

STATE OF ILLINOIS
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

1st Legislative Day

7/6/2007

Speaker Madigan: "The House will now come to order in the Second Special Session. And we shall be led in prayer by Lee Crawford."

Pastor Crawford: "May we pray. Most gracious and kind God, the author and the finisher of our faith, we so humbly come before you, asking that You will bless this august Body. May You bless its Leader as well as all the Members that You have chosen to serve here. May they serve well. May they serve as good stewards. This we ask in Your son's name, Amen."

Speaker Madigan: "We shall be led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Representative Washington."

Washington - 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 Madigan: "Roll Call for Attendance. Have all voted who wish? Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you. The excused Members this afternoon are Representatives Arroyo, Burke, Collins, Colvin, Fritchey, Flider, Gordon, Graham, Harris, Jakobsson, Jefferson, Molaro, Patterson, and Riley, and Miller."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Bost."

Bost: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let the record reflect that Representative Durkin, Coulson, Lindner, Bassi, Dunn, Pihos, Schmitz, and Bellock are excused."

Speaker Madigan: "The Clerk shall take the record. There will be 95 Members responding to the Attendance Roll Call. There is

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a quorum present. Mr. Clerk, please read the Governor's Proclamation."

Clerk Bolin: "WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 5 of the Illinois Constitution of 1970 requires the State to provide pension benefits to members of State-sponsored retirement systems; and

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois supports five retirement plans on behalf of State employees, university employees, teachers, judges, and Members of the Illinois General Assembly; and

HEREAS, It is the State's responsibility to provide adequate funding to support State pension liabilities so that future generations are not held responsible for current expenses; and

WHEREAS, Deferrals of the State's obligations to its annuitants contributed to an unfunded pension liability in State-sponsored systems of \$19 billion in 1995, which grew to \$43 billion in 2003, resulting in a funded ratio of 48% in 2003, the worst funded ratio of any of the fifty States and significantly underfunded in comparison to the national average of 91.1% among 101 public retirement systems, according to the 2003 Public Fund Survey conducted by the National Association of State Retirement Administrators; and

WHEREAS, Because of this crisis, unless changes are made, commitments to State employees will become a significant burden on future generations; and

WHEREAS, Annuitants of the State's benefit systems rely on the security provided by pension benefits to meet their needs, including food, housing and healthcare;

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WHEREAS, and fairness requires that Illinois keep its obligations and commitments to those who have earned it and will work for it in the future; and

WHEREAS, Over the next three years, in order to meet the statutory funding formula, the State will be required to increase annual contributions to the pension systems and debt service on outstanding pension obligation bonds, reducing available State resources to fund growth in other core services provided by the State, such as education and health care, to less than \$200 million of natural revenue growth per year, representing less than one percent growth per year in these critical areas; and

WHEREAS, Further deferrals of the State's pension liabilities will force future generations to pay billions of dollars in additional interest on the unfunded liabilities of the State between fiscal years 2008 and 2045; and

WHEREAS, The State's pension funding system is in a state of crisis, and the State will continue to unnecessarily pay billions in interest costs alone if the unfunded pension liability does not receive an immediate and significant infusion of funding; and

WHEREAS, A solution to this crisis must be adopted prior to adjournment of 2007 Spring Session of the 95th General Assembly, and this action is necessary to adequately secure existing pension obligations, reduce long-term interest costs on current obligations, more effectively manage State funding requirements, and ensure that future new revenues will not be consumed solely by escalating pension contributions;

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THEREFORE, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 (b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby call and convene the 95th General Assembly in a special session to commence on July 6, 2007, at 2:00 p.m., to consider and discuss House Joint Resolution 1 of the 1st Special Session of the 95th General Assembly and/or Senate Joint Resolution 1 of the 1st Special Session of the 95th General Assembly. Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor. July 5, 2007."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Clerk, do you have Resolutions to read?"

Clerk Bolin: "House Resolutions 1 and 2, offered by Representative Currie of the Second Special Session. These Resolutions are referred to the House Rules Committee. Second Special Session House Resolution #1.

RESOLVED, that the Rules of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fifth General Assembly be adopted as the Rules of this Second Special Session, so far as the same may be applicable, and that the Committees of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fifth General Assembly, shall constitute the Committees of the House during this Second Special Session. Second 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 First Special Session of the General Assembly, and are now ready for the transaction of business."

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. I move for the immediate consideration and suspension of the applicable House Rules

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so that we may adopt Second Special Session House Resolutions 1 and 2."

Speaker Madigan: "You've all heard the Lady's Motion. Is there a leave? Leave is granted. Mr. Clerk. Do you have anything further, Mr. Clerk? You probably don't. Representative Currie."

Currie: "Yeah, he's already read the Resolution. So now I would just move that we adopt Second Special Session Resolutions 1 and 2."

Speaker Madigan: "The Lady moves for the adoption of Resolutions 1 and 2. Those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. The Resolutions are adopted. Mr. Black."

Black: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege, if I might."

Speaker Madigan: "State your point."

Black: "Yes. Mr. Speaker, in today's Springfield Journal Astonisher... or Register, there was an editorial cartoon on page 6, obviously drawn by

Chris Britt. The only reason I know that is because his name is on it, and it shows the Governor on a flying pig. Now if you haven't seen it, you ought to take a look at it. It shows the Governor on a flying pig. Big pig. I mean, a really big pig. And then over here it says 'I wish he'd stick to flying the state plane.' Now, Mr. Speaker, I think things ought to come together. This is not a good cartoon, showing the Governor coming down here on a flying pig. We all know better than that. We are starting, on our side of the aisle, the order of the flying pig. And if you would

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want to join, we're going to have the appropriate membership cards printed. And if any of you would like to join us in the membership of the flying pig.. not that it'll save any money. I mean, the price of corn has gone up. And I'm telling ya, it's not as easy feed a pig as it used to be. But I'm looking forward to my membership and the order of the flying pig and parking my car and flying this baby home Saturday night. So if you all want to join us, come join the order of the flying pig."

Speaker Madigan: "Ladies and Gentlemen, it is the intention of the Chair to adjourn this Special Session to 10 a.m. tomorrow morning. And therefore, the Chair receives a Motion from Representative Currie that the Second Special Session stand adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning. Those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. Again Ladies and Gentlemen, there's no further business that comes before the House. We do plan to be here at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning. The Chair would like to recognize the esteemed Minority Leader of the Senate, Mr. Frank Watson. If there are... if there are any of you trying to gain special access to Governor Blagojevich, you might ask Frank if he could make the arrangements for you. All right, everybody have a good night. We'll see you in the morning. Representative Black."

Black: "Speaker, is the... what do they call that downstairs, the cafeteria? Is it open tomorrow, so we'll be able to get lunch and breakfast?"

Speaker Madigan: "I don't know. I don't know."

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Black: "Mr. Speaker, I've been here for a long time and I've never heard you say that."

Speaker Madigan: "For you... for you, I was will have an apple in my office, for you."

Black: "The last time I saw an apple in somebody's mouth it was one of these guys. I'm not taking that... I'm not taking you up on that."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. McCarthy. McCarthy."

McCarthy: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of inquiry. We had a Proclamation on our desk during our recess that said there was a Special Session at 2 p.m. tomorrow. Now you're saying we're adjourned 'til 10 a.m. Should we assume there is a 10 a.m. and a 2 p.m. Session or just the 10 a.m.?"

Speaker Madigan: "Well, we're going to be here at 10 a.m. for the First and Second Special Sessions. You're referencing the Third Special Session, which is set for 2:00." McCarthy: "Will that be called?"

Speaker Madigan: "So, my recommendation is that you be here at 10 a.m. That's my recommendation to you."

McCarthy: "What's your recommendation for 2 p.m.?"

Speaker Madigan: "To be here at 10 a.m. in the morning."

McCarthy: "Thanks for making that crystal clear."

Speaker Madigan: "Ladies and Gentlemen, the cafeteria is open at 9:00 in the morning and I withdraw the offer of the apple."