

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

1st Legislative Day

8/13/2008

Speaker Madigan: "The House shall come to order. The Members shall be in their chairs. We ask the Members and our guests in the gallery to turn off lap top computers, cell phones, and pagers. We ask our guests in the gallery to rise and join us for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. We shall be led in prayer today by Wayne Padget the assistant doorkeeper."

Wayne Padget: "Let us pray. Dear Lord, bless this House and all that serve here, Amen."

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

Harris - 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. Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you Sp... thank you... thank you, Speaker. Please let the record reflect that Representatives: Acevedo, Brosnahan, Burke, Collins, Crespo, Will Davis, Graham, Lyons, Patterson, Rita, Scully, Soto, and Feigenholtz are excused."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Schmitz."

Schmitz: "Thank you, Speaker. If the record could please reflect the following Republican Members are absent today... excused Representatives: Bassi, Beaubien, Black, Bost, Coladipietro, Dunn, Krause, Munson, Rose, Sullivan, Tryon, Watson, and Schock."

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Speaker Madigan: "The Clerk shall take the record. There being 91 Members responding to the Attendance Roll Call, there is a quorum present. Mr. Clerk, do you have a proclamation from the Governor?"

Clerk Mahoney: "Proclamation from Governor Rod Blagojevich.

WHEREAS, it has been nearly nine years since the Illinois General Assembly has passed a comprehensive capital infrastructure plan;

WHEREAS, a capital infrastructure plan will provide much needed resources into repairing and maintaining our State's roads, bridges, and schools, will spur economic development, and create and support thousands of new jobs;

WHEREAS, a capital infrastructure plan would further leverage additional federal and local funds for the State's infrastructure needs;

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2008, the Illinois Works Coalition was formed in order to engage a bipartisan working group which could draw expertise from business, labor, and local leaders across the State in order to focus attention and help pass a statewide capital infrastructure plan;

WHEREAS, the Illinois Works Coalition convened meetings with legislative leaders and citizens across Illinois to discuss a comprehensive plan that could pass both chambers of the General Assembly;

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2008, the Co-Chairs of the Illinois Works Coalition, former Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Dennis Hastert and Southern Illinois University President Glenn Poshard, announced the

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Coalition's recommendations for a \$34 billion comprehensive capital infrastructure plan;

WHEREAS, Illinois Senate President Emil Jones, Illinois Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson, Illinois House Minority Leader Tom Cross, numerous mayors, unions, and associations, and I have endorsed the \$34 billion comprehensive capital infrastructure plan proposed by the Coalition;

WHEREAS, the Illinois Senate has passed several bills which could fund the proposed capital infrastructure plan;

WHEREAS, the Illinois House of Representatives has failed to act on legislation necessary to fund the capital infrastructure plan;

WHEREAS, on July 31, 2008, the Illinois Works Coalition and I proposed a new \$25 billion capital infrastructure plan, which eliminated the need for expanded gaming as a funding source, in response to concerns raised by certain House representatives;

WHEREAS, the new proposed capital plan is supported by President Jones, Leader Watson, Leader Cross, and Co-Chairs of the Illinois Works Coalition, Speaker Hastert and President Poshard;

WHEREAS, the new proposed capital plan contemplates investments of more than \$14.4 billion in road projects, \$4.1 billion in education facilities, \$3.4 billion in public transit and rail, \$800 million in environment and water, \$310 million in State facilities, \$100 million in healthcare facilities, \$425 million in economic

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development, and more than \$1.4 billion in other critical infrastructure needs for the State of Illinois;

WHEREAS, according to a study conducted by Southern Illinois University, the new proposed \$25 billion capital plan would create 443,000 full-time new jobs, lead to \$32 billion in economic activity, and generate more than \$2.3 billion in State and local tax revenues; and

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 August 13, 2008, at 5:00 p.m., to consider the new proposed capital infrastructure plan, along with any other measures necessary to provide for the capital infrastructure needs of the State of Illinois. Signed by Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor State of Illinois."

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

Clerk Mahoney: "House Twenty-fourth Special Session Resolution #1 and House Twenty-fourth Special Session Resolution #2 are introduced."

Speaker Madigan: "Chair recognizes Representative Currie."

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

Speaker Madigan: "You've all hear the Lady's Motion. Those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have

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it. And the Motion is adopted. Chair recognizes Representative Currie."

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

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Clerk, read the Resolutions."

Clerk Mahoney: "Twenty-fourth 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-fourth 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 Twenty-fourth Special Session. Twenty-fourth 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-fourth Special Session of the General Assembly, and are now ready for the transaction of business."

Speaker Madigan: "Repre... Representative Currie moves for the adoption of the Twenty-fourth Special Session Resolutions 1 and 2. Those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Resolutions are adopted. Representative Currie moves that the House stand adjourned to a Perfunctory Session on Friday, August 15. Those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'."