

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
98th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE  
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

1st Legislative Day

1/8/2015

Speaker Madigan: "The Special Session of the House of Representatives will now come to order. We ask the Members to please be in their chairs. Would the Members please take their seats? 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. Oh Holy God, who are sovereign in all of your ways, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, the God omnipotent, the God omniscient, God on omnipresent. We ask and pray Your blessings upon this great and august Assembly, upon the Speaker of this House and all of its Members. And gracious God, may You impress upon their hearts to do that which honors You the most, to do that which brings You the glory and the honor. God, as they deliberate this day, may You grant them wisdom, may You grant them strength. God, may You give them insight into Your perfect plan. God, will you forever lead them and direct them with Your most precious spirit, that they will dream new dreams, see new possibilities and look forward with great hope and find rest in Your blessed promises and Your calmed assurance. This we pray and ask in Your Son's name, Amen."

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

Harris, G. - 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."

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Currie: "Thank you, Speaker, and Members of the House. Please let the record show that Representatives Bradley, Dan Burke and DeLuca are excused today. Now, my understanding is that some of our Members are delayed getting here because there has been some kind of highway wreck near Bloomington. I don't have a list of all the people who are so... so delayed, but they will come along, they will be here when the... when the traffic complication is taken care of. So, they will sign in when they get here."

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Bellock."

Bellock: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd now like to announce who's absent on our side of the aisle. Anthony, Brauer, Cross, Harms, Hatcher, Pihos, Poe, Ives. Thank you very much."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Clerk, take the record. There being 99 people responding to the Attendance Roll Call, there is a quorum present for this Special Session of the House. Mr. Clerk, read the Governor's Proclamation."

Clerk Hollman: "The Proclamation of the Governor.

WHEREAS, we grieve the unexpected loss of a true public servant, State Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka; and

WHEREAS, under Article V, Section 7 of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, there is a vacancy in the office of State Comptroller that must be filled by appointment to maintain the day-to-day functions of State government; and

WHEREAS, the people of Illinois are best served by having elected statewide officers; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no process in Illinois law to replace by special election an appointee to the office of

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State Comptroller, although such a process is permitted under and contemplated by Article V, Section 7 of the Illinois Constitution of 1970; and

WHEREAS, the most fitting course of action following this tragedy is to empower the people of the State to elect a new Comptroller in a statewide special election; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Attorney General has urged that a law be passed to allow for a special session at the next General Election in 2016 to fill the office of State Comptroller through the General Election in 2018; 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;

THEREFORE, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5(b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby call and convene the 98th General Assembly in a special session to commence on January 8, 2015, at 11:00 a.m., for the purpose of considering any legislative measure, new or pending, that would provide for a special election for the office of State Comptroller. Signed Pat Quinn, Governor."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Clerk, on the Order of Resolutions."

Clerk Hollman: "Special Session House Resolution #1 and Special Session House Resolution #2 are offered by Representative Currie."

Speaker Madigan: "The Chair recognizes Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. I move for the suspension of the applicable House Rules so we can consider immediately Special Session House Resolutions 1 and 2."

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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. Mr. Clerk, please read Special Session House Resolutions 1 and 2."

Clerk Hollman: "Special Session House Resolution #1.

RESOLVED, that the Rules of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Eighth General Assembly be adopted as the Rules of this Second Special Session, so far as the same may be applicable, and that the Committees of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Eighth General Assembly, and their membership, shall constitute the Committees of the House during this Second Special Session. 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 Second Special Session of the General Assembly, and are now ready for the transaction of business."

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Currie moves for the adoption of Special Session Resolutions 1 and 2. Those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Resolutions are adopted. The House is prepared to adjourn the Second Special Session and proceed with the Third Special Session and the business at hand. Representative Currie moves that the Second Special Session adjourn sine die. Those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Second Special Session is adjourned sine die."