

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE  
TWENTY-FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

1st Legislative Day

7/9/2008

Speaker Hannig: "Okay, the Twenty-first Special Session will come to order. Representative Lang asks leave to use the Quorum Roll Call from the Twentieth Special Session for Twenty-first Session. Is there any objection? There is no objection. Leave is granted and a quorum of the House is present. Mr. Clerk, read the Governor's Proclamation."

Clerk Mahoney: "WHEREAS, the Illinois Constitution requires the General Assembly, by law, to make appropriations for all expenditure of public funds for each fiscal year for the operations of State government, departments, authorities, and public agencies, among other things;

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 2(b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970 requires the General Assembly to pass a balanced budget in which appropriations for the fiscal year do not exceed funds estimated to be available during that year;

WHEREAS, the General Assembly passed four appropriations bills for the expenditure of public funds for Fiscal Year 2009;

WHEREAS, the appropriations passed by the General Assembly for Fiscal Year 2008 (sic-2009) exceed funds estimated to be available during that year and thus render the budget passed by the General Assembly unbalanced by approximately \$2 billion, in clear violation of Article VIII, Section 2(b) of the Illinois Constitution;

WHEREAS, the Illinois Senate has passed several funding solutions, including a capital bill and a fund transfer

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bill, among other things, that if enacted could support a balanced budget;

WHEREAS, the capital bill which has overwhelmingly passed the Senate not only provides additional funding solutions to support a balanced budget, but also spurs the economy by creating approximately 600,000 jobs across Illinois;

WHEREAS, the leadership of the House of Representatives refused to present any of the funding solutions passed by the Illinois Senate to the House for a vote of the body prior to adjourning on May 31, 2008;

WHEREAS, during debate on the House floor on May 29, 2008, several representatives acknowledged that the spending measures the House was considering (and ultimately passed) lacked supporting revenues;

WHEREAS, on the day the appropriation bills were passed by the Illinois House of Representatives, numerous representatives questioned the constitutionality of knowingly passing a budget that was grossly unbalanced;

WHEREAS, it was emphatically noted on the House floor that intentionally passing an unbalanced budget under the premise that it would be balanced by the Governor did not comport with the General Assembly's constitutional duty to pass a balanced budget;

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2008, I called upon the House of Representatives to pass the funding solutions already passed by the Illinois Senate by July 9, 2008, in order to bring the budget into balance;

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WHEREAS, the leadership of the House of Representatives has refused to call the House into session to deal with the grossly unbalanced budget passed;

WHEREAS, according to the Comptroller, a budget must be in place prior to July 9, 2008, in order to prevent the interruption of the operations of State government; and

WHEREAS, unless the General Assembly passes revenue generating measures to support a balanced budget, I will have no choice but to make significant cuts to State services and sponsored programs, thereby causing great harm to the citizens of this State, which could be avoided;

THEREFORE, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5(b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby call and convene the 95th General Assembly, in duly constituted quorums capable of conducting business, in a special session to commence on July 9, 2008, at 2:28 p.m., to (a) consider any measures, including but not limited to Senate Bill 790, House Bills 6339, 2651, 4723, 1496, and 5618, which would provide the necessary revenue to support the appropriations contained in House Bill 5701, and Senate Bills 1102, 1115, and 1129, and (b) accept and immediately enter in the journal any veto, line item veto, or reduction veto of any appropriation bills returned by the Governor. Sign by Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois."

Speaker Hannig: "Mr. Clerk, Introduction of Resolutions."

Clerk Mahoney: "Introduction of Twenty-first Special Session House Resolution #1 and introduction of Twenty-first Special Session House Resolution #2."

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Speaker Hannig: "The Chair recognizes Mr. Lang."

Lang: "Mr. Speaker. I move for the immediate consideration and suspension of applicable House Rules for the adoption of Twenty-first Special Session House Resolutions 1 and 2."

Speaker Hannig: "You've heard the Gentleman's Motion. All in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Motion is adopted. The Chair recognizes Representative Lang."

Lang: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Clerk please read Twenty-first Special Session House Resolutions 1 and 2?"

Clerk Mahoney: "Twenty-first 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 Twenty-first 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, including the House Journal Review Committee and their membership, shall constitute the Committees of the House during this Twenty-first Special Session. Twenty-first 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 Twenty-first Special Session of the General Assembly, and are now ready for the transaction of business."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Mr. Lang, moves for the adoption of the Twenty-first Special Session Resolutions 1 and 2."

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All in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'aye's have it. And the Resolutions are adopted. Representative Black for what reason do you arise?."

Black: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Inquiry of the Chair, of a serious note. Can you give us some indication what the schedule will be like tomorrow, i.e., specifically it's my understanding that there were some... line item Veto's, and reduction Veto's filed today with the Senate. Is it your understanding that we also will act on gubernatorial Vetoes tomorrow or... are you prepared to say what that might be?"

Speaker Hannig: "I don't think a decision has been made on that, Representative. Our staff was beginning the process of analyzing I believe about six hundred (600) Vetoes that the Governor has... has exercised. So I'm not sure when we will be prepared for that, Representative."

Black: "But you don't... regardless, you don't anticipate us... it would not be your intent that we here on Friday. We can't be, without another Special Session call, can we? Not that I want to give the Governor any ideas about another Special Session call. But..."

Speaker Hannig: "It's... I would just... let me just say it's not our intention to be here on Friday."

Black: "All right. ...If you could enlighten us at the earliest opportunity, not only for staff's sake, but for many of our sake... because we're rapidly approaching the drop-dead date on the July payroll. And if he is not going to sign the budget but has in fact has sent us over six hundred (600)

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line item or reduction Vetoes. My concern is that we will have to take some action so that we'd have some kind of operational budget in order to meet the July payroll. That is my only concern at this time."

Speaker Hannig: "Actually, I think Representative for those items that are not effective by Vetoes, those items that are not in many way challenged by a Veto, those items are now final. The only items that remain in dispute are the items that the Governor has used... has exercised his Veto option."

Black: "All right. Has he, in fact, signed a budget document after he sent the Vetoes? And ...I'm not trying to be difficult, Speaker."

Speaker Hannig: "So in a normal..."

Black: "...there was a great deal of confusion on just what we're supposed to do tomorrow."

Speaker Hannig: "So in... in a year where we would send a Governor a budget and he may use his... exercise his Veto option and simply differ that 'til October or November when we come back, you'll recall that under those circumstances the balance of the budget that has not been vetoed becomes law."

Black: "So, that would become then the operating budget. Right? All right, fine. Thank you, very much."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Stephens."

Stephens: "Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of my seatmates wants to know if we are going to be voting on anything tomorrow."

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Speaker Hannig: "I think there will be items on the calendar to vote for tomorrow, Representative."

Stephens: "Outstanding. I... I have on my desk a note from the Governor is a news release, I guess. And he says that this is all our fault. The House failed to pass revenue to support two billion dollars (\$2,000,000,000) in spending and to force the Governor to make spending reductions. It reminds me of what's going on in Washington. There is an all-time low rating... President Bush is one of the most unpopular Presidents in our history's nation as long as we have been keeping polls. And many of us... my friends on the other side of the aisle continue to point that out 23 or 24 percent approval rating. Abysmal, absolutely abysmal. Now he's a Republican and we should be ashamed to have numbers so low. But, low and behold a new record has been set. Governor... excuse me, President Bush is indeed an heroic man. He has almost two and half times the approval rating of the United State's Congress. Single digits. Now what's the difference? We got a Republican with only 23 percent approval rating. A nation who's paying attention to what's going on in D.C. and in Springfield. Nine percent approval rating by the Democrat-led Congress. The Democrat House and the Democrat Senate have a 9 percent approval rating, 9 percent approval rating. I had a toothache that had a higher approval rating than nine percent. Mr. Speaker, I bring that up to point out the idiocy of what's going on here. We are called in for... for a lot of wasted verbiage today. The Governor has called us in tomorrow morning. We

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are going to deal with the budget cuts or we are not going to deal with the budget cuts. Who is running the insane asylum here? I'm remind... I'm reminded this is an election year. And I am also remind that this dysfunctional government where you, Mr. Speaker, point at the President of the Senate and say, it's his fault. The President of the Senate points at the Governor and Governor points at you. I wonder if you have anything in common. You do. You're Democrats. I want this Body to initiate a poll. I what to know what the popularity of the Illinois General Assembly is. I what to know if you, too, are in single digits, like your colleagues in Washington. Ladies and Gentlemen, members of the press, that I know that are just listening with... every bit of energy they have. If you love the way government works in Springfield, vote Democrat. We can do for the country what we've done for Illinois and that is put you in the toilet with the Speaker of the House and his hand is on the handle and he's ready to flush."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Dunkin, for what reason do you rise?"

Dunkin: "Okay. I'm... this is a process question. So, the Governor has submitted his Ve... his line item Vetoes today. What's our timeline in order to respond? Is it... do we have months, do we have until November, fifteen (15) days, or..."

Speaker Hannig: "Fifteen (15) days."

Dunkin: "...how does the process work?"

Speaker Hannig: "Fifteen (15) days."



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Dunkin: "Fifteen (15) days and can the Speaker convene us to help us address some of those issues or/and the Governor as well?"

Speaker Hannig: "Yes."

Dunkin: "So, yes, for both the Governor and the Speaker?"

Speaker Hannig: "That's correct."

Durkin: "So, fifteen (15) days from today we will experience cuts, the line item Vetoes?"

Speaker Hannig: "Well, the cuts, the cuts are in effect today, Representative, and we have fifteen (15) days to vote to restore."

Durkin: "Well, then... then the Supermajority of 71 votes here in this chamber."

Speaker Hannig: "Or in some cases where there's a reduction Veto it would require 60 votes."

Durkin: "Okay, as of today, those line item Vetoes are in effect or is it post the fifteen (15) days?"

Speaker Hannig: "At this point, the items that the Governor did not veto are in effect. The item that the Governor has veto are suspended, so to speak, and we have fifteen (15) to take action to override the Governor and if we don't do that, then they become final."

Dunkin: "Okay."

Speaker Hannig: "That's the process."

Dunkin: "Okay. So and... so what would happen in the other chamber in the Senate? They would have to comply or not, whether we hear it?"

Speaker Hannig: "It wouldn't... it... "

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Dunkin: "Because he filed both there and here... "

Speaker Hannig: "No, he files some of the Bills, four (4) of the Bills... three (3) of the Bills were Senate Bills and one of the Bills was a House Bill. The budget was on four (4) Bills. So, he'd send the message to the chamber of origin. So we have some and they have some."

Dunkin: "Thank you."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Schmitz."

Schmitz: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Inquiry of the chair."

Speaker Hannig: "State your point."

Schmitz: "I have a much simpler question. What time is the Executive Committee meeting and what location?"

Speaker Hannig: "We are going to meet at... in Room 118 immediately after adjournment."

Schmitz: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Black."

Black: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Inquiry of the Chair."

Speaker Hannig: "What's your inquiry?"

Black: "I just received a copy of a news release issued by Governor Blagojevich for immediate release July the 9th. Today is July 9th. House failure to pass revenue to support \$2 billion in spending force Governors to make spending reductions. When did we fail... isn't this a little premature. We've got a whole day left. How does he know what we're going to do? And I've have been here a few years and on any given day I'm not sure what we're going to do. I find this just a little bit ridiculous. House failure to pass revenue. Governor, we're here for two (2)

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days, we're not done yet. House failure to pass revenue to support two billion dollars (\$2,000,000,000) in spending forces Governor to make spending reductions. Have you seen they reductions? These aren't reductions, reductions are made by a scalpel, a sharp knife, doing the least damage possible. Good Lord, if you don't have this, read this. This is done with a dull axe. It will harm people, you don't have to do this. And you did it on July 9th, before we're even finished with your two-day Special Session. On behalf of my constituents, who the hell is running this ship?"

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Winters."

Winters: "Inquiry of the Chair. As we are looking at tomorrow's news today, I'm still paging through this, has anybody found tomorrows winning lottery numbers, yet?"

Speaker Hannig: "We sold'em. So, allowing perfunctory time for the Clerk, Representative Lang moves that the Twenty-first Special Session stands adjourned until tomorrow at the hour of 9 a.m. All in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. The Motion is adopted and the Special Session stands adjourned. And just to advise the Members, the Executive Committee will meet in Room 118. Immediately we will meet in Room 118, immediately."

Clerk Mahoney: "The House Twenty-first Special Session Perfunctory Session will come to order. Messages from the Governor. To the Honorable Members of the House Representatives of the Ninety-fifth General Assembly. Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(d) of the Illinois

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Constitution of 1970. I hereby veto and reduce several appropriation items included in the following House Bill, House Bill 5701. Signed Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois. There being no further business, the House Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."