

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

1st Legislative Day

6/29/2017

Speaker Lang: "Ninth Special Session of the 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. Pastor Crawford."

Pastor Crawford: "Let us pray. Most gracious and sovereign God, who art the author and the finisher of our faith. You are the Lord of Lords than the King of Kings and beside You there is no other. Today we reverence You, holy God, and ask Your blessings upon this august Assembly, upon the Speaker of this House, upon all of his Leaders, upon all of his Members. Bless them today, God, as they deliberate. Bless them with Your wisdom that they be wise. Bless them with Your guidance that they not be misguided. Bless them with Your strength that they not be weakened and overcome. Bless them with Your direction that they be led by You. Bless them to see clearly what is right even during these darken and challenging times. Bless them to hear more clearly what You are speaking even during these very noisy moments. I pray that You would empower them during these times that they not compromise truth nor forsake Your ways, but to do that which is good, to that which is the perfect and the most precious will of God. Bless them to do that which brings glory to Your name and honor to who You are and praise and calm amongst Your people in this great state we pray. Amen."

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Speaker Lang: "Will be led in Pledge by Representative Conyears-Ervin."

Conyears-Ervin - 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 that there are no excused absences among House Democrats today."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Andersson... Mr. Demmer."

Demmer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please let the record reflect that all Republicans are present today."."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Clerk, please take the record. We have 115 Members answering the roll and there is a quorum present for the Ninth 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,

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 29, 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, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois."

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

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

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

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

Lang: "Leader Currie moves for the adoption of Ninth 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 Ninth Special Session. Leader Currie moves that the Ninth Special Session adjourn until Friday, June 30, at the hour of 10 a.m. Those favor say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it, and the Ninth Special Session is adjourned."