and gentlemen, Illinois is now a state where more people have health care, where we have more money and higher standards for our schools, where crime is down and where jobs are up. By working together, and making tough choices, we were able to do all of this while eliminating a \$5 billion budget deficit, and without asking people to pay more in taxes.

And we did all of this despite policies coming out of Washington that have been indifferent and sometimes even hostile to the very people we've been trying to help.

When the federal government stalled or took steps that have hurt working and middle class families, we've consistently stepped up and filled the void.

When Washington wouldn't raise the minimum wage, we did.

When Washington wouldn't guarantee women equal pay for equal work, we did.

When Washington tried to strip overtime pay from workers we made it clear that here in Illinois – overtime pay still means time and a half over forty and double time on Sundays

This administration in Washington supports tax breaks and pursues trade policies that encourage companies to move jobs overseas.

If you're a factory worker or an engineer, a medical technician or a customer service representative, a software designer or a stock analyst, you can walk into work one morning and find out that you've been replaced by someone in another part of the world. Their trade policies have resulted in nearly one million American jobs being sent to other countries.

That may be acceptable policy in Washington. But it's not in Illinois. They send jobs to India. We brought OfficeMax to Naperville. They send jobs to China. We helped Chrysler expand in Belvidere. They send jobs to Indonesia. We brought Pella Windows to Macomb.

In fact, in the last three years, we've completed 320 different deals, spurring \$4.5 billion in new private investment in Illinois.

And throughout that period, we've taken steps to make Illinois more attractive to businesses. Whether it's reforming the workers compensation system, forging a bipartisan effort to reduce medical malpractice costs, helping small businesses afford the high cost of health insurance, improving our infrastructure by rebuilding the Tollway, expanding O'Hare, developing a plan for Peotone, opening the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, building the Sparta Shooting Complex, reviving the film industry, or expanding programs and tax credits used to bring new jobs to Illinois – our efforts are paying off.

In the last year, Illinois has created more jobs than 44 other states. We have the lowest unemployment rate since June of 2001. Hotel receipts are up. Corporate profits are up. Foreign direct investment is up. Exports are up. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is outdrawing the Clinton Presidential Library. In fact, we expect the Library's 500,000th visitor to walk through the doors sometime later today or early

tomorrow. We were named the top state for biotechnology, and Illinois is ranked fourth in the nation for foreign investment. We have come a long way. But we can't stop now.

So I am here today, to ask all of you here in the General Assembly – Democrats and Republicans alike – to join me – let's pass a jobs bill that creates 230,000 more jobs all across our state. 230,000 jobs. Construction jobs. Manufacturing jobs. These are good jobs. Jobs that pay good wages and good benefits. These are jobs that give families a chance to build a future. Jobs in every part of our state. And if we pass this bill now, we can put people to work as soon as this summer.

Our jobs bill means creating more than 85,000 jobs through mass transit construction, more than 7,000 jobs through school construction, and more than 140,000 jobs through road construction. A jobs bill that gives opportunity to hard working people who are trying to get ahead and raise their families.

We can build roads all around our state: roads like Route 51 in Decatur, widen I-55 outside of Chicago, widen Route 13 from Marion to Carterville, improve Route 2 in Rockford, Route 5 in Moline, build the Technology Boulevard in Peoria, start work on the Mississippi River bridge, and realize the dream of making Route 336 a gateway from Chicago all the way to Kansas City.

Projects like these help companies reduce the cost of moving products to market, help people get to and from work, and by the way, when we're out there pitching Illinois to businesses, selling them on our infrastructure has proven to be one of the best arguments we can make.

And there's another reason to pass this bill. If we don't, we risk losing \$3 billion in federal transportation funds to other states.

We have to make our federal match. If we do, that means new buses in Danville, Rockford and Champaign, it means creating new commuter lines from downtown Chicago to the suburbs, and it means better transit facilities in Galesburg, Macomb and Rock Island.

And let's build new schools. Many of our schools are old, in disrepair, and are crowded. We need more schools. We need more class space. We need to give our students better places to learn and our teachers better places to teach.

I'm asking you to join me in supporting a major public works initiative. There are roads and bridges and highways across Illinois that need to be built and need to be fixed. We need to build new schools and help commuters who rely on mass transit. These are things that need to be done.

So we should do them. And if we do them, we will give people all around Illinois the opportunity to go to work. 230,000 jobs all across Illinois. Jobs in every part of Illinois. Jobs in your district. Not a handful of jobs, a lot of jobs.

And when I say jobs, these are good jobs. Laborers laying asphalt for the expansion of Route 2. Ironworkers fabricating the support beams for the new Mississippi River Bridge. And do you know what these jobs pay? They can pay anywhere from \$40,000 all the way to \$120,000 a year.

These are good paying jobs. And if we are prepared to put partisan politics aside, and work together in a constructive way, we can create these jobs all across Illinois.

So please, let's pass this jobs bill. Let's put people to work.

Four years ago, Washington gave us a program called No Child Left Behind. They told us they wanted better schools, but what we ended up with was more bureaucracy and more mandates -- and then they forgot to send the check. So we took matters into our own hands.

First, we've increased education funding by \$2.3 billion. That's more than any administration has ever done in one term in Illinois history. Just a few short years ago, Illinois was next to last in education funding equity. But because of the investments we've made over the last three years, we've invested more money in our schools than 43 other states including every state in the Midwest. The result is a fairer way to fund our schools.

Second, we have made early childhood education a priority and we have put our money where our mouth is. We've expanded funding for pre-school by 50%, given 25,000 more three and four year olds a chance to start school early, and Illinois is now ranked among the top three states in the nation for early childhood education.

Third, we raised high school graduation standards. Now, in order to graduate from our high schools, students are required take more math, more science, more reading, and more writing. These new standards mean students graduating from our high schools will be better prepared when they go to college and more skilled when they enter the workforce.

In the coming weeks, I'll be presenting a budget. And in that budget, I'm going to propose several major initiatives on early childhood education and K-12 education. But today, I'd like to talk about helping parents send their children to college.

No matter how young your children are, if you're a parent, you're probably asking yourself this question: how are we going to pay for college? My daughters are nine and two, and like all parents, their college tuition is something my wife Patti and I think about all of the time.

On average, it costs more than \$7,000 a year in tuition and fees to attend a public university in Illinois. It costs more than \$18,000 a year to attend a private institution.

Three years ago, we enacted a law called Truth in Tuition, which says that the tuition you pay as a freshman is the tuition you pay as a senior. And over the last three years, we've expanded the MAP program to help 20,000 more parents afford college and help those students go to college.

But now Washington is making it even harder. The most recent federal deficit reduction package would slash college financial aid by \$13 billion dollars.

Washington has its priorities all mixed up. On the one hand, their policies encourage the outsourcing of jobs. On the other, they're trying to cut college scholarships. Everyone knows that students coming out of college today aren't just competing with each other. They're competing with students from all around the world. And as a nation, we are falling behind.

Let me give you an example: each year China produces eight times as many engineers as America. India produces five times as many. So the last thing the federal government should be doing is making it harder for students to go to college – and harder for us to produce more engineers. How can we compete against them if we make it harder for parents to send their children to college?

So today, to help parents send their kids to college – I'm proposing a \$1,000 annual tax credit for every freshman and sophomore who attends a college or university in Illinois.

If you live in Illinois and you want to go to a college in Illinois – any college – you can get a \$1,000 tax credit to help pay for it. But there's one catch – you don't just get it, you have to earn it. If you study hard, do well in school, and keep a B average, you'll qualify for this tax credit – and, by the way, you'll make your parents very happy.

Yes, this is a generous tax credit. But that's what makes it meaningful. For many families, \$1,000 is a mortgage payment. It's three or four or five car payments. It's the electric bill for an entire year.

And this tax credit would also apply to grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. I want to thank Representative Lou Jones for her leadership on this issue. And, while I'm at it, I also want to thank Representative Lou Lang, who has been working on this issue for many years.

For many families, this is a tax credit that can help make the dream of college affordable and the dream of college a reality. It's a tax credit that helps parents who work hard, who love their children, and who want it better for their kids than they've had it for themselves.

I hope you join me in helping parents send their kids to college.

There is perhaps no starker difference in our values and those of the current administration in Washington than when it comes to making health care accessible and affordable to working people.

I believe that health care is a fundamental right, and today, Illinois is leading the nation in helping people exercise that right.

There are 45 million Americans who don't have health insurance. Eight million of them are children. And Congress just cut funding for Medicaid and similar programs by \$40 billion. That means even more working people could end up without health care.

In Illinois, we have different priorities. Across the nation, as more people are losing their health care, in Illinois, more people are getting health care. And because of our All Kids program, we have now done for kids, what forty years ago, Medicare did for seniors.

But even when it comes to Medicare, Washington today can't get it right.

Only in Washington could they create a Medicare prescription drug benefit that costs billions of taxpayer dollars and yet many seniors are ending up with less coverage than they had before. And they're also ending up with a lot more fear, insecurity and frustration.

Now there are a lot of states that are content to let their seniors live with the federal program and live with the consequences. We are not.

We created the Illinois Cares program so that no senior would lose coverage. In fact, Illinois is the most generous state in the nation when it comes to filling in the holes in the federal prescription drug plan. We are determined to look after our seniors, even if Washington won't.

This administration in Washington has been equally hostile when it comes to women's health care and their reproductive rights. They proposed eliminating the block grants that states use to help women detect breast cancer and cervical cancer. They oppose stem cell research. And they simply do not support women's reproductive rights and freedoms.

Over the last three years, we have made it very clear that here in Illinois, we do.

We became the first state in the Midwest to publicly fund stem cell research. We've made private health insurance companies that cover prescription drugs also cover contraceptive services and prescriptions. And we became the first state in the nation to prohibit pharmacists from turning away women – women who have every right to expect that the prescriptions their doctors give them for birth control will be filled. No delays, no lectures, no hassles. Just fill the prescription.

Now, I understand that several bills have been introduced that would overturn my executive order to protect women's reproductive freedoms. So let me make something else very clear – if any of those bills reach my desk, they are dead on arrival.

A few months ago we made history here in Illinois when we passed the All Kids program. For the first time in the history of any state, every child will have access to affordable, comprehensive health care. It's hard to imagine anything more important than making sure children have health care, but we can't stop there and we shouldn't stop there.

The elderly have health care through Medicare. That makes sense. Children now have health care through All Kids. That makes sense. But what makes no sense is that you can serve your country in the military, be willing to go overseas and fight our wars, be willing to lay your life and your liberty on the line, only to come home and find out that you can't afford to go to a doctor.

That's wrong.

There are 1.7 million veterans in America today who do not have health care. And in Washington, there's nothing realistic on the horizon that would do anything about it. If we don't do something here in Illinois, -- if we rely on Washington to act – our veterans will be left without health care and without hope.

How the federal government can let that happen to veterans is beyond me. How you can ask people to risk their lives, only to turn your back on them the minute you no longer need them is just plain wrong.

So I propose we do something about it. Today I'm announcing a plan that would ultimately lead to guaranteeing that every veteran in Illinois have access to health care. That's why this session, we should launch the first of several phases of our new program – Veterans Care. Like FamilyCare or KidCare, it means that veterans who don't have health insurance can get access to affordable, comprehensive health care.

Lt. Governor Pat Quinn and I have been putting together our Veterans Care plan ever since we started working on All Kids. The first phase of Veterans Care would cover low income veterans who don't have health insurance and who don't live within a reasonable driving distance of a VA hospital. Those are the veterans who have the least access to affordable health care. They're the ones who need our help the most, and they need it now.

While we're on the subject of people's health, there's another topic I want to address: mercury emissions. Mercury emissions pollute our air and water. Because of the dangers posed by mercury, I've proposed that Illinois become one of only four states to require a 90% capture of mercury by 2009. Here again, Washington's solution simply isn't good enough. They propose a 47% reduction in mercury emissions by 2010. That's literally a half-measure.

My proposed rule for tougher mercury standards will go before the Joint Committee on Legislative Rules this summer. For those of you here who serve on JCAR, I hope you can protect the environment and support our rule.

There's something else we can do this session to protect the environment and help consumers. I'm proposing that we give a \$500 sales tax rebate to anyone who buys fuel-efficient cars in Illinois. If you buy a car that uses E85 gasoline or biodiesel fuel or even just gets very high gas mileage, you'll be eligible for this rebate. This tax rebate means less pollution and it means drivers save money.

The first responsibility of government is public safety. And here too, we are making real progress.

Crime is down in Illinois. It has fallen by nearly 7% over the last two years. We now have fewer robberies and burglaries, fewer cars stolen, fewer arsons, and fewer murders than at any time in the last decade. Just four short years ago, there were 10,000 more violent crimes in Illinois and 31,000 more property crimes. Thanks to the efforts of the men and women in law enforcement, Illinois is a safer place.

Highway accidents and fatalities have reached a 60 year low. And our rankings on homeland security preparedness are among the best in the nation. But even in the arena of public safety, when we look to Washington, we see a federal government that's got it all wrong when it comes to common sense gun laws.

No law abiding citizen needs an Uzi or an AK 47 to be safe or to hunt. The federal assault weapon ban expired more than a year ago. Everyone in Washington said they were for extending the ban – even the President himself. And yet they let it lapse – and never looked back.

We can't keep waiting for them to act. You and I both know they won't.

So I say it's time we reinstate the assault weapons ban in Illinois.

How can we possibly allow gang bangers to be better armed than our police officers? While crime has fallen dramatically, we have seen an uptick of violent crime and gang activity in some of the suburbs surrounding Chicago. Cracking down on gun violence is no longer just a big city concern.

Last year, we tried to pass the assault weapon ban and we came close. I called many of you to ask that you vote for the bill. Back then, some of you told me you wanted to, but couldn't because you were afraid of drawing a primary challenge. Well, the filing date for primary challenges has passed, and now it's time to pass this bill.

And just as assault weapons are a problem in our cities and suburbs, the scourge of methamphetamine is ravaging our rural communities. Meth destroys those who use it. It destroys their families. It threatens our communities. In Illinois, thanks to the General Assembly and to the hard work of Attorney General Lisa Madigan, we've passed some of the nation's toughest laws cracking down on meth. But what we've learned, is that like other addicts, most meth users go to jail, serve their time, come out, and they're addicted again.

Our initiative at the Sheridan prison to help non-violent drug offenders recover has helped people kick their addictions, stay out of jail, and stop hurting other people.

So I propose we create a version of Sheridan at the Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center to help meth addicts break the cycle of crime and addiction. And I'm proposing we do the same the following year at the Sheridan prison. This means they'll receive treatment. They'll receive counseling. They'll receive job training. And they'll have a better chance of leaving prison without the drug addiction that threatens our communities.

Three years ago, we inherited a mess here in Illinois. It was a mess created by a state government that willfully ignored the needs of working families – a government more concerned with itself than with the job of governing and problem-solving.

And for three years, we have grappled with policies from Washington, that time after time, have reflected partisan fighting instead of progress and effective policy-making. They have played games, while we have made policies that picked up the slack.

It hasn't been easy to do. It hasn't always made us popular – even with many of our own friends and supporters. But it's been the right thing to do for the people of Illinois, and, in the final analysis, that's what really matters.

Some in Washington, and many of the skeptics here in Illinois, may disagree with our priorities. But ask them this: What child's education would they cut? What working family would they raise taxes on? What child do they say should go without health care? What senior citizen do they believe should be left out in the cold?

Leadership is about real choices. It's about real-life decisions that affect people's lives. This isn't a game – it's real life. And I am proud of the causes we've taken on, of the progress we've made, and the people we've helped.

Help them get access to health care. Help them afford their medicine. Help them go to pre-school. Help them earn a decent wage. Help them collect more child support. Help them go to college. Help them get ahead.

During the time we've been gathered here today, the people of our state have been living their lives.

They've been changing shifts. They've been picking their kids up from kindergarten. They've been taking their mothers or fathers to the doctor. Working. Saving. Caring for their families. Trying to do better. That's what they do, every day.

They're counting on us.

We can never allow ourselves to go back. And we can never just settle for how far we've come.

Yes, we inherited a mess. And yes, we've made a lot of progress. But there is so much more to do.

So here's the challenge.

Let's get to work.

Thank you.

At the hour of 1:02 o'clock p.m., President Jones moved that the Joint Assembly do now arise.

The motion prevailed.

The Senate having withdrawn, the House resumed its session.

Representative Hannig in the Chair.

SUSPEND POSTING REQUIREMENTS

Pursuant to Rule 25, Representative Bost moved to suspend the posting requirements in Rule 21 in relation to HOUSE BILL 4444 and HOUSE RESOLUTION 824.

The motion prevailed.

HOUSE BILLS ON SECOND READING

Having been reproduced, the following bills were taken up, read by title a second time and advanced to the order of Third Reading: HOUSE BILLS 4127, 4141 and 4179.

HOUSE BILL 4187. Having been reproduced, was taken up and read by title a second time.

The following amendment was offered in the Committee on Veterans Affairs, adopted and reproduced:

AMENDMENT NO. 1. Amend House Bill 4187 on page 1 by replacing lines 4 and 5 with the following:

"Section 5. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by changing Sections 3-638, 3-806, and 3-806.4 as follows:

(625 ILCS 5/3-638)

Sec. 3-638. U.S. Veteran License Plates.

(a) In addition to any other special license plate, the Secretary, upon receipt of all applicable fees and applications made in the form prescribed by the Secretary of State, may issue U.S. Veteran license plates to residents of Illinois who meet eligibility requirements prescribed by the Secretary of State. Upon the Secretary's receipt of the proper application, the surviving spouse of a person who was issued special registration plates under this Section may keep the special registration plates and may transfer the registration, if necessary. If the surviving spouse remarries, however, the special plates may not be renewed. The special U.S. Veteran plate issued under this Section shall be affixed only to passenger vehicles of the first division, motorcycles, and motor vehicles of the second division weighing not more than 8,000 pounds. Plates issued under this Section shall expire according to the staggered multi-year procedure established by Section 3-414.1 of this Code.

(b) The design, color, and format of the plates shall be wholly within the discretion of the Secretary of State. The Secretary may, in his or her discretion, allow the plates to be issued as vanity plates or personalized in accordance with Section 3-405.1 of this Code. The plates are not required to designate "Land Of Lincoln", as prescribed in subsection (b) of Section 3-412 of this Code. The Secretary shall prescribe the eligibility requirements and, in his or her discretion, shall approve and prescribe stickers or decals as provided under Section 3-412.

(c) An applicant shall be charged a \$15 fee for original issuance in addition to the applicable registration fee. This additional fee shall be deposited into the Secretary of State Special License Plate Fund.

(Source: P.A. 92-545, eff. 6-12-02; 93-140, eff. 1-1-04.)"; and

on page 3, below line 15, by inserting the following:

"Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law."

There being no further amendments, the foregoing Amendment No. 1 was ordered engrossed; and the bill, as amended, was advanced to the order of Third Reading.

Having been reproduced, the following bill was taken up, read by title a second time and advanced to the order of Third Reading: HOUSE BILL 4192.

HOUSE BILL 4297. Having been reproduced, was taken up and read by title a second time.

The following amendment was offered in the Committee on Judiciary II - Criminal Law, adopted and reproduced:

AMENDMENT NO. 1. Amend House Bill 4297 on page 3, line 33, by changing "3" to "2"; and on page 3, line 34, by changing "2" to "1".

There being no further amendments, the foregoing Amendment No. 1 was ordered engrossed; and the bill, as amended, was advanced to the order of Third Reading.

Having been reproduced, the following bill was taken up, read by title a second time and advanced to the order of Third Reading: HOUSE BILL 4308.

AGREED RESOLUTIONS

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS 815, 817, 818, 820, 821 and 822 were taken up for consideration.

Representative Currie moved the adoption of the agreed resolutions.

The motion prevailed and the agreed resolutions were adopted.

At the hour of 1:23 o'clock p.m., Representative Currie moved that the House do now adjourn until Thursday, January 19, 2006, at 11:00 o'clock a.m., allowing perfunctory time for the Clerk.

The motion prevailed.

And the House stood adjourned.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
NINETY-FOURTH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE ROLL CALL
QUORUM ROLL CALL FOR ATTENDANCE

January 18, 2006

0 YEAS

0 NAYS

116 PRESENT

P Acevedo	P Dugan	P Krause	P Pritchard
E Bassi	P Dunkin	P Lang	P Ramey
P Beaubien	P Dunn	P Leitch	P Reis
P Beiser	P Durkin	P Lindner	P Reitz
P Bellock	P Eddy	P Lyons, Joseph	P Rita
P Berrios	P Feigenholtz	P Mathias	P Rose
P Biggins	P Flider	P Mautino	P Ryg
P Black	P Flowers	P May	P Sacia
P Boland	P Franks	P McAuliffe	P Saviano
P Bost	P Fritchey	P McCarthy	P Schmitz
P Bradley, John	P Froehlich	P McGuire	P Schock
P Bradley, Richard	P Giles	P McKeon	P Scully
P Brady	P Golar	P Mendoza	P Smith
P Brauer	P Gordon	P Meyer	P Sommer
P Brosnahan	P Graham	P Miller	P Soto
P Burke	P Granberg	P Mitchell, Bill	P Stephens
P Chapa LaVia	P Hamos	P Mitchell, Jerry	P Sullivan
P Chavez	P Hannig	P Moffitt	P Tenhouse
P Churchill	P Hassert	P Molaro	P Tryon
P Collins	P Hoffman	P Mulligan	P Turner
P Colvin	P Holbrook	P Munson	P Verschoore
P Coulson	P Howard	P Myers	P Wait
P Cross	P Hultgren	P Nekritz	P Washington
P Cultra	P Jakobsson	P Osmond	P Watson
P Currie	P Jefferson	P Osterman	P Winters
P D'Amico	P Jenisch	P Parke	P Yarbrough
P Daniels	P Jones	E Patterson	P Younge
P Davis, Monique	P Joyce	P Phelps	P Mr. Speaker
P Davis, William	P Kelly	P Pihos	
P Delgado	P Kosel	P Poe	

E - Denotes Excused Absence

78TH LEGISLATIVE DAY**Perfunctory Session****WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2006**

At the hour of 5:32 o'clock p.m., the House convened perfunctory session.

TEMPORARY COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative Schmitz replaced Representative Tryon in the Committee on Consumer Protection on January 18, 2006.

Representative William Davis replaced Representative Beiser in the Committee on Elections & Campaign Reform on January 18, 2006.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

Representative Colvin, Chairperson, from the Committee on Consumer Protection to which the following were referred, action taken on January 18, 2006, reported the same back with the following recommendations:

That the bills be reported "do pass" and be placed on the order of Second Reading-- Short Debate: HOUSE BILLS 4350 and 4444.

The committee roll call vote on House Bill 4350 is as follows:

12, Yeas; 1, Nay; 0, Answering Present.

Y Colvin, Marlow(D), Chairperson	N Bost, Mike(R)
Y Brady, Dan(R), Republican Spokesperson	Y Chapa LaVia, Linda(D)
Y Gordon, Careen(D), Vice-Chairperson	Y Mendoza, Susana(D)
Y Parke, Terry(R)	Y Ramey, Harry(R)
Y Rita, Robert(D)	Y Scully, George(D)
Y Tenhouse, Art(R)	Y Schmitz(R) (replacing Tryon)
Y Washington, Eddie(D)	

The committee roll call vote on House Bill 4444 is as follows:

13, Yeas; 0, Nays; 0, Answering Present.

Y Colvin, Marlow(D), Chairperson	Y Bost, Mike(R)
Y Brady, Dan(R), Republican Spokesperson	Y Chapa LaVia, Linda(D)
Y Gordon, Careen(D), Vice-Chairperson	Y Mendoza, Susana(D)
Y Parke, Terry(R)	Y Ramey, Harry(R)
Y Rita, Robert(D)	Y Scully, George(D)
Y Tenhouse, Art(R)	Y Schmitz(R) (replacing Tryon)
Y Washington, Eddie(D)	

Representative Holbrook, Chairperson, from the Committee on Public Utilities to which the following were referred, action taken on January 18, 2006, reported the same back with the following recommendations:

That the bill be reported "do pass" and be placed on the order of Second Reading-- Short Debate: HOUSE BILL 4349.

The committee roll call vote on House Bill 4349 is as follows:

8, Yeas; 0, Nays; 0, Answering Present.

Y Collins, Annazette(D), Chairperson	Y Biggins, Bob(R)
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Y Davis, Monique(D)	A Hassert, Brent(R)
Y Holbrook, Thomas(D), Vice-Chairperson	Y Jefferson, Charles(D)
A Jones, Lovana(D)	Y Leitch, David(R)
Y Saviano, Angelo(R)	Y Watson, Jim(R), Republican Spokesperson

Representative Jefferson, Chairperson, from the Committee on Elections & Campaign Reform to which the following were referred, action taken on January 18, 2006, reported the same back with the following recommendations:

That the bill be reported "do pass as amended" and be placed on the order of Second Reading-- Short Debate: HOUSE BILL 4173.

The committee roll call vote on House Bill 4173 is as follows:

6, Yeas; 0, Nays; 0, Answering Present.

Y Davis, W(D) (replacing Beiser)	Y D'Amico, John(D), Vice-Chairperson
Y Durkin, Jim(R), Republican Spokesperson	Y Flider, Robert(D)
Y Jefferson, Charles(D), Chairperson	Y Myers, Richard(R)
A Wait, Ronald(R)	

Representative Fritchey, Chairperson, from the Committee on Judiciary I - Civil Law to which the following were referred, action taken on January 18, 2006, reported the same back with the following recommendations:

That the Floor Amendment be reported "recommends be adopted":

Amendment No. 2 to SENATE BILL 1681.

The committee roll call vote on Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 1681 is as follows:

8, Yeas; 6, Nays; 0, Answering Present.

Y Fritchey, John(D), Chairperson	Y Bradley, John(D), Vice-Chairperson
Y Brosnahan, James(D)	Y Gordon, Careen(D)
Y Hamos, Julie(D)	Y Hoffman, Jay(D)
N Hultgren, Randall(R), Republican Spokesperson	Y Lang, Lou(D)
N Mathias, Sidney(R)	Y Nekritz, Elaine(D)
N Osmond, JoAnn(R)	N Rose, Chapin(R)
N Sacia, Jim(R)	N Wait, Ronald(R)

Representative Burke, Chairperson, from the Committee on Executive to which the following were referred, action taken on January 18, 2006, reported the same back with the following recommendations:

That the resolution be reported "be adopted" and be placed on the House Calendar: HOUSE RESOLUTION 824.

The committee roll call vote on House Resolution 824 is as follows:

10, Yeas; 0, Nays; 1, Answering Present.

Y Acevedo, Edward(D)	Y Berrios, Maria(D)
P Biggins, Bob(R)	Y Bradley, Richard(D)
Y Burke, Daniel(D), Chairperson	Y Hassert, Brent(R)
A Jones, Lovana(D)	Y Kosel, Renee(R), Republican Spokesperson
Y Lyons, Joseph(D), Vice-Chairperson	Y McKeon, Larry(D)
Y Meyer, James(R)	Y Molaro, Robert(D)
A Saviano, Angelo(R)	

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF BILLS

The following bills were introduced, read by title a first time, ordered reproduced and placed in the Committee on Rules:

- HOUSE BILL 4743. Introduced by Representative Schock, AN ACT concerning local government.
- HOUSE BILL 4744. Introduced by Representative Ryg, AN ACT concerning local government.
- HOUSE BILL 4745. Introduced by Representative Ryg, AN ACT concerning transportation.
- HOUSE BILL 4746. Introduced by Representatives Ryg - Hamos, AN ACT concerning transportation.
- HOUSE BILL 4747. Introduced by Representative Ryg, AN ACT concerning State government.
- HOUSE BILL 4748. Introduced by Representative Acevedo, AN ACT concerning transportation.
- HOUSE BILL 4749. Introduced by Representative Yarbrough, AN ACT making appropriations.
- HOUSE BILL 4750. Introduced by Representative Brosnahan, AN ACT concerning appropriations.
- HOUSE BILL 4751. Introduced by Representative Brosnahan, AN ACT concerning appropriations.
- HOUSE BILL 4752. Introduced by Representative May, AN ACT concerning civil procedure.
- HOUSE BILL 4753. Introduced by Representative May, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 4754. Introduced by Representative Osmond, AN ACT concerning state government.
- HOUSE BILL 4755. Introduced by Representative Moffitt, AN ACT concerning finance.
- HOUSE BILL 4756. Introduced by Representative Krause, AN ACT concerning State government.
- HOUSE BILL 4757. Introduced by Representatives Krause - Bellock, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 4758. Introduced by Representative Davis, William, AN ACT in relation to property.
- HOUSE BILL 4759. Introduced by Representative Saviano, AN ACT concerning property.
- HOUSE BILL 4760. Introduced by Representative Ryg, AN ACT concerning property.
- HOUSE BILL 4761. Introduced by Representative Beaubien, AN ACT concerning animals.
- HOUSE BILL 4762. Introduced by Representatives Krause - Bellock, AN ACT concerning revenue.
- HOUSE BILL 4763. Introduced by Representative McKeon, AN ACT concerning property.
- HOUSE BILL 4764. Introduced by Representatives Madigan - Currie, AN ACT concerning revenue.
- HOUSE BILL 4765. Introduced by Representative Bradley, Richard, AN ACT in relation to public employee benefits.
- HOUSE BILL 4766. Introduced by Representative Bradley, Richard, AN ACT in relation to public employee benefits.
- HOUSE BILL 4767. Introduced by Representatives Eddy - Reis, AN ACT concerning public employee benefits.
- HOUSE BILL 4768. Introduced by Representative D'Amico, AN ACT concerning transportation.

- HOUSE BILL 4769. Introduced by Representative D'Amico, AN ACT concerning government.
- HOUSE BILL 4770. Introduced by Representative Lyons, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 4771. Introduced by Representative Mautino, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 4772. Introduced by Representative Biggins, AN ACT concerning revenue.
- HOUSE BILL 4773. Introduced by Representative Verschoore, AN ACT concerning local government.
- HOUSE BILL 4774. Introduced by Representative Jakobsson, AN ACT concerning public employee benefits.
- HOUSE BILL 4775. Introduced by Representative Jakobsson, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 4776. Introduced by Representative Jakobsson, AN ACT concerning insurance.
- HOUSE BILL 4777. Introduced by Representative Jakobsson, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 4778. Introduced by Representative Coulson, AN ACT concerning finance.
- HOUSE BILL 4779. Introduced by Representatives Coulson - Bellock, AN ACT concerning public aid.
- HOUSE BILL 4780. Introduced by Representative Nekritz, AN ACT concerning revenue.
- HOUSE BILL 4781. Introduced by Representative Nekritz, AN ACT concerning revenue.
- HOUSE BILL 4782. Introduced by Representative Nekritz, AN ACT concerning transportation.
- HOUSE BILL 4783. Introduced by Representative Nekritz, AN ACT concerning public health.
- HOUSE BILL 4784. Introduced by Representative Pihos, AN ACT concerning education.
- HOUSE BILL 4785. Introduced by Representative Brosnahan, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 4786. Introduced by Representative Stephens, AN ACT concerning regulation.
- HOUSE BILL 4787. Introduced by Representative Chapa LaVia, AN ACT concerning procurement.
- HOUSE BILL 4788. Introduced by Representative Davis, William, AN ACT concerning public aid.
- HOUSE BILL 4789. Introduced by Representative Flider, AN ACT concerning property tax.
- HOUSE BILL 4790. Introduced by Representative Sacia, AN ACT concerning transportation.
- HOUSE BILL 4791. Introduced by Representative Wait, AN ACT concerning alternative fuels.
- HOUSE BILL 4792. Introduced by Representative Delgado, AN ACT concerning civil law.
- HOUSE BILL 4793. Introduced by Representative Mautino, AN ACT concerning revenue.
- HOUSE BILL 4794. Introduced by Representative Black, AN ACT concerning education.
- HOUSE BILL 4795. Introduced by Representative Black, AN ACT concerning government.

HOUSE BILL 4796. Introduced by Representative Molaro, AN ACT in relation to public employee benefits.

HOUSE BILL 4797. Introduced by Representative Molaro, AN ACT in relation to public employee benefits.

HOUSE BILL 4798. Introduced by Representative Molaro, AN ACT in relation to public employee benefits.

HOUSE BILL 4799. Introduced by Representative Rita, AN ACT concerning insurance.

HOUSE BILL 4800. Introduced by Representative McKeon, AN ACT concerning labor.

HOUSE BILL 4801. Introduced by Representative Giles, AN ACT concerning appropriations.

HOUSE BILL 4802. Introduced by Representative Cultra, AN ACT concerning liquor.

HOUSE BILL 4803. Introduced by Representative Cultra, AN ACT concerning business.

HOUSE BILL 4804. Introduced by Representative Tenhouse, AN ACT concerning emergency management.

HOUSE BILL 4805. Introduced by Representatives Sullivan - Jenisch, AN ACT concerning revenue.

HOUSE BILL 4806. Introduced by Representative Colvin, AN ACT concerning health care.

HOUSE BILL 4807. Introduced by Representative McAuliffe, AN ACT making appropriations.

HOUSE BILL 4808. Introduced by Representative Cultra, AN ACT making appropriations.

HOUSE BILL 4809. Introduced by Representative Cultra, AN ACT in relation to taxes.

HOUSE BILL 4810. Introduced by Representative Moffitt, AN ACT concerning civil law.

HOUSE BILL 4811. Introduced by Representative Saviano, AN ACT concerning regulation.

HOUSE BILL 4812. Introduced by Representative Saviano, AN ACT concerning regulation.

HOUSE BILL 4813. Introduced by Representative Madigan, AN ACT concerning gaming.

HOUSE BILL 4814. Introduced by Representatives Jefferson - Chavez, AN ACT concerning revenue.

HOUSE BILL 4815. Introduced by Representative Brauer, AN ACT concerning safety.

HOUSE BILL 4816. Introduced by Representative Sacia, AN ACT concerning wildlife.

HOUSE BILL 4817. Introduced by Representative Sacia, AN ACT concerning State government.

HOUSE BILL 4818. Introduced by Representative Sacia, AN ACT concerning State government.

HOUSE BILL 4819. Introduced by Representative Sullivan, AN ACT concerning revenue.

HOUSE BILL 4820. Introduced by Representative Eddy, AN ACT concerning taxes.

HOUSE BILL 4821. Introduced by Representative Biggins, AN ACT concerning State government.

HOUSE BILL 4822. Introduced by Representative Stephens, AN ACT concerning human rights.

HOUSE BILL 4823. Introduced by Representative Stephens, AN ACT concerning civil law.

HOUSE BILL 4824. Introduced by Representative D'Amico, AN ACT concerning revenue.

HOUSE BILL 4825. Introduced by Representative Franks, AN ACT concerning business.

HOUSE BILL 4826. Introduced by Representatives Dugan - Gordon - Bellock - Flider - Mathias, Jakobsson, Phelps and Washington, AN ACT concerning State government.

HOUSE BILL 4827. Introduced by Representative Verschoore, AN ACT concerning certain individuals killed in the line of duty.

HOUSE BILL 4828. Introduced by Representative Lang , AN ACT concerning human rights.

HOUSE BILL 4829. Introduced by Representative Delgado, AN ACT concerning human rights.

HOUSE BILL 4830. Introduced by Representative Lang, AN ACT concerning revenue.

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were offered and placed in the Committee on Rules.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 814

Offered by Representative May:

WHEREAS, The importance of the Great Lakes to both the United States and Canada cannot be emphasized strongly enough; and

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes collectively are the largest bodies of fresh water in the world, constituting one-fifth of the Earth's supply of fresh water; and

WHEREAS, It is vital for the economic and ecological survival of the Great Lakes region that the environmental integrity of the Great Lakes basin be protected; and

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes drainage basin, which covers a 288,000 square-mile area, provides an enormous economic benefit, such as a \$35 billion-a-year boating industry and an \$18 billion-a-year wildlife watching and sportsman industry, to the region; and

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy is the result of an enormous bipartisan effort that includes several states, cities, tribes, and Canadian provinces, as well as a coalition of environmental advocates, businesses, and other concerned parties; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the United States Congress and the President to support legislation that implements key recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy, including \$300 million dollars in federal FY 2007 funds called for by Great Lakes governors and mayors, to be used for sewer and water improvements, wetlands and river restoration, toxic cleanups, and other vital projects; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to President Bush and each member of the Illinois congressional delegation.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 80

Offered by Representative Turner:

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 11 of the Illinois Constitution states "All penalties shall be determined both according to the seriousness of the offense AND WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF RESTORING THE OFFENDER TO USEFUL CITIZENSHIP (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, Illinois is one of only 11 states that has life without parole sentences and one of only 6 states where all life sentences are without parole; and

WHEREAS, Thirty years ago only a handful of prisoners in Illinois served sentences longer than 30 years; this year approximately 4,000 Illinois prisoners have sentences of 30 years or more amounting to about 10% of all Illinois prisoners; and

WHEREAS, In Illinois at least 500 people each year are sentenced as lifers or long-term prisoners; and

WHEREAS, With the growth of truth in sentencing laws and increased use of life without parole sentences, the number of long-term prisoners will grow exponentially; and

WHEREAS, It costs at least one million dollars to confine a person in prison for 30 years; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that close to half of those lifers and long-term prisoners will never be released from prison if current policies stay in place; and

WHEREAS, The recidivism rate for long termers is the lowest of any group of prisoners; and

WHEREAS, A large number of lifers and long-term prisoners are sentenced under the accountability theory and not for the actual commission of the crime, and some are first time offenders; and

WHEREAS, Community crime prevention programs, not harsher prison sentences are responsible for the decline in crime rates; and

WHEREAS, Numerous innocent people have been wrongly convicted in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Many countries no longer impose sentences of life without parole; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Long-Term Prisoners Study Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Committee, consisting of 15 members appointed as follows:

- (1) Three members appointed by the President of the Senate;
- (2) Two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;
- (3) Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- (4) Two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;
- (5) One member appointed by the Attorney General;
- (6) One member appointed by the Governor;
- (7) One member appointed by the Cook County State's Attorney;
- (8) One member appointed by the Office of the Cook County Public Defender;
- (9) One member appointed by the Office of the State Appellate Defender; and
- (10) One member appointed by the office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor; and

be it further

RESOLVED, That the Committee shall consider whether life without parole and long-term sentences in excess of 30 years are necessary for public safety and provide the best use of State funds; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Committee shall hold public hearings and present a report of its findings and recommendations to the 95th General Assembly before June 1, 2007.

At the hour of 5:42 o'clock p.m., the House Perfunctory Session adjourned.