

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
100th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

1st Legislative Day

6/21/2017

Speaker Lang: "First Special Session. The Special Session of the House will come to order. The Members shall be in their chairs. We shall be led in prayer today by Lee Crawford, the Pastor of the Cathedral of Praise Christian Center in Springfield. Members and guests are asked to refrain from starting their laptops, turn off cell phones, and rise for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Crawford."

Pastor Crawford: "Let us pray. Most gracious and holy God in Heaven, You are sovereign. God of all wisdom. You are infinite. God of all-power. You are omnipotent. God of all-creation. It is the day we invoke your blessings upon this august assembly, upon the Speaker of this House, upon its Leaders, upon all of its Members. I pray today that they be empowered with Your wisdom, that they be led of Your precious spirit. I pray that they will find their strength in You, oh God. I pray Your grace, Your mercy, and Your peace will be with them throughout this day. This we pray in Your Son's name, Amen."

Speaker Lang: "We shall be led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Representative Mussman."

Mussman - et al: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Speaker Turner: "Roll Call for Attendance. Leader Currie."

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Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record reflect that Representatives Andrade, Arroyo, Moeller, Nekritz, Phelps, Riley, Walsh, and Williams are excused today."

Speaker Turner: "Mr. Demmer."

Demmer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please let the record reflect that Representatives Cabello, Phillips, Sommer, Sosnowski, Stewart, and Barb Wheeler are excused for the day."

Speaker Turner: Mr. Clerk, please take the record. We have 102 Members answering the Roll and we do have a quorum. Mr. Clerk, please read the Governor's Proclamation."

Clerk Hollman: "A Proclamation by the Governor.

WHEREAS, our State's long-running financial and economic challenges have turned into an unprecedented crisis that we must address; and,

WHEREAS, for two years, the majority in the General Assembly has ignored our recommendations for a long-term balanced budget; and,

WHEREAS, for the last two weeks, the majority in the General Assembly has ignored our request to stay in Springfield and get the job done; and,

WHEREAS, Republicans in the General Assembly have laid out a compromise budget plan that is real and balanced; provides a true path to property tax reduction; reforms the way our state operates to reduce wasteful spending; funds our schools and human services; and spurs economic growth and job creation; and,

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WHEREAS, this new compromise balanced budget plan is one I would sign into law and one which I hope the majority in the General Assembly will accept; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois needs economic reforms to create jobs; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois would have 650,000 more jobs if it had simply grown at the national average rates since 2000, but has foregone those opportunities due to economic stagnation and decline; and,

WHEREAS, both individuals and businesses across the state are suffering under the immense weight of the highest average property taxes of any state, and the fourth-highest overall tax burden of any state; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois has the most units of local government of any state, which contribute to driving up taxes without being accountable to taxpayers for adding value; and,

WHEREAS, many Illinoisans are being forced from their home and communities by an inability to afford the State's ever-increasing demands, leading to the most significant out-migration of any state; and,

WHEREAS, the businesses that could be fueling healthy economic growth and opportunity are instead face with unsustainable costs and red tape; and,

WHEREAS, a lack of term limits has allowed for an accumulation of power that undermines Illinoisans' trust in their government; and,

WHEREAS, reforming these irresponsible practices across state government is critical to protecting taxpayers and preventing

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our current fiscal emergencies from resurfacing in the future; and,

WHEREAS, the difficult decisions required to reform state government must be made with urgency before a lack of action causes further harm; and,

WHEREAS, failure to enact the compromise balanced budget plan by June 30, 2017 will have devastating and long-lasting ramifications for our state; and,

WHEREAS, we must ease the minds of parents with school-age children, reassure people in need, help our colleges and universities, grow jobs and bring relief to hard-working taxpayer; and,

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 5(b) of the Illinois Constitution empowers the Governor to convene a special session of the General Assembly;

THEREFORE, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5(b) of the Illinois Constitution, I, Governor Bruce Rauner, hereby call and convene the 100th General Assembly in a special session to commence at 12:00 p.m. on June 25, 2017, for the purpose of considering legislation, new or pending, which addresses a balanced budget and structural reforms including but not limited to property tax relief, job creation, worker's compensation reform, government consolidation, education, term limits, pension reform, and spending limitations.

The Secretary of State shall take whatever reasonable steps are necessary to notify the members of the General Assembly of the purpose, date and time set for convening this Special

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Session pursuant to 25 ICLS 15-3. This was issued June 15, 2017 by the Governor, State of Illinois, Bruce Rauner."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Clerk, introduction of Resolutions."

Clerk Hollman: "First Special Session House Resolution #1 and First Special Session House Resolution #2, are offered by Representative Currie."

Speaker Lang: "Leader Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker, I move for the suspension of all applicable House Rules so that we might give immediate consideration to First Special Session House Resolutions 1, and also First Special Session House Resolution 2."

Speaker Lang: "You heard the Lady's Motion. All those in favor saying 'aye, opposed 'no. The 'ayes' have it and the Motion is adopted. Mr. Clerk, please read First Special Session House Resolution 1 and 2."

Clerk Hollman: "First Special Session House Resolution #1.

RESOLVED, that the Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundredth General Assembly be adopted as the Rules of this First Special Session, so far as the same may be applicable, and that the Committees of the House of Representatives of the One Hundredth General Assembly, and their membership, shall constitute the Committees of the House during this First Special Session. First Special Session House Resolution #2.

RESOLVED, that the Clerk inform the Senate that a majority of the House of Representatives has assembled, pursuant to the proclamation of the Governor, convening a First Special

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Session of the General Assembly, and are now ready for the transaction of business."

Speaker Lang: "Leader Currie moves for the adoption of First Special Session Resolutions 1 and 2. All those in favor say 'yes; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it and the Resolutions are adopted. Leader Currie now moves that the First Special Session adjourn until Thursday, June 22, at the hour of 12 noon. All in favor say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it, and the First Special Session is adjourned."