



SENATE JOURNAL

STATE OF ILLINOIS

NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

7TH LEGISLATIVE DAY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2005

11:09 O'CLOCK A.M.

SENATE
Daily Journal Index
7th Legislative Day

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SJR 0008	Adopted	7
SJR 0009	Committee on Rules	5
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The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

Senator Debbie DeFrancesco Halvorson, Kankakee, Illinois, presiding.

Prayer by Father Chuck Edwards, Little Flower Catholic Church, Springfield, Illinois.

Senator Maloney led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Wednesday, February 2, 2005, was being read when on motion of Senator Hunter, further reading of same was dispensed with and unless some Senator had corrections to offer, the Journal would stand approved. No corrections being offered, the Journal was ordered to stand approved.

REPORT FROM RULES COMMITTEE

Senator Viverito, Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, during its February 3, 2005 meeting, reported the following Senate Bills have been assigned to the indicated Standing Committees of the Senate:

Agriculture & Conservation: **Senate Bills Numbered 15, 123, 124, 214, 215 and 236.**

Appropriations I: **Senate Bills Numbered 60 and 225.**

Commerce & Economic Development: **Senate Bills Numbered 7, 14, 16, 17, 82, 84 and 113.**

Education: **Senate Bills Numbered 2, 4, 10, 31, 41, 47, 58, 64, 68, 69, 81, 87, 88, 161, 162, 163, 176, 211, 212 and 223.**

Environment & Energy: **Senate Bills Numbered 8, 67, 90, 93, 96, 105, 109, 110, 130, 146, 149, 237, 238 and 239.**

Executive: **Senate Bills Numbered 1, 19, 46, 51, 52, 122, 226 and 235.**

Financial Institutions: **Senate Bills Numbered 23, 173 and 209.**

Health & Human Services: **Senate Bills Numbered 3, 11, 24, 26, 63, 70, 89, 116, 142, 157, 159, 197, 199, 200, 201, 224, 231, 232 and 242.**

Higher Education: **Senate Bill No. 131.**

Housing and Community Affairs: **Senate Bills Numbered 75, 91, 101, 129, 166, 167, 191, 192, Senate Resolution 29 and Senate Joint Resolution 2.**

Insurance: **Senate Bills Numbered 12, 32, 132 and 220.**

Judiciary: **Senate Bills Numbered 18, 20, 30, 42, 45, 48, 50, 53, 55, 56, 57, 65, 71, 72, 73, 74, 78, 92, 95, 97, 98, 100, 102, 104, 107, 121, 135, 154, 155, 165, 174, 186, 189, 190, 194, 196, 203, 208, 219, 233, 241 and 243.**

Labor: **Senate Bills Numbered 6, 9, 37, 77, 103, 143, 164 and 170.**

Licensed Activities: **Senate Bills Numbered 86, 139, 140, 141, 158, 183, 184, 202 and 205.**

Local Government: **Senate Bills Numbered 22, 94, 153, 168, 169, 171, 172, 185, 187, 204, 207, 221 and 227.**

Pensions and Investments: **Senate Bills Numbered 21, 27, 34, 36, 38, 49, 134, 217 and 234.**

Revenue: **Senate Bills Numbered 29, 61, 79, 80, 83, 85, 112, 115, 125, 126, 133, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 198 and 230.**

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State Government: **Senate Bills Numbered 13, 40, 118, 120, 136, 137, 156 and 195.**

Transportation: **Senate Bills Numbered 5, 25, 28, 54, 62, 66, 99, 106, 117, 119, 127, 128, 160, 193, 206, 210, 216, 218, 228, 229 and 240.**

EXCUSED FROM ATTENDANCE

On motion of Senator DeLeo, Senators Clayborne and Silverstein were excused from attendance due to legislative business in their districts.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 37

Offered by Senator Lightford and all Senators:
Mourns the death of Harold George McKay

By unanimous consent, the foregoing resolution was referred to the Resolutions Consent Calendar.

Senator Rauschenberger and all Republican Senators offered the following Senate Resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Rules:

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 38

WHEREAS, This past week, the Iraqi people were able to participate in a free election for the first time in 50 years and showed the world that they supported democracy with a greater-than 60% voter turnout in that country ruled by a brutal dictator only two years ago; and

WHEREAS, It was a stated objective of Operation Iraqi Freedom to liberate the people of Iraq from a violent oppressive regime that supported terrorism in other countries and that took pleasure in the events of September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, On Sunday, January 30, 2005, an historic election took place in Iraq - and around the world - to elect a 275-member Transitional National Assembly which will draft Iraq's new constitution to be presented to the Iraqi people for their approval in a national referendum in October 2005; and

WHEREAS, A voter-registration list of 14.3 million names was compiled in six weeks and more than 500 voter registration centers were established to help Iraqis verify their registration and on election day, Iraqis voted at approximately 5,200 voting centers across Iraq; and

WHEREAS, International support for the Iraqi election has been essential using military forces from 28 nations working alongside Iraqi forces to help establish stability and security throughout Iraq; and

WHEREAS, We recognize the Illinois men and women who paid the ultimate price to protect our country. We also recognize those who have come home with injuries sustained in the War on Terrorism on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, We owe all of our Illinois sons and daughters a great debt of gratitude for putting themselves in harm's way to protect us here at home and for giving the people of Iraq and Afghanistan a real opportunity for Freedom, Liberty, Democracy and Self-determination; and, therefore be it ; and

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Illinois Senate congratulates the Iraqi people on conducting a successful election and extends best wishes in their efforts to establish a Democratic government; and be it further

RESOLVED, In this first week after the Iraqi national election, the Members of the Illinois Senate
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want to once again thank the Illinois men and women who make up our National Guard and Reserve units and who are members of the regular military for their service in Iraq; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution shall be delivered to President George W. Bush and to the Members of the Illinois Congressional delegation.

Senator Harmon offered the following Senate Resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Rules:

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 39

WHEREAS, Riverboats licensed under the Riverboat Gambling Act generate millions of dollars in revenue each year for the communities in which they dock; and

WHEREAS, The city of Elgin has received a vast windfall from the riverboats that dock within its borders; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Illinois Senate urges that, if a license authorizing riverboat gambling operations in Cook County is issued, any municipality in which riverboats dock pursuant to such a license enter into agreements with all other municipalities in Cook County, other than Elgin, to share the revenues generated by riverboat gambling conducted pursuant to such a license; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the top ranking municipal official in each municipality in Cook County.

Senator Crotty offered the following Senate Joint Resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Rules:

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9

WHEREAS, Tinley Park Mental Health Center (MHC) is an essential element in the network of mental health care providers serving Chicago's south side, south suburban Cook County, and Will, Grundy, and Kankakee counties; and

WHEREAS, Community-based agencies in this region provide outpatient therapy, housing assistance, and case management for many thousands of individuals with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC effectively functions as a safety net for community-based agencies that can refer mentally ill individuals to Tinley Park MHC when they are in crisis and represent a danger to themselves or others or are in need of more intensive psychiatric services; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC is a nationally accredited, highly regarded treatment center which offers an exceptional and comprehensive range of medical, social, and psychiatric supports to clients in acute phases of their illness; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC also functions as an essential alternative to incarceration for individuals with mental illness who engage in anti-social behavior that brings them into contact with law enforcement officials; and

WHEREAS, The communities served by Tinley Park MHC already suffer from a shortage of affordable, accessible mental health services; and

WHEREAS, With over 140 beds, Tinley Park MHC is the largest inpatient psychiatric treatment center in the region, with more than 2,000 admissions annually; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC has excelled at stabilizing individuals in crisis and aiding them to

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return to independent lives in their communities, with an average length of inpatient treatment of just ten days; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC maintains close working relationships with community-based mental health agencies and services, jointly developing discharge plans, linking patients with community resources, and providing transition services; and

WHEREAS, Those private hospitals in the region that do have inpatient psychiatric units frequently refer their poorest and most difficult patients to Tinley Park MHC and few have the comprehensive level of services that Tinley Park MHC offers; and

WHEREAS, As a State-operated facility, Tinley Park MHC treats patients who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage and is the only mental health resource in the region that reliably provides inpatient treatment to those who cannot pay; and

WHEREAS, The costs at Tinley Park MHC are more than 50% below those of comparable private hospitals in the area; and

WHEREAS, Although the Department of Human Services' (DHS) FY05 budget includes full-year funding for Tinley Park MHC, the budget narrative states that the budget is premised on the "closure and sale of the Tinley Park mental health facility"; and

WHEREAS, DHS has established a Metro South Planning Task Force to develop the best possible network of services for the Chicago "Southland" region; and

WHEREAS, The Cook County Board and more than two dozen Southland elected officials, as well as professional and advocacy organizations, have spoken out against closing Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, This broad consensus makes clear that closing down the Southland region's only public inpatient mental health center would violate the will of the affected communities; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC has a dedicated and skilled workforce with a unique body of experience in treating the most severely mentally ill; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that Chicago's South Side, South Suburban Cook County, Will County, Kankakee County, and Grundy County, all of which are now served by Tinley Park MHC, must continue to have a public inpatient mental health facility that can appropriately serve the most severely mentally ill; and be it further

RESOLVED, That if the Metro Task Force determines that the current Tinley Park MHC facility cannot continue to meet the needs of these communities, a new facility should be purchased or built; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Tinley Park MHC should remain open at its current location unless and until a new DHS-operated inpatient mental health center is opened in the Southland region; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department of Human Services maintain its full admission and service capacity at the Tinley Park MHC; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department of Human Services should continue to work to foster a comprehensive array of services throughout the region; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be delivered to the Secretary of Human Services.

Senator Viverito offered the following Senate Joint Resolution and, having asked and obtained unanimous consent to suspend the rules for its immediate consideration, moved its adoption:

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that when the two Houses adjourn on Thursday, February 3, 2005, the Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 15, 2005 at 12:00o'clock noon; and the House of Representatives stands adjourned until Monday, February 7, 2005, in perfunctory session; and when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 8, 2005, and when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Wednesday, February 9, 2005, and when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Thursday, February 10, 2005, and when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Monday, February 14, 2005, in perfunctory session; and when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 15, 2005.

The motion prevailed.

And the resolution was adopted.

Ordered that the Secretary inform the House of Representatives thereof and ask their concurrence therein.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**OFFICE OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT
STATE OF ILLINOIS**

EMIL JONES, JR.
SENATE PRESIDENT

327 STATE CAPITOL
Springfield, Illinois 62706

February 2, 2005

The Honorable Linda Hawker
Secretary of the Senate
Room 403 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Madam Secretary:

Pursuant to Senate Rule 3-3 (a), I am creating a special committee on education funding that will be called the Senate Select Committee on Education Funding Reform.

Please be advised that the Senate Select Committee on Education Funding Reform will consist of six members; 3 members of the majority caucus, including one Co-Chairperson, and 3 members of the minority caucus, including one Co-Chairperson.

Sincerely,
s/Emil Jones, Jr.
Senate President

cc: Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson
House Speaker Michael J. Madigan
House Minority Leader Tom Cross
Senator Miguel del Valle
Senator Dan Cronin

COMMUNICATION FROM MINORITY LEADER

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

[February 3, 2005]

FRANK C. WATSON
STATE SENATOR
51ST SENATE DISTRICT

February 2, 2005

Ms. Linda Hawker
Secretary of the Senate
401 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Madam Secretary:

Please be advised that, pursuant to Rule 3-2, I have made the following appointments to the standing committees of the 94th General Assembly as indicated on the attached.

These appointments are effective immediately. If you have any questions please contact my Chief of Staff, Brian McFadden, at 217-782-8184.

Sincerely,
s/Frank Watson
Senate Republican Leader

Attachment

cc: Senate President Emil Jones, Jr.
House Speaker Michael Madigan
House Republican Leader Tom Cross
Secretary of State, Index Division
Legislative Research Unit
Governor's Legislative Office
Scott Kaiser
Mark Mahoney

Agriculture & Conservation

Dahl Minority Spokesperson
Jones, J.O.
Luechtefeld
Winkel

Appropriations I

Syerson Minority Spokesperson
Rauschenberger
Lauzen
Radogno
Jones, W.

Appropriations II

Radogno Minority Spokesperson
Burzynski
Lauzen
Syerson
Rauschenberger

Appropriations III

Rauschenberger Minority Spokesperson
Radogno
Lauzen

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Althoff
Pankau

Commerce & Economic Development

Jones, J.O. Minority Spokesperson
Cronin
Syverson
Dahl

Education

Cronin Minority Spokesperson
Burzynski
Luechtefeld
Winkel

Environment & Energy

Sullivan, D. Minority Spokesperson
Rauschenberger
Rutherford
Dillard
Roskam

Executive

Roskam Minority Spokesperson
Petka
Sieben
Burzynski
Watson

Executive Appointments

Geo-Karis Co-Chair
Petka
Luechtefeld
Dillard

Financial Institutions

Rutherford Minority Spokesperson
Sieben
Peterson
Bomke

Health & Human Services

Righter Minority Spokesperson
Pankau
Syverson
Sieben

Higher Education

Winkel Minority Spokesperson
Burzynski
Luechtefeld
Righter

Housing & Community Affairs

Althoff Minority Spokesperson
Rauschenberger
Wojcik
Jones, J.O.

Insurance

Brady	Minority Spokesperson
Peterson	
Sieben	
Roskam	

Judiciary

Dillard	Co-Chair
Petka	
Roskam	
Winkel	

Labor

Pankau	Minority Spokesperson
Cronin	
Righter	
Jones, W.	

Licensed Activities

Wojcik	Minority Spokesperson
Peterson	
Dillard	
Sullivan, D.	

Local Government

Jones, W.	Minority Spokesperson
Risinger	
Dahl	
Althoff	

Pensions & Investments

Brady	Minority Spokesperson
Petka	
Righter	
Geo-Karis	

Revenue

Lauzen	Minority Spokesperson
Brady	
Jones, W.	
Pankau	

Rules

Petka	Minority Spokesperson
Roskam	

State Government

Risinger	Minority Spokesperson
Wojcik	
Althoff	
Bomke	

Transportation

Bomke	Minority Spokesperson
Radogno	
Sullivan, D.	
Risinger	

COMMUNICATION

STATE OF ILLINOIS
SENATE

SENATOR.
DENNY JACOBS

STATE CAPITOL
Springfield, Illinois
62706

February 3, 2005

Linda Hawker
Secretary of the Senate
Room 401, State Capitol
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Linda:

It is with mixed emotions I hereby tender my resignation from this august body effective Monday, February 7, 2005, at 6:00 p.m.

I say with mixed emotions because on the one hand I will miss the friendship and the fellowship of this fine, upstanding body of which I have been privileged to have served as a member for over 18 years.

On the other hand I will enjoy the freedom that retirement brings to map my time on my terms. Little does the electorate know of the time restraints that are placed on a legislator's personal time!

I would be remiss if I did not thank each and every one of you for the kindness and consideration you have shown me over these 18 plus years! I would also be remiss if I did not recognize and thank the voters of the 36th District for this tremendous opportunity to have served the people of that district and the people of the State of Illinois.

However, as the song goes, "you have to know when to hold em and know when to fold em" and it is my time to "fold em"!

In closing let me say "Thank You" to the three Presidents under which I served, Phil Rock, Pate Phillip and Emil Jones all of whom provided firm, decisive leadership.

As Bob Hope would say "Thanks for the memories".

Respectfully,
s/Denny Jacobs

cc: President Emil Jones
Minority Leader Frank Watson

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

A message from the House by
Mr. Mahoney, Clerk:

Mr. President -- I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has adopted the following joint resolution, in the adoption of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to-wit:

[February 3, 2005]

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the two Houses shall convene in Joint Session on Thursday, February 03, 2005 at the hour of 12:00 o'clock noon for the purpose of hearing his Excellency Governor Rod Blagojevich present to the General Assembly his Report on the Condition of the State, required by Article V Section 13, of the Constitution of the State of Illinois.

Adopted by the House, February 3, 2005.

MARK MAHONEY, Clerk of the House

By unanimous consent, on motion of Senator Viverito, the foregoing message reporting House Joint Resolution No. 12 was taken up for immediate consideration.

Senator Viverito moved that the Senate concur with the House in the adoption of the resolution.

The motion prevailed.

And the Senate concurred with the House in the adoption of the resolution.

Ordered that the Secretary inform the House of Representatives thereof.

RESOLUTIONS CONSENT CALENDAR

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

Offered by Senator Peterson and all Senators:

Mourns the death of Richard C. Reed of Deerfield.

SENATE RESOLUTION 11

Offered by Senator Link and all Senators:

Mourns the death of Virginia Ann Wirtz Balmes of North Chicago.

SENATE RESOLUTION 13

Offered by Senator Dillard and all Senators:

Mourns the death of Paul Maurer of Clarendon Hills.

SENATE RESOLUTION 14

Offered by Senator Dillard and all Senators:

Mourns the death of Frank Griseto of Downers Grove.

SENATE RESOLUTION 15

Offered by Senator Shadid and all Senators:

Mourns the death of James Paul Kellstedt, formerly of Peoria.

SENATE RESOLUTION 16

Offered by Senator Shadid and all Senators:

Mourns the death of Larry P. Smith of Peoria.

SENATE RESOLUTION 17

Offered by Senator Shadid and all Senators:

Mourns the death of Elizabeth A. Groves of Peoria.

SENATE RESOLUTION 18

Offered by Senator Haine and all Senators:

Mourns the death of Glendle G. Pickering of Maryville.

SENATE RESOLUTION 19

Offered by Senator Lauzen and all Senators:

Mourns the death of Bernard E. Cors of Aurora.

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SENATE RESOLUTION 20

Offered by Senator Lauzen and all Senators:
Mourns the death of Guy H. Bodor of Aurora.

SENATE RESOLUTION 21

Offered by Senator Lauzen and all Senators:
Mourns the death of Thomas J. McLean.

SENATE RESOLUTION 22

Offered by Senator Lauzen and all Senators:
Mourns the death of Louise Williams of Seneca.

SENATE RESOLUTION 23

Offered by Senator Petka and all Senators:
Mourns the death of John F. Whiteside of Joliet.

SENATE RESOLUTION 24

Offered by Senator Collins and all Senators:
Mourns the death of Robert E. Cherry, IV.

SENATE RESOLUTION 25

Offered by Senators Watson - Brady and all Senators:
Mourns the death of John F. May of Decatur.

SENATE RESOLUTION 26

Offered by Senator Link and all Senators:
Mourns the death of Trevor Lehmann of Wheeling.

SENATE RESOLUTION 27

Offered by Senator Lightford and all Senators:
Mourns the death of Katherine C. Crawford of Maywood.

SENATE RESOLUTION 28

Offered by Senator Geo-Karis and all Senators:
Mourns the death of U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Donald Bernard Farmer.

SENATE RESOLUTION 30

Offered by Senator Dillard and all Senators:
Mourns the death of Philip F. Motl of Darien.

SENATE RESOLUTION 31

Offered by Senator Shadid and all Senators:
Mourns the death of John P. "Jack" Driscoll of Peoria.

SENATE RESOLUTION 32

Offered by Senator Wilhelmi and all Senators:
Mourns the death of Mary Ann Stukel of Joliet.

SENATE RESOLUTION 33

Offered by Senator Wilhelmi and all Senators:
Mourns the death of John Whiteside of Joliet.

SENATE RESOLUTION 37

Offered by Senator Lightford and all Senators:
Mourns the death of Harold George McKay

Senator Halvorson moved the adoption of the foregoing resolutions. The motion prevailed.
And the resolutions were adopted.

At the hour of 11:54 o'clock a.m., the Chair announced that the Senate stand at recess for the purpose of proceeding to the House of Representatives to meet in a joint session pursuant to **House Joint Resolution No. 12.**

**JOINT SESSION
12:00 O'CLOCK NOON**

The hour having arrived, the time heretofore fixed by Joint Resolution adopted by the Senate and the House of Representative, the Joint Session convened for the purpose of receiving the Governor to deliver the State of the State Message in person to the Ninety-Fourth General Assembly.

The Senate, preceded by the Honorable President Jones, and Members of the Senate, appeared in the Hall of the House of Representative and, by direction of the Speaker, took the seats assigned to them.

The two Houses being convened in Joint Session, President of the Senate announced that a quorum of the Senate was present.

Speaker Madigan, of the House of Representatives, announced that a quorum of the House was present.

A majority of each House of the General Assembly being present, the Speaker of the House announced the Joint Session duly formed.

Representative Currie offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

JOINT SESSION RESOLUTION 1

RESOLVED, That a committee of ten be appointed, five from the House by the Speaker of the House, and five from the Senate by the President of the Senate, to wait upon His Excellency, Governor Rod Blagojevich, and invite him to address the Joint Assembly.

The motion prevailed.

The President of the Senate announced his appointments, as Members of such Committee, on the part of the Senate: Senators Deanna Demuzio, Kwame Raoul, Jeffrey Schoenberg, Dave Sullivan and Kathleen Wojcik.

The Speaker of the House announced the appointments, as Members of such Committee, on part of the House: Representatives Patricia Bellock, Tom Holbrook, Robin Kelly, Karen May and John Millner.

His Excellency, Governor Rod Blagojevich, was admitted into the Hall of the House of Representatives and was presented to the General Assembly to deliver his message in person as follows:

**STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS
Governor Rod Blagojevich
February 3, 2005**

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, distinguished guests, my fellow citizens.

Two years ago, we came to office with a mission to reform Illinois and restore faith in our government.

We had record deficits and an economy mired in a recession, the cost of health care and prescription drugs were going up, and the number of people covered was going down, our school system was spending more time on paperwork than on educating our kids, and there was more doubt than hope that we could turn things around.

But thanks to you and to the hard-working people of Illinois, I'm proud to say that the state of our state is strong and growing stronger.

Our economy is coming back. Last year, we created nearly 50,000 new jobs, and last month, the unemployment rate fell to its lowest level since October of 2001.

We eliminated a \$2.5 billion budget deficit, just one year after eliminating a record \$5 billion budget deficit.

We cut the size of state government. We consolidated 20 state agencies. We have the smallest workforce in thirty years. And we cut government spending in areas outside of education and health care by more than \$3 billion.

We cut the cost of prescription drugs through our I-Save program and expanded health care to 100,000 more parents and children.

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We raised the minimum wage by more than \$1 an hour, giving nearly 340,000 people a bigger paycheck so they can better provide for their families.

We made our highways safer, putting more than 100 new state troopers on the frontlines just last year, and we now have the lowest number of traffic fatalities since 1943.

We rescued twelve children through our new Amber Alert system and in the area of homeland security, Illinois has been recognized as a national leader for our Weapons of Mass Destruction teams.

I went to Washington and personally lobbied for approval of our hospital assessment plan. And it worked. In late December, we got some good news: \$490 million in new federal funding for our hospitals and nursing homes.

And after decades of bureaucracy and low achievement, we finally said enough to a school system that refused to put our kids first. We started cutting reams of red tape. Test scores are up. 17,000 more children can now go to pre-school. And we were able to invest more than a billion dollars in new education funding.

And we did it together. And we did it without asking the people to bail us out by paying more in income taxes or sales taxes.

We showed that in tough times we can make tough decisions. And we showed that in tough times, we can still move Illinois forward and help people build better lives.

Because whether you live in Pilsen, Plainfield, Peoria or Pinckneyville, all of us want the same things: a good job, a good education, access to health care, time with our family. And so the question for all of us here today is: what can we do to help the people of Illinois build better lives?

For children, it, of course, begins with a good education.

Last year, I asked you for the opportunity to bring major change to the State Board of Education. You gave us that opportunity. And we've run with it.

We completely eliminated the teacher certification backlog, which kept almost 7,000 teachers in limbo, and soon, we expect to eliminate hundreds of pages of rules and regulations, and simplify hundreds more. We are making the teacher certification process easier, so instead of filling out up to a hundred pages of forms, teachers will only have to fill out two or three. This means teachers and principals can spend less time satisfying bureaucrats and more time teaching children.

We are streamlining school report cards, providing meals to 40,000 more children, and cutting agency spending and using the savings to help schools consolidate. We've made it easier for kids in foster care to attend school, helped the Chicago Public Schools save their after school tutoring program, and in the Metro East area, we started a charter school so the high school kids in Venice can go to a school in their own community.

I am pleased to report to you that the process of change and reform at the State Board of Education is well underway.

And there's another thing I want the State Board of Education to do. Over the last two years, we expanded funding so that 17,000 kids who weren't able to attend pre-school now can attend pre-school. That's been a priority of mine, of Senate President Emil Jones, and of many of you in this chamber.

But did you know that if you're a child of an undocumented immigrant, you're not eligible to attend a publicly funded pre-school? That's not what the American Dream is supposed to be about. That's wrong and we're going to change that.

So I am asking the State Board of Education when they meet this month to vote to give every child in Illinois, including the children of undocumented immigrants, the right to go to pre-school.

And the same goes for health care. Health care is not a privilege, it's a right, and giving everyone access to health care is not only the right thing to do, it's the moral thing to do.

During the first two years of my administration, we have made expanding health care a principle upon which we would not compromise.

While other states have dealt with their budget deficits by retreating on health care, here in Illinois, we've advanced. So much so, that according to the Kaiser Foundation, Illinois now leads the nation in providing health care to children and working parents who otherwise wouldn't have it.

Last year, we watched spring turn to summer and stayed here in Springfield working in the longest overtime session in our state's history. We can all take great pride in that, and I'll tell you why. Because last year alone, thanks to the budget we enacted, 56,000 more men, women and children who didn't have health care, now have health care today.

And as for the cost of the medicine your doctor says you need, well, now in Illinois, you can get that same medicine made by the exact same company but now you can get it for 25-50% less. Every resident of Illinois can be a member of our I-Save Rx program. It doesn't cost anything to join. It's safe. It's affordable. And it's a way to help people afford the medicine they can't afford now.

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And let me tell you something else. We're just not going to sit back and continue to allow the big, powerful pharmaceutical industry to price gouge the senior citizens and working people of our state. People should be able to afford the medicine they need and they should be able to get the best price they can for it. That's what our I-Save program does. And the more people who know about it, the more people we can help.

But it's not just our seniors who are struggling with the high cost of health care. Ask any woman and she'll tell you: health care for women is more expensive than it is for men. In fact, during their reproductive years, women spend 68% more on health care than men do. But thanks to some of the things we've been able to accomplish together, that's starting to change.

The law now requires private insurance companies to cover female contraceptives. That's never been done before in Illinois. But we did it. And now women can save, on average, \$400 each year.

And that's not all we've been doing. We've expanded funding for breast cancer screenings, cervical cancer screenings and HIV/AIDS prevention. We created the Illinois Healthy Women program to help women avoid unplanned pregnancies.

But we can't make health care more accessible or more affordable if we can't keep doctors in our state. We need medical malpractice reform and we need it now. We can protect the personal assets of doctors, preserve the rights of injured people to bring their claims, and make sure insurance companies reduce their premiums.

Last session we tried to get something done. Nothing. I appointed a mediator this fall. Nothing. Only gridlock.

I know the lawyers are well represented around here. So is the medical society. And the hospital association. And the insurance industry. All of them wield a lot of influence.

But the Constitution gives us the power to make the rules. So let's do it. Let us pass real, meaningful medical malpractice reform; reform that protects doctors, lowers the cost of their insurance premiums, and encourages them to practice medicine in Illinois.

And while we're at it, we also need more nurses. There is a nursing shortage here just like there is across America. So I want to do two things. First, we are issuing \$5 million in grants so we can train more than 1,500 new nurses. And second, I'm directing the Department of Professional Regulation to make the licensing process easier for experienced nurses who are interested in relocating to Illinois from other states and from other countries.

But for people to build better lives, they need more than access to health care. They need the opportunity to earn a good living. They need the opportunity to have a good job.

Over the past two years, we've negotiated over 200 deals with companies to create and retain jobs throughout our state.

We've brought Target to DeKalb, Ameriquest to Schaumburg, PetsMart to Ottawa, Supervalu to Urbana, and Hospira to Lake Forest. We brought Hershey Foods to Edwardsville and kept 600

Wells Fargo jobs right here in Springfield. We helped DemirCo expand in Decatur, helped NTN Bower expand in Macomb, helped Hormel expand in Rochelle, and helped CCL expand in Danville. We helped Aisin expand in Marion, helped Ford expand in Chicago, and Chrysler expand in Belvidere. And we convinced BP Amoco to locate the headquarters for their new chemical subsidiary in Chicago.

We expanded funding for job training and worker development, so businesses have access to the skilled workforce they need. We created the Illinois Finance Authority to offer low interest loans to businesses interested in coming to our state.

We created Opportunity Returns, launched six regional plans already, and next week, we're launching new plans for the Central, East Central and Southeast regions.

We've already completed almost half of the Opportunity Returns projects. We've invested in small businesses like Maytag Herrin in Marion and Jaros Technologies in Collinsville. We built new entrepreneurship centers in Champaign, Macomb, Galesburg and in the Quad Cities, and we created technology incubators in Rockford and Peoria. And with your help, we can do even more.

These efforts are paying off.

Last year, 50,000 new jobs were created, hotel/motel receipts are up 11%, and I'm proud to say that the unemployment rate in Illinois has dropped to 5.8%, the lowest it has been since the aftermath of September 11th.

We held our ground, we said no to income tax increases, we said no to sales tax increases, and as the economy is starting to turn the corner, now is the time to seize the moment.

So today, we're seizing the moment with a new plan intended to help businesses reduce their costs, take advantage of our state's natural resources, and attract new industries. We will do whatever it takes to bring good jobs to every county in Illinois. And how will we do it?

By working to bring the growing homeland security industry to Illinois.

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By building the biggest coal plant built in the United States in the last twenty years.

By building the world's largest wind farm.

By developing the wine industry in Central and Southern Illinois.

By improving trade with other nations.

By building a South Suburban Airport in Peotone.

By taking on workers compensation costs.

By cutting needless regulations and red tape.

By creating one stop shopping for businesses who need state services.

By helping small businesses afford the high cost of health insurance.

And by not raising the personal income tax, or the corporate income tax, or the sales tax, so Illinois continues to be a place where businesses want to come.

Last year, the federal government, states, cities, and the private sector spent more than \$100 billion on homeland security needs, ranging from the filters that protect us from viruses and toxins to the wireless tracking devices that monitor the cargo on our ships. This is a growing industry. And the products that will keep America safe should be made right here in Illinois.

And why not Illinois?

Located in the center of the country, on the Great Lakes, connected to the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, home to O'Hare Airport and the nation's railroad hub, Illinois is the perfect place to do this.

We have a trained and eager workforce, a strong manufacturing infrastructure, excellent transportation, top notch military bases, and some of the best universities and research institutions in the world.

And we are working to bring these jobs to Illinois.

We are creating a division within the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity whose sole purpose is to encourage companies that make homeland security products to either come to Illinois or expand in Illinois. We're going to take existing tax credits and programs, and use them in new ways to give companies that make homeland security products the financial incentives they need to make their products here.

I'm asking our universities to work with us to develop a curriculum that trains our students to work in the homeland security industry. The better our workforce understands their industry, the more likely companies are to locate here.

And our military bases can serve as testing grounds for new homeland security products. It's critical that we do everything possible to not only keep our bases open, but that we expand them and make them more useful than ever. This initiative makes that possible.

Who knows? If we're successful, we might be able to produce gas masks in Rockford, make filters in Quincy, or develop sensors in Peoria. Because I don't know about you – but God forbid another attack occurs, it would be nice to know that when the firefighters in Collinsville put on their equipment, the masks they slip on their faces read "Made in America."

Part of protecting our homeland means being less dependent on foreign countries for our energy.

We have to be more energy self-sufficient. We can do that and create more jobs by turning to two things we have plenty of: wind and coal.

I am going to ask the Illinois Commerce Commission to increase the standard portion of our energy that comes from renewable sources like wind. And I'm going to ask the Illinois Finance Authority to look at new ways to provide financing for wind farms.

Our goal is to have 3,000 megawatts of wind power up and running by 2012. That's enough power for one million households. That's good for the environment and it's good for our economy.

Doing this could mean 1,000 new jobs over the next two years. It could mean \$2 billion in new investment over the next decade. And it could mean building the largest wind farm in the world in McLean County. We will submit our plan to the Illinois Commerce Commission next week, and I hope they approve it quickly.

And speaking of the environment, new technology gives us the opportunity to both mine Illinois coal and protect the environment. In the old days, you couldn't mine Illinois coal and protect the quality of our air. Now you can.

Peabody Energy is building a \$2 billion clean coal power plant in Washington County – a coal plant that's nearly three times cleaner than any coal plant built in Illinois. In fact, this is the biggest coal plant to be built in the nation in the last twenty years, and it's one of the largest projects ever built in the history of downstate Illinois.

This project will also create jobs.

2,500 new construction jobs, 450 new mining and operations jobs, and even more jobs will be on the way when new transmission lines are built. And these aren't just new jobs, they're also jobs that pay very good wages. The average salary will be over \$55,000 a year. And this coal plant will be one of the

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cleanest coal plants built in the entire country. Peabody Energy is spending more than \$500 million on new technology that control emissions and protect the environment.

We are doing our part by providing permits from the EPA, grants from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and more than \$1.7 billion in financing from the Illinois Finance Authority. And as we revive the coal industry, it cannot come at the expense of the environment. We need to reduce emissions that come from old, coal-fired plants. But if we unilaterally change emission standards, we put our power producers at a major competitive disadvantage, jeopardize the stability of the power grid, and since air knows no boundaries, we still face pollution from our five bordering states.

That's why our EPA is taking the lead by talking to the other Midwestern states about developing a regional emission standard for older coal plants. If we work together, we can protect jobs and the environment. In a few weeks, my tenure as Chair of the Midwest Governors Association begins, and I intend to make developing a regional standard to reduce coal emissions one of the top items on our agenda.

And speaking of air, what about airports?

O'Hare is the nation's busiest airport. It is the economic jewel of Chicago. It is also the economic jewel of our state. But, one of every four flights at O'Hare is delayed. We have to expand O'Hare airport, and nothing should stand in its way.

However, considering the explosive growth in Will County and the South Suburbs, expanding O'Hare isn't enough. We need another airport. And, if we build it, we can create 15,000 jobs in an area of our state that desperately needs jobs.

So I say let's build the Peotone Airport.

Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr.'s plan to build the Abraham Lincoln National Airport at Peotone will not compete with O'Hare for needed federal dollars, and during tough fiscal times like these, his plan to use private investment is both a welcome and innovative way to build an airport. I strongly support it. And I hope you do too.

In addition to Congressman Jackson, people like Will County Executive Larry Walsh and Senator Debbie Halvorson have a strong interest in the area. They know better than anyone what this airport means for the economy of Will County and the South Suburbs. I want to submit a plan to the FAA by this spring so people can start working and planes can start flying.

A few weeks ago, I spent a couple of days in Southern Illinois. It was a great visit. I met with community leaders who have come together and developed a shared regional vision for the growth of their economy. Part of that vision includes making Southern Illinois a tourist destination.

And one way to bring more tourists to the southern part of our state is to help the nascent wine industry in Illinois. That's why we should develop a campaign to promote Illinois wine. It's why we should fund research into production methods and product testing. It's why we should provide business consulting for Illinois wineries, and it's why I intend to declare September "Illinois Wine Month."

Another way to expand our economy is to expand our trade, because the more trade we conduct, the more jobs we create.

Illinois' industries export to nations across the world. We export machines, chemicals, and agricultural commodities. A couple of weeks ago, Speaker Madigan presented an idea to me to help increase our trade. His proposal calls for the creation of the Illinois Business Council. The council will be made up of business leaders throughout Illinois. They will host monthly leadership forums, create trade missions, help businesses enter new world markets, represent Illinois at trade shows, and market and promote our agricultural products. I like this idea because promoting trade is always better when it comes from the private sector.

The six ideas I just outlined will help bring new jobs to Illinois. But we also have to reduce the cost of doing business. One way to do it is by reforming our workers compensation system.

Illinois is the 19th most expensive state in the nation when it comes to workers compensation premiums. In fact, Illinois companies pay 40% more for workers comp than Michigan, Wisconsin and Indiana. We have to bring those costs down, and we can if we're willing to embrace reform.

The first reform is to get fraud out of the system. According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, fraud in workers compensation cases costs employers \$6.5 billion a year. Yet Illinois is only 1 of 11 states that does virtually nothing to stop it. How can that be? Who can be against fighting fraud? There's fraud throughout the system: from phony claims to doctors who over-bill to insurers who won't pay. We need to crack down on workers compensation fraud. So I am asking you to pass a law that creates an anti-fraud unit with real investigatory and subpoena powers.

We also have to find new ways to bring down costs. So I'm asking business leaders and labor leaders to come together and work with us on legislation that would lower workers compensation costs.

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We should consider setting provider fee schedules, so we know what medical providers can and can't charge. We should set hospital payment regulations, so there's consistency to what hospitals charge and what employers pay.

And we should require insurance companies to pay medical providers directly, instead of making the workers responsible. Every other state does this, and they do it for good reason: it prevents workers from having their treatment stopped while they fight with the insurance company over paying medical bills.

We can also reduce costs for businesses if we start cutting red tape and reduce regulations. You shouldn't have to know which state agency does what -- just to get the forms you need to manage your business.

So starting today, I'm happy to announce that our one stop shop is open for business. On our new website -- business.illinois.gov -- you can get your questions answered. You can download forms, licenses, and permits, and find information about different programs and incentives -- and you can do it easily and efficiently because the information they need is just a click away.

The first version of the site is up today, and we're going to keep expanding the site over the next year to make sure that doing business in Illinois keeps getting easier.

We're also creating a committee to review the burdensome rules and regulations that businesses face to see what we can eliminate, streamline or simplify, just as we're doing at the State Board of Education.

We're going to talk to business owners around the state to find out which rules and regulations they find excessive. We'll see whether they're really necessary or whether they can be made easier. This will be an on-going process, and as we learn of ways to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses, we will.

Finally, we have to help businesses save money on the high cost of health insurance. This is a problem that's only getting worse. Health care premiums for companies have risen by nearly 11% in the last year alone.

Let me give you a real life example. General Packaging Products has 100 employees in Chicago. In 1999, they spent \$215,000 on health care costs. Last year, they spent \$575,000 to insure the same number of employees. In 1999, employees with families at General Packaging spent \$10 per week on their insurance. Today, they spend \$49. And William Kellogg, the owner of General Packaging, spends an additional \$65,000 each year to give his employees free eye, ear and dental checkups.

Things can't keep going this way. It's not good for business and it's not good for families. That's why we're working with the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce to help small businesses save money on the cost of health insurance.

Here's what they do in Cleveland: 14,000 businesses, with 88,000 employees, save 15 percent on their health care costs by pooling their resources, and leveraging their buying power to lower their rates and reduce their expenses.

What we're proposing is a first time partnership between the State of Illinois and local Chambers of Commerce. It's modeled after what they're doing in Cleveland, only we would do it on a statewide level.

It's never been done before. And bringing down the cost of health insurance isn't going to be quick or easy. We're venturing into uncharted territory. But as the old adage says "nothing ventured, nothing gained." Adopting the Cleveland model gives us a chance to both help businesses save money and help more people get health insurance. We ought to give it a try.

Things are getting better. The economy has turned the corner. Tomorrow offers an abundance of possibilities and our jobs agenda will help us seize the moment.

But building a better life isn't just about having a good job or having good health care. It's about the quality of your life. How you live it. It's about being able to spend more time with your family. Nothing is more important than that.

It's the motivation behind our 10 year, \$5.3 billion plan to rebuild the entire Tollway system.

Yes, the plan means we will be able to knock down the toll booths and make Illinois the first state in the nation to bring Open Road Tolling to its entire system.

Yes, it means we will be able to add lanes to I-90 and I-294. Yes, it means we will be able to finally build I-355. Yes, it means we will create 252,000 new jobs, including 42,000 jobs this year alone. And yes, it means we can reduce carbon monoxide emissions by more than 40%.

But more important than all of that, it means parents can get home from work a little earlier, and spend a little more time with their children.

And we're doing the same thing across Illinois. We're improving I-74 in Peoria and rebuilding the McKinley Bridge near Granite City. We're upgrading Route 136 in Carthage, and fixing I-72 in Decatur, I-24 in Johnson County, I-39 in Rockford and the North Dirksen Parkway in Springfield.

That extra time can make all the difference in the world if it means helping your daughter with her homework or making it to your son's basketball game before the opening tip off. And it's even more important for single parents.

Today in Illinois, there are more than 300,000 single moms, struggling to make a living while raising their children, and doing this all by themselves. They shouldn't have to spend their free time hunting down the child support they're owed. They've got enough to do already.

Over the past two years, we've increased child support collections by more than \$100 million. And last year, we set a record by collecting \$950 million in delinquent child support payments. That's the largest dollar amount ever collected in Illinois. And this year, if present trends continue, we are on pace to collect over a billion dollars in outstanding child support. In Illinois, we are finally making deadbeat dads do what they're supposed to do: pay the child support they owe.

But we can do more. One of the greatest challenges in collecting child support is that deadbeat dads move from job to job and state to state. It's hard to keep track of them. So I'm directing the Department of Public Aid to help business owners identify which of their employees owe child support and when they identify them, immediately garnish their wages, so the money goes where it's supposed to go: to help support their children.

The Department of Public Aid will distribute almost 300,000 new handbooks to businesses. They will call employers, email them, track them down and make sure they know that their employees have responsibilities not just to the company, but to their children too.

And speaking of children, just before the holidays, I met with several moms in Naperville. They have kids at home, and like all moms, they worry about their children. Are they safe? Are they healthy? Are they eating their vegetables? Are they doing their homework? Who are they hanging around with? And what kind of games do they play?

Kids today are technologically sophisticated. In many families, they are far ahead of their parents. That's certainly the case with me.

Parents have a right to know what their kids are doing, and they have a right to know what games their children are playing, and what hidden dangers may be in those games.

For the same reason we don't allow kids to buy pornography, for the same reason we don't allow kids to buy cigarettes, for the same reason we don't allow kids to buy alcohol, we shouldn't allow them to go to stores and buy video games – video games that teach them to do the very things we put people in jail for – pick up prostitutes, join street gangs, kill police officers, even assassinate President Kennedy.

Buying these games should be up to parents, not children.

And don't believe the excuse that we don't need to act because stores won't sell these games to kids, because they do. And if you don't believe me, just ask Representative Paul Froehlich. Representative Froehlich just conducted a sting operation and found that 75% of the time, stores were willing to sell kids video games even though those games are not rated suitable for children. And what Representative Froehlich found here in Illinois was consistent with studies conducted nationwide by the Federal Trade Commission.

So I'm asking you to join me in helping parents by passing a bill that makes it illegal for kids to buy excessively violent and sexually explicit video games: video games where kids spend their free time simulating acts of murder, rape, decapitation, and dismemberment.

We also need to do more to help our veterans. For decades, Illinois' veterans have been shortchanged by the federal government. It's time we fight for those who fought for us. I'm proposing we increase the field staff at our Department of Veterans Affairs by 50% so we can do more to help veterans apply for and receive federal benefits. If we do this correctly, we can help Illinois' one million veterans collect over \$400 million in additional federal benefits each year.

Although I've announced a number of different ideas and programs, it all comes down to one basic concept: the responsibility of this government is to give families what they need to prosper.

If we can help people earn a good living, help businesses reduce their costs, if we can respect and protect people's paychecks, if we can give kids a good education, if we can give everyone access to good health care, keep people safe, and give families more time for the things that really matter, then we truly can deliver on our promise to the people of Illinois.

The last two years have been a good start. We've made our schools and the State Board of Education more accountable. We've provided significantly more funding and resources. We are leading the nation in offering health care to people who need it, we've brought down the cost of prescription

drugs for seniors and the uninsured, helped our hospitals and nursing homes, and we've given women better health care options.

We've made Illinois the best state in the nation when it comes to protecting our homeland security. We've made our highways safer, and added more state troopers.

We've turned the corner on the economy, created 50,000 new jobs last year, brought down the unemployment rate, and given women and those who work for the minimum wage a chance at a better life. We've launched a plan to rebuild our roads and help families spend more time together.

We've done a lot, but there's still more to do. I've outlined a plan to do it. But I need your help.

We can only accomplish all of this if we work together. We won't agree on every idea. We won't share all of the same values or priorities. But if we keep in mind just a few simple goals: better schools, affordable health care, safe communities, good jobs, and the value of family -- we can help people build better lives.

I'd like to conclude with an invitation: the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum will open on April 19. It will be the best Presidential Library and Museum in the nation, befitting the nation's greatest President. It will be an economic engine for Springfield and a point of pride for all of Illinois. I'd like all of you to join me at the opening.

Yes, there is more work to be done. But as Lincoln said, "The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time." If we remain determined to succeed, we can touch the lives of everyone in Illinois, and we will be better a state for it.

Thank you, God bless the people of Illinois, and God bless the United States of America.

At the hour of 1:00 o'clock p.m., President Jones moved that the Joint Assembly do now arise.
The motion prevailed.

AFTER RECESS

At the hour of 2:09 o'clock p.m., the Senate resumed consideration of business.
Pursuant to the Senate Rule 2-5(c)2 the Secretary of the Senate conducted the perfunctory session.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT STATE OF ILLINOIS

EMIL JONES, JR.
SENATE PRESIDENT

327 STATE CAPITOL
Springfield, Illinois 62706

February 3, 2005

Ms. Linda Hawker
Secretary of the Senate
Room 403 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Madam Secretary:

Please be advised that I have appointed the following Senator to serve on the Senate Select Committee on Education Funding Reform:

Senator Miguel del Valle, Co-Chairperson
Senator William Haine
Senator James Meeks

These appointments are effective immediately. If you have any questions regarding these appointments, please contact Courtney Nottage at 782-3920.

[February 3, 2005]

Sincerely,
s/Emil Jones, Jr.
Senate President

cc: Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson
House Speaker Michael J. Madigan
House Minority Leader Tom Cross

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

A message from the House by
Mr. Mahoney, Clerk:
Mr. President -- I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has concurred with the Senate in the adoption of the following joint resolution, to-wit:

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Concurred in by the House, January 13, 2005.

MARK MAHONEY, Clerk of the House

A message from the House by
Mr. Mahoney, Clerk:
Mr. President -- I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has concurred with the Senate in the adoption of the following joint resolution, to-wit:

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8

Concurred in by the House, February 3, 2005.

MARK MAHONEY, Clerk of the House

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 40

Offered by Senator Bomke and all Senators:
Mourns the death of Rita Ann Harmony of Springfield.

By unanimous consent, the foregoing resolution was referred to the Resolutions Consent Calendar.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SENATE BILL NO. 244. Introduced by Senator del Valle, a bill for AN ACT concerning liquor. The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 245. Introduced by Senator Halvorson, a bill for AN ACT concerning civil immunity. The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 246. Introduced by Senator Halvorson, a bill for AN ACT concerning appropriations. The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 247. Introduced by Senator Radogno, a bill for AN ACT concerning employment. The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

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SENATE BILL NO. 248. Introduced by Senator Shadid, a bill for AN ACT concerning transportation.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 249. Introduced by Senator Shadid, a bill for AN ACT concerning education.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 250. Introduced by Senator Cullerton, a bill for AN ACT concerning State government.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 251. Introduced by Senator Demuzio, a bill for AN ACT concerning civil law.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 252. Introduced by Senator Jacobs, a bill for AN ACT concerning public employee benefits.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 253. Introduced by Senator E. Jones, a bill for AN ACT concerning public employee benefits.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 254. Introduced by Senators Cullerton - Radogno - Halvorson - Sandoval - Viverito, Schoenberg and Garrett, a bill for AN ACT concerning health.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 255. Introduced by Senator del Valle, a bill for AN ACT making appropriations.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 256. Introduced by Senator Althoff, a bill for AN ACT concerning local government.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 257. Introduced by Senator Harmon, a bill for AN ACT concerning civil law.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 258. Introduced by Senator Harmon, a bill for AN ACT concerning State government.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 259. Introduced by Senator Shadid, a bill for AN ACT concerning education.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 260. Introduced by Senator Martinez, a bill for AN ACT making appropriations.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 261. Introduced by Senators Collins - del Valle - Silverstein - Pankau - Martinez, J. Jones and D. Sullivan, a bill for AN ACT concerning revenue.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 262. Introduced by Senator Link, a bill for AN ACT concerning revenue.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 263. Introduced by Senator Link, a bill for AN ACT concerning regulation.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 264. Introduced by Senator Righter, a bill for AN ACT concerning ethanol.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 265. Introduced by Senator Righter, a bill for AN ACT concerning appropriations.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 266. Introduced by Senator Ronen, a bill for AN ACT concerning regulation.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 267. Introduced by Senator Ronen, a bill for AN ACT concerning education.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 268. Introduced by Senator Ronen, a bill for AN ACT concerning education.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 269. Introduced by Senator Ronen, a bill for AN ACT concerning education.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 270. Introduced by Senators Dillard - Cullerton, a bill for AN ACT concerning business.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 271. Introduced by Senator D. Sullivan, a bill for AN ACT concerning regulation.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

[February 3, 2005]

SENATE BILL NO. 272. Introduced by Senator Lightford, a bill for AN ACT concerning local government.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 273. Introduced by Senator DeLeo, a bill for AN ACT concerning criminal law.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 274. Introduced by Senator DeLeo, a bill for AN ACT concerning government.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 275. Introduced by Senator DeLeo, a bill for AN ACT concerning education.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 276. Introduced by Senator Cullerton, a bill for AN ACT concerning health care.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 277. Introduced by Senator Haine, a bill for AN ACT concerning schools.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 278. Introduced by Senator Haine, a bill for AN ACT concerning business.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 279. Introduced by Senator Haine, a bill for AN ACT concerning regulation.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 280. Introduced by Senator Cullerton, a bill for AN ACT concerning health care.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 281. Introduced by Senator Shadid, a bill for AN ACT concerning education.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 282. Introduced by Senator Shadid, a bill for AN ACT concerning transportation.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 283. Introduced by Senator Cullerton, a bill for AN ACT concerning criminal law.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 284. Introduced by Senator Meeks, a bill for AN ACT concerning criminal law.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 285. Introduced by Senator Meeks, a bill for AN ACT concerning tobacco.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 286. Introduced by Senator Silverstein, a bill for AN ACT making appropriations and reappropriations.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 287. Introduced by Senator Silverstein, a bill for AN ACT concerning criminal law.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 288. Introduced by Senator Sandoval, a bill for AN ACT concerning the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 289. Introduced by Senator Sandoval, a bill for AN ACT in relation to housing.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 290. Introduced by Senator Righter, a bill for AN ACT concerning elections.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 291. Introduced by Senator Risinger, a bill for AN ACT concerning local government.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 292. Introduced by Senator Risinger, a bill for AN ACT concerning courts.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 293. Introduced by Senator Cronin, a bill for AN ACT concerning education.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 294. Introduced by Senator Lauzen, a bill for AN ACT concerning revenue.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 295. Introduced by Senator W. Jones, a bill for AN ACT concerning education.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 296. Introduced by Senator Cronin, a bill for AN ACT concerning revenue.

[February 3, 2005]

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 297. Introduced by Senator Cullerton, a bill for AN ACT relating to education.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

SENATE BILL NO. 298. Introduced by Senator Halvorson, a bill for AN ACT making appropriations.

The bill was taken up, read by title a first time, ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules.

At the hour of 2:14 o'clock p.m., pursuant to **House Joint Resolution No. 12**, the Chair announced the Senate stand adjourned until Tuesday, February 15, 2005, at 12:00 o'clock noon.