

STATE OF ILLINOIS



HOUSE JOURNAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

80TH LEGISLATIVE DAY

PERFUNCTORY SESSION

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2006

4:16 O'CLOCK P.M.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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80th Legislative Day**

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The House of Representatives met in Perfunctory Session pursuant to adjournment.

STATE MANDATES FISCAL NOTE SUPPLIED

A State Mandates Fiscal Note has been supplied for SENATE BILL 1681, as amended.

HOME RULE NOTE SUPPLIED

A Home Rule Note has been supplied for SENATE BILL 1681, as amended.

JUDICIAL NOTE SUPPLIED

A Judicial Note has been supplied for SENATE BILL 1681, as amended.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY IMPACT NOTE SUPPLIED

A Housing Affordability Impact Note has been supplied for SENATE BILL 1681, as amended.

PENSION NOTE SUPPLIED

A Pension Note has been supplied for SENATE BILL 1681, as amended.

STATE DEBT IMPACT NOTE SUPPLIED

A State Debt Impact Note has been supplied for SENATE BILL 1681, as amended.

CORRECTIONAL NOTES SUPPLIED

Correctional Notes have been supplied for HOUSE BILLS 4337 and 4398.

FISCAL NOTES SUPPLIED

Fiscal Notes have been supplied for HOUSE BILLS 4125, 4135, 4186, 4242, 4526 and SENATE BILL 1681, as amended.

RESOLUTIONS

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

HOUSE RESOLUTION 828

Offered by Representative Chapa LaVia:

WHEREAS, Physicians and other providers of health care services are essential participants in the State's Medicaid program, which is administered by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services; they provide necessary health care services to low-income individuals and families throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, One of the results of the State's fiscal crisis of the past several years has been the State's failure to make timely payments to physicians and other providers of health care services for the services they have provided to Medicaid recipients; and

WHEREAS, The chronic lateness of the State's payments to providers under the Medicaid program has caused many of those providers to discontinue providing necessary health care services to Medicaid recipients; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid recipients do not have private health insurance that will cover the cost of health care services that they need, nor do they have sufficient income to be able to pay for such services themselves; and

WHEREAS, As long as the State's failure to make timely payments to physicians and other providers of health care services under the Medicaid program continues, Medicaid recipients will be at risk of losing their access to necessary health care services; and

WHEREAS, The good health of the residents of this State, and those residents' access to health care services, should be a priority of State government; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the State to ensure that payments to Medicaid providers are made on time so that physicians and other providers of health care services do not refuse to see patients who are Medicaid recipients; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be delivered to the Governor and the Director of Healthcare and Family Services.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 829

Offered by Representative Chapa LaVia:

WHEREAS, One of the goals of the Illinois correctional system is to provide rehabilitation to prisoners so that after their release from prison they have the training, education, and proper supervision to lead productive lives without further committing criminal offenses; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Corrections provides transition services for prisoners upon their release; and

WHEREAS, The Department's transition program has not substantially reduced the recidivism rate; and

WHEREAS, Although, the Operation Spotlight Parole Reform Initiative of the Illinois Department of Corrections has resulted in placing more than 100 new parole agents in communities and more than doubling contacts with parolees in many communities, more needs to be done to help prisoners readjust to society; and

WHEREAS, An improved transition program could greatly reduce the recidivism rate among the Illinois prison population; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Illinois Department of Corrections to improve its transition programs for prisoners so as to provide them with adequate skills, education, and supervision that would prevent their return to crime and eventual reincarceration; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Director of Corrections.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 830

Offered by Representative Chapa LaVia:

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the General Assembly to create a task force to study the 911 call centers in the State and to determine whether adequate staffing level standards are being achieved; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the task force shall make recommendations for increased staffing levels if it determines that the State is not meeting adequate staffing level standards.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 831

Offered by Representative Chapa LaVia:

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the General Assembly to create a disaster preparedness response plan; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this disaster preparedness response plan be funded with State funds designated solely for that purpose.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 832

Offered by Representative Chapa LaVia:

WHEREAS, In 1995, the Chicago Project for Violence Prevention began planning a public health strategy to increase neighborhood safety; the goals of this multi-pronged anti-violence intervention include decreasing shootings and killings, changing norms of violence in high crime neighborhoods, and creating positive opportunities for the highest risk individuals; and the full implementation of this plan, called "CeaseFire", began in 2000; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the CeaseFire project, West Garfield Park (WGP) saw two periods of 90 days each with no shootings during the spring and summer of 2000; this was previously unheard of in that community; WGP went on to see a 67% (from 43 to 14) reduction in shootings for 2000; and

WHEREAS, Since that time the reduction has been maintained and subsequent reductions have been seen in at least 5 new CeaseFire implementation areas; during 2001-2003, the new CeaseFire communities experienced average decreases in shootings from 33-65%; in 2004, the seven communities fully implementing CeaseFire again averaged 48% reductions in shootings; and in addition, the Logan Square community had a drop in homicides from 12 to 1 (92% reduction); and

WHEREAS, The Chicago Project for Violence Prevention is housed at the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago; and

WHEREAS, There are long waiting periods between expenditures from CeaseFire operations and State reimbursements from the Department of Corrections; and

WHEREAS, Funding that is directly given to the University of Illinois at Chicago for CeaseFire administration would reduce these waiting periods; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the General Assembly to streamline CeaseFire administration and allow funding to be directly given to the University of Illinois at Chicago, in addition to their regular funding, to avoid long waiting periods between expenditures and State reimbursements from the Department of Corrections.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 833

Offered by Representative Chapa LaVia:

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Auditor General is directed to conduct an audit of the Department of Corrections educational programs in the youth facilities of the Department to determine whether those programs are meeting the needs of the students and whether the minors in juvenile detention facilities are being educated properly so that they can return to civilian life and succeed; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be sent to the Auditor General and the Director of Corrections.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 82

Offered by Representative Hannig:

WHEREAS, The People of the Mountains and their descendants can legitimately claim their Cherokee ancestry and heritage in all capacities, both public and private; 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 we support the People of the Mountains in their efforts to become a federally-recognized Cherokee Tribe; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we support the efforts of the People of the Mountains to be allowed free access once each year to the Trail of Tears State Forest, including camp sites, to honor their ancestors who died there; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we support the efforts of the People of the Mountains to be allowed free access once each year during the third weekend in May to Pere Marquette State Park, including camp sites, in order to have the opportunity to view the sacred bald eagle in Illinois; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we support the efforts of the People of the Mountains to be permitted to possess sacred items, such as eagle feathers, hawk feathers, and turtle rattles, so long as they are acquired without harming the animals that are the sources of those items.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 83

Offered by Representative Bellock:

WHEREAS, During the 94th General Assembly, the Joint Task Force on Rural Health was established to study issues relating to health care for Illinois residents living in rural settings; and

WHEREAS, Issues relating to health care for residents of rural areas also apply to residents of other medically underserved areas of the State; and

WHEREAS, The Joint Task Force was to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than January 1, 2006; and

WHEREAS, The Joint Task Force needs additional time to complete its work; 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 the Joint Task Force on Rural Health shall submit a report, as established in its authorizing resolution, no later than December 31, 2006; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the name of the Task Force on Rural Health is changed to the Task Force on Rural Health and Medically Underserved Areas; and be it further

RESOLVED, That with this reporting extension, the Joint Task Force on Rural Health and Medically Underserved Areas shall continue to operate pursuant to its enabling resolution.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 84

Offered by Representative Moffitt:

WHEREAS, The stability and livelihood of farms and family farmers, the food and fiber industry, and the food processing, commodity marketing, and agriculture-related industries of this State have been endangered by severe drought conditions during the 2005 growing season; and

WHEREAS, On July 27th, 2005, United States Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns designated 102 Illinois counties as agriculture disaster areas due to the drought, and the United States Drought Monitor indicates that Illinois remains in an extreme drought that has greatly impacted the productivity of Illinois crops and this State's economy; and

WHEREAS, Illinois' food and fiber industry employs nearly one million people, food processing is the State's number-one manufacturing activity adding almost \$13.4 billion annually to the value of Illinois' raw agricultural commodities, and the marketing of Illinois' agricultural commodities generates more than \$9 billion annually for the State economy; and

WHEREAS, Billions more dollars flow into this State's economy from agriculture-related industries, such as farm machinery manufacturing, agricultural real estate, and production and sale of value-added food products, which employ millions of people; and

WHEREAS, The declaration of Illinois counties as agriculture disaster areas due to the drought allows some indirect relief to qualified producers in the form of eligibility for low interest federal and State emergency loan programs that allow producers to borrow moneys for production and physical losses; notwithstanding these programs, a comprehensive national Crop Disaster Program that authorizes direct disaster payments to producers could provide better, more immediate, and more uniform protection to farmers against natural disasters and drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interests of the State of Illinois and the United States to provide the best protections available to the vital agricultural sector of our economy; 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 we urge the United States Congress to promote and protect agriculture in Illinois and throughout the United States by passing a comprehensive national Crop Disaster Program that includes direct disaster payments to producers and that includes disaster payments to Illinois producers who suffered a loss during the 2005 growing season; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to each member of the Illinois Congressional delegation, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, and the President of the United States.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 85

Offered by Representative Saviano:

WHEREAS, In 1956, a 2.5 square mile area of land in unincorporated Cook County was unwanted by neighboring communities; and

WHEREAS, Eighty-five pioneering residents living in this unincorporated area of Cook County were searching for municipal services, schools, and a good place to live the American dream; they refused to be beaten by others and decided to incorporate and become the Village of Rosemont in 1956; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Donald E. Stephens became the first elected (and only) mayor of the Village of Rosemont; and

WHEREAS, This new Village of Rosemont was adjacent to what would become, in the next 20 years, the world's busiest airport, O'Hare International Airport; and

WHEREAS, The residents had the vision and foresight to transform the Village of Rosemont into a center of commerce by building hospitality and entertainment facilities to support the international and domestic air travelers using the world's busiest airport; and

WHEREAS, Today, Rosemont's 4,224 residents and some 12,000 hospitality employees work together to serve meeting, convention, tradeshow, business, and entertainment customers from around the world; and

WHEREAS, Rosemont hosts an average of 50,000 visitors daily and owns and operates some of Chicagoland's finest meeting, entertainment, special event, and tradeshow facilities, including the Donald E. Stephens Convention and Conference Center, which is a top 10 meeting/convention/trade show venue, the Allstate Arena, and the Rosemont Theatre; and

WHEREAS, The Donald E. Stephens Convention and Conference Center is a 1,000,000 square foot convention center and may be the only one in the nation that returns revenue without any subsidies or room taxes; it hosts approximately 100 trade conventions and public shows a year and welcomes more than 1,000,000 delegates and attendees to public and private shows annually; and

WHEREAS, The Allstate Arena, formerly known as the Rosemont Horizon, has been recognized by PERFORMANCE MAGAZINE as both "Top Grossing Arena" and "Arena of the Year"; the venue hosts more than 150 events annually, attracting an average of 1,500,000 audience members to witness some of the world's top musical performers and family shows like the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus and Disney on Ice and serves as home of the DePaul Blue Demons basketball team (NCAA), Chicago Wolves hockey (AHL), and Chicago Rush arena football (AFL); and

WHEREAS, The beautiful plush, 4,400-seat Rosemont Theatre hosts lavish Broadway musicals, full-scale productions, and world-class entertainers including Jay Leno and the entire "Tonight Show",

Ashley Judd, the Radio City Rockettes, a variety of family shows, and is home to the Chicagoland Pops Orchestra; and

WHEREAS, Rosemont is home to some of the world's most prestigious hoteliers, including Crowne Plaza, Hyatt, Marriott, Sheraton, Sofitel, Westin, Wyndham, and others, boasting more than 5,600 rooms; and

WHEREAS, Rosemont is home to some of Chicago's finest dining establishments, including Morton's, Nick's Fishmarket, Carlucci, Gibsons Steak House, and Harry Carey's; and

WHEREAS, The, tiny Village of Rosemont and its residents have generated billions of dollars for the Illinois economy and hold a strong vision for growing their convention and visitor business and service to the people of Illinois in the next 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Rosemont is kicking off its 50th anniversary year on Friday, January 20, 2006; 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 we recognize the year of 2006 as "The Year of Rosemont" in Illinois and encourage public and private entities to congratulate Rosemont on its "50 years of Welcoming the World"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Village of Rosemont as an expression of our esteem.

At the hour of 4:30 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned until Tuesday, January 24, 2006, at 12:00 o'clock noon.