

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
96th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

1st Legislative Day

6/23/2009

Speaker Mautino: "The hour of 2:00 having arrived, this Special Session of the House will come to order. Members shall be in their chairs. We ask the Members to turn off laptop computers, cell phones and pagers. We ask our guests in the gallery to stand and join us for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. We will be led in prayer today by Lee Crawford, the pastor of the Cathedral of Praise Christian Center in Springfield, Illinois. Mr. Crawford."

Pastor Crawford: "Let us pray. Most gracious and most sovereign God, we're thankful that You have allowed us to see yet again another day. I pray for this august assembly. I pray for the Leader of this House. I pray for all of its Members. God, we pray for this great State of Illinois. We pray for its Governor. We pray also this day for the entire General Assembly. God, Your Word said that a House divided cannot stand, so we pray for a spirit within every caucus, both in the House, both Democrat both Republican, as well as in the Senate, as well as in the Governor's cabinet, that there's a spirit of willingness, that there's a spirit of compromise, that there's a voice that speaks loud and speaks clear on the behalf of those who are weakened, those who are hurting and those that are bruised. I pray God, today, that You would give them the strength and the boldness to make the tough decisions. So I ask that You will grant them wisdom this day throughout their deliberations. This we ask in your Son's name, Amen."

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Speaker Mautino: "We'll be led in the Pledge of Allegiance today by Representative John Bradley."

Bradley - 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 Mautino: "Roll Call for Attendance. Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record reflect the excused absences of Representatives Arroyo, Hamos, and Jakobsson."

Speaker Mautino: "Representative Bost."

Bost: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, let the record reflect that Representative Black, Coladipietro, Cole, and Mathias are excused on the Republican side of the aisle today."

Speaker Mautino: "Mr. Clerk, take the roll. 107 voting 'present', a quorum is present, and the House shall be in order. Mr. Clerk, please read the Governor's Proclamation."

Clerk Mahoney: "Proclamation 2009-203."

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2009, I took the Constitutional oath of office to become Governor of the State of Illinois, solemnly swearing that I would "support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Illinois," and that I would "faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Governor to the best of my abilities"; and

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WHEREAS, my oath of office requires that I serve the people of the State of Illinois by ensuring that government operates responsibly; and

WHEREAS, the same oath imposes on me the equally important duty to protect our state's most vulnerable citizens; and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 2(a) of the Illinois Constitution requires the Governor to prepare and submit a state budget for the ensuing fiscal year that sets forth the estimated balance of funds available for appropriation at the beginning of the fiscal year, the estimated receipts, and a plan for expenditures and obligations during the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 2(a) of the Illinois Constitution further provides that proposed expenditures shall not exceed funds estimated to be available for the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2009, I presented to the General Assembly and the people of the State of Illinois a fiscally prudent and socially responsible budget solution; and

WHEREAS, my budget proposal reforms, streamlines, and funds government adequately with shared sacrifice in furtherance of the common good; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly enacted wide-ranging ethics reforms and structural reforms to the operations of state government; and

(sic-WHEREAS, as one component of my administration's ongoing commitment to reform, I remain strongly supportive of

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legislation that would have dramatically reduced the state's unfunded pension liability while meeting our commitments to existing and future retirees; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly enacted a budget which will require severe reductions in programs, grants, and services that the people of our state depend upon, due to insufficient financial resources; and

WHEREAS, on May 30, 2009, the Illinois Senate approved House Bill 174, an important step towards fiscal solvency and social responsibility; and)

WHEREAS, other measures currently pending in the General Assembly may help State avoid a grave fiscal crisis; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 5(b) of the Illinois Constitution empowers the Governor, as Chief Executive, to convene special sessions of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Section 3 of the Special Session Act, 25 ILCS 15/3, directs the Secretary of State, upon receipt of a Gubernatorial proclamation convening a special session, to take "whatever reasonable steps necessary to notify the members of the General Assembly of the date and time of the special session."

THEREFORE, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5(b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby call and convene the 96th General Assembly in a special session to commence on June 23, 2009, at 2:00 p.m., for the purpose of considering any legislation, new or pending, which will address the fiscal crisis confronting our State, and

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additional ethics reform, including, but not limited to legislation that:

1. Continues to reform the operations of state government to ensure ethical conduct, transparency, and accountability; and
2. Reforms and restructures the State's pension systems to ensure sustainability, affordability, and solvency; and
3. Empowers the electors to adopt an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Illinois in the November, 2010, general election that would establish a crucial structural reform: recall; and
4. Invests in projects that revitalize and expand our state's infrastructure, creating employment opportunities; and
5. Enables the state to have sufficient resources to meet its financial obligations and to have a responsible Fiscal Year 2010 budget. Signed by Pat Quinn, Governor for the State of Illinois dated June 18, 2009."

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

Clerk Mahoney: "House Special Session Resolution #1 and House Special Session Resolution #2 are adopted are introduced."

Speaker Mautino: "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 immediately adopt Special Session House Resolutions 1 and 2."

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Speaker Mautino: "You've heard the Lady's Motion. All in favor signify by saying 'aye'; 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 Special Session House Resolutions 1 and 2."

Speaker Mautino: "Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Mahoney: "Special Session House Resolution #1.

RESOLVED, that the Rules of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Sixth General Assembly be adopted as the Rules of the Special Session, so far as the same may be applicable, and that the Committees of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Sixth General Assembly, shall constitute the Committees of the House during this Special Session.

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 Special Session of the General Assembly, and are now ready for the transaction of business."

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

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Clerk Mahoney: "Rules Report. Representative Barbara Flynn Currie, Chairperson from the Committee on Rules, to which the following legislative measures and/or Joint Action Motion were referred, action taken on June 23, 2009, reported the same back with the following recommendations: 'approved for floor consideration,' 'referred to the Order of Second Reading' is Senate Bill 265, Senate Bill 2052; 'referred to the Order of Senate Bills-Third Reading' is Senate Bill 349, Senate Bill 1846, and Senate Bill 1959."

Speaker Mautino: "Representative Osmond."

Osmond: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Republicans would like to caucus immediately in Room 118."

Speaker Mautino: "Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, the plan for today and tomorrow is the Republicans will caucus in 114... the Republicans will caucus in Room 118, thank you. Democrats will caucus in 114. There will be House Committees that will be scheduled for Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. Session will be a 10 a.m. The caucuses will meet. The House will not be returning to the chamber this afternoon. Be prepared for committees and floor action tomorrow. Seeing no further business, the House Majority Leader Representative Currie moves the Special Session adjourn 'til Wednesday, June 24 at 10 a.m. All those in favor say 'aye'; opposed say 'no'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it and the Motion is adopted. The House stands adjourned. Caucuses will meet in the appropriate rooms."