

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

1st Legislative Day

6/26/2017

Speaker Lang: "The Sixth Special Session of the Illinois House of Representatives will come to order. Members shall be in their chairs. We shall be led in prayer today, by Wayne Padget, the Assistant Doorkeeper. 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. Padget."

Assistant Doorkeeper Padget: "Let us pray. Dear Lord, we come before you today in sound body and mind. Praying that on this day you grant us wisdom and guidance. During these hard times in negotiations, we pray that everyone can come together on one common ground and resolve the issues for the people of Illinois. We pray for the men and women in our Arm Services, both here and aboard. Provide them with Your protection and give them the strength to make it through these tuff times. And let us also pray for the men and women and their families who have made the ultimate sacrifice to defend our country. These things we ask in Your Son's name, Amen."

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

McCombie - 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. Leader Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record reflect the excused absence of Representative Nekritz."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Andersson."

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Andersson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please reflect... let the record reflect the excused absences of Representatives Davidsmeyer, Fortner, Sommer, and Barb Wheeler."

Speaker Lang: "Please take the record, Mr. Clerk. We have 111 Members present and the House... does have a quorum and ready to do our business. Mr. Clerk, please read the Governor's Proclamation for the Sixth Special Session."

Clerk Holman: "A 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,

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,

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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,

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,

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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 10:00 a.m. on June 26, 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 ICLS 15/3.

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

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

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

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

Clerk Hollman: "Sixth 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 Sixth 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 Sixth Special Session. Sixth 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 Sixth Special Session of the General Assembly, and are now ready for the transaction of business."

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Lang: "Leader Currie now moves for the adoption of Sixth Special Session Resolutions 1 and 2. Those in favor say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it and the Resolutions are adopted. The House is prepared to adjourn the Sixth Special and proceed with other Sessions. Leader Currie moves that the Sixth Special Session adjourn until Tuesday, June 27, at 10 a.m. Those favor say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it, and the Sixth Special Session is adjourned."