

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

1st Legislative Day

7/11/2007

Speaker Turner: "We're now prepared to move into Special Session #8 and we will... is there leave to accept the Roll Call Attendance from Special Session #1? Leave is granted and the attendance (sic-Attendance Roll Call) from the roll... Special Session #1 is the attendance (sic-Attendance Roll Call) for Special Session #8. A quorum in the House is present. Mr. Clerk, please read the Governor's Proclamation."

Clerk Bolin: "WHEREAS, in 2004 nearly 8 children and teenagers ages 19 and under were killed in the United States with guns every day; and

WHEREAS, the cost of one gun crime can be as high as \$1.79 million, including medical treatment and the prosecution and imprisonment of the offender; and

WHEREAS, medical costs of gun violence put a burden on employers, health service providers and the State of Illinois because at least 80% of the economic costs of treating firearm injuries are paid for with taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, on September 13, 1994, Congress passed the Federal Assault Weapons Ban, requiring domestic gun manufacturers to stop production of semi-automatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices (ammunition clips holding more than 10 rounds), except for military or police use; and

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WHEREAS, during the ten-year federal ban, the prevalence of assault weapons traced to crimes declined 66%; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Assault Weapons Ban expired on September 13, 2004, leaving Illinois without any statewide measures to combat the proliferation of assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of federal regulation, the State of Illinois must act to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens from the violence caused by the presence and proliferation of assault weapons in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, large capacity ammunition feeding devices enable assault weapons and .50 caliber rifles to fire thirty rounds of ammunition in under five seconds, reload automatically and carry up to 100 rounds; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1007 would largely prohibit the knowing delivery, sale, purchase or possession of large capacity ammunition feeding devices in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, passage of Senate Bill 1007 would advance the State's interest in protecting the health, safety and welfare of Illinoisans by abating gun violence and the associated health care and societal costs caused by large capacity ammunition feeding devices;

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7/11/2007

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 11, 2007, at 2:00 p.m., to consider and discuss Senate Bill 1007 as well as the impact of assault weapon violence on the State's health care expenditures and general fiscal health. Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor. July 10, 2007."

Speaker Turner: "Mr. Clerk, introductions of Resolutions."

Clerk Bolin: "House Resolutions 1 and 2 of the Eighth Special Session are offered by Representative Currie."

Speaker Turner: "The Chair recognizes the House Majority Leader, Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. I move for the immediate consideration and the suspension of all applicable House Rules so that we may adopt Eighth Special Session House Resolutions 1 and 2."

Speaker Turner: "You've heard the Lady's Resolution. All those in fa... favor signify by saying 'aye'; all those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it and the Motion is adopted. The Chair recognizes House Majority Leader Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Would the Clerk please read Eighth Special Session House Resolutions 1 and 2?"

Clerk Bolin: "Eighth 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 Eighth 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

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95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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7/11/2007

constitute the Committees of the House during the Eighth Special Session.

Eighth Special Session House Resolution #2.

RESOLVED, that the Clerk inform the Senate that a majority of the House has assembled, pursuant to the Proclamation of the Governor, convening a Eighth Special Session of the General Assembly, and are now ready for the transaction of business."

Speaker Turner: "House Majority Leader Representative Currie moves for the adoption of the Eighth Special Session Resolutions 1 and 2. All of those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it and the Resolutions are adopted. The Gentleman from Cook, Representative Osterman."

Osterman: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Governor Blagojevich has called us together today for a Special Session on Senate Bill 1007, legislation to ban the large capacity ammunition magazines. As a chief Sponsor of this Bill, someone who supports the Bill and believes in it, someone who's worked on gun violence since my first day in this Body, I appreciate the Governor's support. He's calling attention to this issue and I've asked him to help us pass the Bill. However, I stand before you today, my colleagues, to tell you that I will not be calling the Bill for a vote today, tomorrow, or until such time that I have the votes to pass the Bill. I will not be calling the Bill for a vote for several reasons. First and foremost is that we are joined here together in our Capitol because we have failed to pass our state budget, a budget

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95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE
EIGHTH SPECIAL SESSION

1st Legislative Day

7/11/2007

that affects the lives of all of the citizens of the State of Illinois. Passing a budget that addresses the needs of our state is our number one priority. Today, tomorrow, Friday, as long as it takes, regardless of where you stand on Senate Bill 1007, today we stand in agreement that we must resolve this budget impasse. The second reason I'm not calling for a vote for this Bill is that we do not have the votes to pass the Bill. It would be irresponsible of me as the Sponsor of this legislation to call this Bill for a vote knowing that it's gonna fail. The current form of this legislation has the immediate effective date, which requires 71 votes. Seventy-one votes. This Bill will not get 71 votes. If the Bill is amended to get 60 votes, as I intend to do at some point in the future, the effective date will be June of 2008. June of 2008. So if pass... pass with 60 votes it won't take effect until June. So there is no need to rush a vote today or tomorrow. Additionally, if this Bill fails to get 71 votes this measure will be completely lost. The issue of gun violence is an issue that there are many points of view on. As someone who has seen gun violence in my community, I will continue to advocate and advance legislation I think will protect the state and make it safer. Those that support the rights of hunters and sportsmen will continue to advocate on issues that they believe in. And this Body is a place that we will look... actively debate and vote on those issues. But Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, today is not that day. We need to be focused on the budget of our state. That is our collective priority. If you support this legislation, I

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95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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would ask that you work with me to get it passed. If you oppose it, I respect your point of view and I look forward to actively debating this issue with you fully at the appropriate time. If you are undecided, myself and others will talk to you about the merits of this Bill and there will a point in time when we will vote on this. But regardless of where you stand on this issue, we are... united today to say that our first priority is passing the budget for the State of Illinois and for the people of the State of Illinois. And with that, Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I would move that we would adjourn this Special Session. Thank you."

Speaker Turner: "Seeing no further speakers, the Gentleman asks leave to... the Gentleman move to adjourn the Eighth Special Session. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'no'. The opinion of the Chair is the... the Eighth Special Session will be adjourned until Thursday, July 12, at the hour of 1 p.m."