

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

1st Legislative Day

6/24/2017

Speaker Lang: "The House will come to order for the Fourth Special Session. Members will be in their chairs. Happy Saturday. We shall be led in prayer today by Pastor Shaun Lewis who is the Director of Civil Servant Ministries, serving the political leaders of Illinois. Pastor Lewis is the guest of Representative Morrison. 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. Pastor."

Doctor Lewis: "Thank you. If you would bow with me in prayer. Isaiah 40:29-31 say the Lords gives power to the faint. To him that has no might, increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted. But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not be faint. Isaiah gives us a wonderful picture, Lord, and who here in this Legislature... this Legislature has not grown weary in the current political climate, who hasn't grown faint or thoughts of quitting, who's excited to be in Session on a Saturday in June. Isaiah encourages us to look to You for renewal and strength. So if we're all here for our Representatives, for the staffers, all who are beaten down this year may they seek You in the pages of Your word and they have meditate upon scripture. May they mount up with wings like eagles; whether in caucus, or committee, with constituents or here at the Capitol may each one commit their work to You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

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Speaker Lang: "Be led in the Pledge with Representative Skillicorn."

Skillicorn - 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 Lang: "Roll Call for Attendance. Representative Feigenholtz."

Feigenholtz: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Excused absences on our side of the aisle are Carol Ammons, Kelly Burke, Jones, Nekritz, Sims, Welch, Williams, and Zalewski."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Demmer."

Demmer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please excuse Representatives Harris, D, Jesiel, McCombie, Phillips, Unes, Sommer, Sosnowski, Welter, and Barb Wheeler today."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Clerk, please take the record. There are 98 Members answering the Attendance Roll Call. There is a quorum of the House present for the Fourth Special Session. Mr. Clerk, please read the Governor's Proclamation."

Clerk Bolin: "Proclamation from 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,

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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,

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 homes and communities by an inability to afford the State's ever-

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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 faced 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 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 taxpayers; 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

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convene the 100th General Assembly in a special session to commence at 12:00 p.m. on June 24, 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 Session pursuant to 25 ILCS 15/3. ISSUED: June 15, 2017, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois."

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

Clerk Bolin: "Fourth Special Session House Resolution #1 and Fourth Special Session House Resolution #2 are offered by Representative Currie."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Harris moves for the suspension of applicable House Rules to allow immediate consideration of Fourth Special Session House Resolutions 1 or 2. You heard the Motion. Those in favor say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it and the Motion is adopted. Mr. Clerk, please read Fourth Special House... Fourth Special Session House Resolutions 1 and 2."

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

RESOLVED, that the Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundredth General Assembly shall be adopted as the Rules of this Fourth Special Session, so far as the same may be

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

Lang: "Mr. Harris moves for the adoption of Resolutions 1 and 2 of the Fourth Special Session. Those in favor say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it and the Resolutions are adopted. Mr. Harris, now moves to adjourn the Fourth Special Session. And proceed with other Sessions. Mr. Harris moves that the Fourth Special Session adjourn until Sunday, June 25th at the hour of 12 noon. Those in favor say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it, and the Fourth Special Session is adjourned."