

STATE OF ILLINOIS
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE
EIGHTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION

1st Legislative Day

11/29/2007

Speaker Hannig: "The hour of 10:00 having arrived, the House will be in order, and the Eighteenth Special Session, the Illinois General Assembly is convened. Members and guests are asked to refrain from starting their laptops, turn off all cell phones and pagers and rise for the invocation and for the Pledge of Allegiance. We shall be led in prayer today by Lee Crawford, the pastor of the Cathedral of Praise Christian Center, here in Springfield."

Pastor Crawford: "Let us pray. Most gracious and most kind and awesome God, the author and the finisher of our faith, You are the giver and the sustainer of our lives. We pray that You would bestow Your most precious blessing upon this, our august Assembly. May You press... impress Your blessings upon the Leader of this House. May You bless all of the Members that You have chosen and selected to serve here. May You bless the many constituents in which they serve. We pray this day that You would bless them with the grace to serve in a spirit of truth, in a spirit of integrity, and with the great spirit of strength. This we pray and ask in Your Son's name. Amen."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Patterson, will you lead us in the Pledge."

Patterson - 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 Hannig: "Roll Call for Attendance. Representative Currie."

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Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record show that Representative Scully is excused today."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Bost."

Bost: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let the record reflect that Representative Coladipietro, Durkin, Schock, and Watson are excused today."

Speaker Hannig: "Mr. Clerk, take the record. There are 112 Members answering the Roll Call, a quorum is present. Representative Rose, for what reason do you rise?"

Rose: "I had a question of the Chair."

Speaker Hannig: "State your question."

Rose: "Do we know if the Governor took the 'L' to the Blackhawk's game last night? Because frankly, I'd like to know what line goes to the Blackhawk's game, so I can go to the Knick's game and take the 'bimp' Bill with me to have him sign it. This is ridiculous. There are millions of dollars at stake on the 'bimp' Bill for people in my district. There are hundreds of millions of dollars at stake for the school children of the entire State of Illinois. When is he going to sign that Bill?"

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Black, for what reason do you rise?"

Black: "Yes. Mr. Speaker, an inquiry of the Chair."

Speaker Hannig: "State your inquiry."

Black: "Last night's Session was somewhat contentious, but I don't remember when a hockey game broke out of the Session. I tried to catch the 5:40 to the United Center but the bus had been canceled. So, I'm not sure how the Governor got there. But perhaps, a stint in the penalty box would be

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appropriate. And since the real Speaker is on the podium, I have a question. Well, first of all, I'm old enough to be Andy Rooney on 60 Minutes. I have lots of questions. Why isn't the cafeteria open in the Capitol? It's closed until January 9. I get here early this morning to have breakfast and it's closed. It said refreshments were sent up to the hockey game and they didn't get an order in. The other question I have, the Speaker... the Speaker Madigan and the Governor have a lot in common. For example... well, let me give you some examples. They... well, they... well, on the other hand, they're both from Chicago. Perhaps the Speaker could tell me, who was the patron saint of the Governor? Does anyone know? Could anyone tell me that? Well, somebody told me it was the Our Lady of the Perpetual Session. And if someone could intervene with the Catholic Diocese of Chicago; I'm not catholic. Perhaps we could remove that saint from the approved list. And Mr. Speaker, I know we have a full day, a busy day, a Special Session day, but if it's all right with you, since we have no cafeteria and nothing to eat, I have ordered deep-fried hockey pucks that will be distributed to the Members for brunch in about a half an hour."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Joe Lyons."

Lyons: "I need two (2) announcements, Gary. One (1), Representative Black, I think it's Saint Christopher that was lost... when you lose things you say a prayer to Saint Christopher. So, for things that have might have been lost on the second floor, maybe he can intervene with Saint Christopher. But yesterday, Senate Bill 307 was called.

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And I certainly came down with the intention to vote for that Bill, listen to two (2) hours of fabulous oratory on that Bill, then, I fell asleep at the switch and did not vote. So, to my dozens of colleagues who brought it to my attention, unfortunately, after we took the Roll, for the record, Gary, let the Journal reflect that my intention was to vote 'yes' for Senate Bill 307. Thank you."

Speaker Hannig: "The record will so reflect. Mr. Clerk, read the Governor's proclamation."

Clerk Bolin: "WHEREAS, the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) is the financial oversight and regional planning body for the three public transit operators in northeastern Illinois: the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra commuter rail, and Pace suburban bus; and

WHEREAS, the RTA is an important public asset that, according to the RTA, generates an annual economic impact of more than \$12 billion to the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, approximately two million riders per day use the CTA, Metra commuter rail, or Pace suburban bus; and

WHEREAS, strengthening Illinois' transit system will enhance residents' quality of life by reducing pollution as well as traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, according to the CTA, revenues to support transit are not keeping up with increased maintenance, repair, and transit costs potentially necessitating additional state funding; and

WHEREAS, the CTA asserts that without additional funding by January 20, 2008, it is prepared to raise cash fares as

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high as \$3.25 for rail passengers who pay cash, cut 81 bus routes, and layoff 2,400 employees; and

WHEREAS, Metra officials have warned riders to expect fares to increase up to 30 % if additional funding is not received by the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, according to the RTA, without additional funding, Metra will face a \$40 million deficit in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has been unable to reach a funding solution that is acceptable to its membership; and

WHEREAS, a capital plan will focus resources in core areas including roads, schools, bridges, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, a proposed capital plan would leverage additional federal and local funds for infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, a proposed capital plan would support many jobs statewide;

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 November 29, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., to consider a bill that provides for long-term funding for the RTA, the CTA, Metra, and Pace as well as to consider a capital plan and a funding source for a capital plan. Signed, Rod Blagojevich. Dated, November 28th, 2007."

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

Clerk Bolin: "Eighteenth Special Session House Resolutions 1 and 2 are offered by Representative Currie."

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Speaker Hannig: "The Chair recognizes the House Majority Leader, Representative Currie."

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

Speaker Hannig: "Heard the Lady's Motion. All in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Motion is adopted. The Chair recognizes the House Majority Leader, Representative Currie."

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

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

Clerk Bolin: "Eighteenth 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 Eighteenth 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, including the House Journal Review Committee and their membership, shall constitute the Committees of the House during this Eighteenth Special Session. Eighteenth 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 Eighteenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and are now ready for the transaction of business."

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Speaker Hannig: "The House Majority Leader, Representative Currie, moves for the adoption of the Eighteenth Special Session Resolutions 1 and 2. All those in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Resolutions are adopted. We're gonna be at ease in the Eighteenth General... Special Session for a moment while we convene the Seventeenth Special Session."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Rose."

Rose: "Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Body to join me in a moment of silence. I'm informed of the death of a Marine from my district, in Iraq, Allen Roberts. Mr. Roberts was an Arcola High School graduate of 2004. His guidance counselor, Ms. Cindy Mills, described him on the following way. And I quote, 'Anytime you needed help, Allen was there. I don't ever remember a time when he didn't want to do something to help people in some way.' Marine Roberts participated in football, basketball, and drama. He was an only child. His teacher, Debbie Sosamon, described him as compassionate and kind and said that he would do anything to help other kids. And he always had a smile. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask that we remember Allen Roberts with a moment of silence. Thank you."

Speaker Madigan: "If the Members would remain standing, the Chair recognizes Mr. Ramey. Mr. Ramey."

Ramey: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning... early this morning, a great American passed away, our Congressman, Henry Hyde. He was a four-term member of the Illinois House. He was a mentor for me. I've known Henry for a long time. Worked for his son, Hank, who had passed away,

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far too young. He had thirty-two (32) great years in Congress, had recently been given the highest honor to a person in the United States by President Bush. He had retired as of January 2007. And many of you signed on to a Resolution, which I read to him at DuPage County Lincoln Day last year. He was a great man and he will sorely be missed. I ask for a moment of silence for Congressman Henry Hyde. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Reboletti."

Reboletti: "Speaker, I'd also ask for a moment of silence for Sergeant Joe Vanek from the City of Elmhurst. Sergeant Vanek was killed November 12, outside of Baghdad. He was a member of the 82nd Airborne Division. On November 12, his unit came under small arms fire, and he was killed in action. I had the pleasure of serving with his mother, Jan Vanek, on the Elmhurst City Council. And his father, Frank, is a member of the library board. I'd also ask for a moment of silence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Madigan: "Ladies and Gentlemen, you can be.. please take your seats and let me reference this Session schedule, which was distributed. I would hope that you all have one of these. This reflects our plan of attendance through December and January, right up until January 9 and 10 where we are scheduling regular Sessions for January 9 and 10. Between now and then, the House will be on a Perfunctory Session schedule as we have been for several weeks. This means that if there's a need for us to return to Springfield, you will be notified by my office and the office of Leader Cross that we feel you ought to return to

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Springfield to consider legislation. We would hope that we would be able to do a notice of that nature on the four-day time line that was requested. Please understand that circumstance may develop where we may not be able to meet the four-day time line. It may be something less than a four-day notice, but clearly our desire would be to give you at least four days' notice before you are called back to the Capitol. There is nothing further to come before the Body and the Chair is prepared to adjourn to Friday, November 30. Representative Currie moves that the House stand adjourned until Friday, November 30, in a Perfunctory Session. Those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. The House does stand adjourned until Friday, November 30, in a Perfunctory Session, providing perfunctory time for the Clerk. Democrats, there will be a caucus immediately. Democrats, please go to room 118... 114, 114 for Democrats, please."