

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

1st Legislative Day

6/27/2017

Speaker Lang: "The Seventh... that's right, Seventh Special Session of the House will come to order. Members will 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 please rise for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Crawford."

Pastor Crawford: "Let us pray. Most gracious and most sovereign God, it is a day that we are forever thankful to You for all the blessing that You have bestowed upon us. Father, we thank You for this august assembly, Your governing body in this earth rim. Today I ask for Your blessings of strength and wisdom upon it. Upon its Leader, upon all of its Members. I pray that they would govern in a way that brings glory, brings honor to Your name and then govern in a way that would bring hope to Your people all across this great state. We thank You for the beauty of this glorious day for it is a day that You had made. And for all the hopes that enliven and strengthen the human heart, we thank You for it. Today God, I ask for Your help. I pray that they will see all that goes on in this world from Your point of view and not their own. I pray that they will govern according to Your will and not their own. I pray today that You would empower them with Your sprit that they may respond not only in their hearts, and not only in their minds, but they would respond in their words and in their actions. This we pray in Your Son's, name Amen."

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Speaker Lang: "Will be led in Pledge by Mr. D'Amico."

D'Amico - 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 show that Representatives Guzzardi and Nekritz are excused today."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Demmer."

Demmer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please let record reflect that that Representatives Fortner, Sommer, and Barb Wheeler are excused."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Clerk, please take the record. We have 112 Members present and there is a quorum of the House present for the Seventh Special Session. Mr. Clerk, please read the Governor's Proclamation."

Clerk Holman: "Proclamation of 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,

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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-increasing demands, leading to the most significant out-migration of any state and,

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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 convene the 100th General Assembly in a special session to commence at 10 a.m. on June 27, 2017, for the purpose of

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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.

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

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

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

Speaker Lang: "Leader Currie moves for the suspension applicable House Rules to allow for immediate consideration of Seventh Special Session House Resolutions 1 and 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 Seventh Special Session House Resolutions 1 and 2."

Clerk Hollman: "Seventh 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 Seventh 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

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their membership, shall constitute the Committees of the House during this Seventh Special Session. Seventh 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 Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly, and are now ready for the transaction of business."

Lang: "Leader Currie now moves for the adoption of Seventh 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 Seventh Special and proceed with other Special Sessions. Leader Currie moves that the Seventh Special Session adjourn until Wednesday, June 28, at 10 a.m. Those favor say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it, and the Seventh Special Session is adjourned."