

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

1st Legislative Day

9/22/2008

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 laptop computers, cell phones, and pagers. And 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 Lee Crawford, the Pastor of the Cathedral of Praise Christian Center in Springfield."

Pastor Crawford: "Let us pray. Most gracious and most kind God, the author and the finisher of our faith, Both the giver and the sustainer of our life, we come before You with a spirit of humility and with the heart of thanksgiving for the goodness and the blessings that You have bestowed upon us. I pray this day for this august Body. I pray for the Leader of this House, Speaker Madigan. I pray for Leader Cross. I pray for both sides, both caucuses, every Member. I pray today that they will lean not toward their own understanding, but rather in all their ways and their doings that they would acknowledge You and that they would acknowledge their need for You, That You would direct their path. And I pray today that that path, they would find peace, they would find rest, they would find wisdom and that they would find strength in You. This we pray in Your Son's name, Amen."

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

Mautino - et al: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands,

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one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice
for all."

Speaker Madigan: "Roll Call for Attendance. Representative
Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record reflect
that Representatives: Acevedo, Arroyo, Berrios, Rich
Bradley, Brosnahan, Burke, Colvin, Feigenholtz, Flowers,
Ford, Fritchey, Golar, Graham, Granberg, Hamos, Hernandez,
Joyce, Lyons, Mendoza, Molaro, Nekritz, Osterman, Riley,
Rita, Ryg, Scully, and Yarbrough are excused today."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Bost."

Bost: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let the record reflect that
Representative Bassi, Brauer, Coladipietro, Coulson, Dunn,
Durkin, Hassert, Krause, Mulligan, Meyer, and Pihos are
excused on the Republican side of the aisle."

Speaker Madigan: "The Clerk shall take the record. There being
80 Members responding to the Attendance Roll Call, there is
a quorum present. Let the record show that this is the
Attendance Roll Call for the Twenty-fifth Special Session.
Mr. Clerk, will you read the Governor's proclamation."

Clerk Mahoney: "WHEREAS, the people of the State of Illinois
deserve to have full faith and trust in the integrity of
governmental decision-making and the process by which
taxpayer dollars are spent; and

WHEREAS, I am committed to enhancing public trust in
government by promoting high ethical standards in the
procurement process and other areas of State government,

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and by supporting strong measures to enforce those standards; and

WHEREAS, I have signed an Executive Order that implements enhanced ethical standards in the State procurement process as applied to all State agencies under my jurisdiction and control; and

WHEREAS, to ensure full transparency in government and its decision making, it is imperative that all State elected officials adhere to the same high standards in ethics, and avoid transactions that may appear to compromise the independence of governmental decisions; and

WHEREAS, political contributions by State contractors to State elected officials or to political organizations that make expenditures on behalf of such officers contribute to public cynicism regarding the integrity of the government procurement process; and

WHEREAS, the potential for conflicts of interest created by dual governmental employment jeopardizes public trust in government; and

WHEREAS, to promote transparency, it is crucial that those State elected officials who lobby or appear before a governmental entity on behalf of clients, for economic gain, be required to disclose such information; and

WHEREAS, to ensure accountability, it is important that all increases in pay, whether for members of the executive or legislative branch, be subject to the affirmative approval of the General Assembly; and

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WHEREAS, I have proposed recommendations to House Bill 824 to enhance ethical standards by uniformly applying restrictions to political contributions by State contractors to all State elected officials who play a role in the procurement process, enhancing lobbying disclosures, prohibiting dual public employment, and requiring an affirmative vote for executive and legislative pay raises; and

WHEREAS, these measures are intended to and will increase transparency, accountability, and public confidence in government; and

WHEREAS, given the significance of ethics in government, it is imperative that the General Assembly promptly engage in debate and discussion aimed at implementing comprehensive ethics reform in the State of Illinois.

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 September 22, 2008, at 1:00 p.m., to consider measures aimed at formulating and implementing comprehensive ethics reform.

Signed by. Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois.

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

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

Speaker Madigan: "The Chair recognizes Representative Currie."

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

Speaker Madigan: "You've all heard the Lady's Motion. Those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it and the Motion is adopted. The Chair recognizes Representative Currie."

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

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Clerk."

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

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Currie moves for the adoption of the Twenty-fifth Special Session Resolutions 1 and 2.

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Those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. The Resolutions are adopted. Seeing no further business, the House Majority Leader Representative Currie, moves that the Twenty-fifth Special Session adjourn until Tuesday, September 23, 2008 at 11 a.m. Those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it and the Motion is adopted and the House now stands adjourned."