

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

1st Legislative Day

6/25/2017

Speaker Lang: "Happy Sunday. The Fifth Special Session of House will come to order. 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 precious and sovereign God, the giver of both life and strength. It is before You that we bow our heads, it is before You that we humble our hearts that this august assembly of both male and female that You not only called to represent Your people, but You called to reverence You. We realize that this is the day that You have made and we take this time to honor it. We pause before Your most holy presence, we offer You our hearts, we offer You our minds, we offer You our lives. We cast upon You all of our cares. We yield onto You all of our worries. We submit onto You all of our weaknesses. We ask of You, awesome God, for Your great strength. We ask of You, awesome God, for Your infinite wisdom. We ask of You, awesome God, for Your divine guidance. We ask of You, awesome God, for Your divine protection. And for all of this we offer You, thanks. In the name of Your most precious Son, Amen."

Speaker Lang: "We will be led in the Pledge by Representative Moeller."

Moeller - et al: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands,

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one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Speaker Lang: "Roll Call for Attendance. Representative Leader Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record reflect that Representatives Fine, Gabel, Hernandez, Nekritz, and Sims are excused today."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Demmer."

Demmer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And please excuse Representatives Bennett, Breen, Fortner, McCombie, Phillips, Pritchard, Sommer, Sosnowski, and Barb Wheeler today."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Clerk, please take the record. There are 102 Members of the House present and there is a quorum. Mr. Clerk, please read the Governor's Proclamation."

Clerk Bolin: "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

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100th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
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TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE  
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1st Legislative Day

6/25/2017

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-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,

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6/25/2017

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 convene the 100th General Assembly in a special session to commence at 12:00 p.m. on June 23, 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

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100th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE  
FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION

1st Legislative Day

6/25/2017

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 ICLS 15/3.

ISSUED: June 15, 2017, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois."

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

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

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

Clerk Hollman: "Fifth 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 Fifth 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 Fifth Special Session. Fifth Special Session House Resolution #2.

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

Lang: "Leader Currie moves for the adoption of Fifth Special Session Resolutions 1 and 2. Those in favor say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it and the Resolutions are adopted. Leader Currie now moves the Fifth Special adjourn until Monday, June 26, at the hour of 10 a.m. Those favor say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it, and the Fifth Special Session is adjourned."