



HJ0072

LRB100 13592 CMJ 28211 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Illinois Legislature operates the Commission
3 on Government Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA), the
4 bipartisan fiscal forecasting arm of the General Assembly; and

5 WHEREAS, During the fiscal situation that began with the
6 worldwide economic downturn of 2008-09, the work of COGFA has
7 become increasingly vital as it has provided nonpolitical
8 guidance to policymakers in and out of the Illinois General
9 Assembly on the somber trends facing the State and its
10 revenues; and

11 WHEREAS, During this challenging time, the Illinois
12 General Assembly and the 12 legislative members of the
13 Commission have been fortunate to have the services of COGFA's
14 longtime Executive Director, Dan Long; and

15 WHEREAS, Dan Long graduated from the University of Illinois
16 in 1975 and immediately began working for the office of
17 Illinois State Comptroller, George W. Lindberg; the office of
18 Comptroller was created by election in 1972 following
19 ratification of the Constitution of 1970; when Dan started work
20 for the State of Illinois, our State's new constitutional
21 fiscal structure was less than two and a half years old; and

1 WHEREAS, After more than 40 years, Dan Long has seen this
2 fiscal structure from almost literally every angle, including
3 that of Chief Fiscal Officer in the Executive Office of
4 Governor James R. Thompson, executive rank in several code
5 departments (the former Department of Commerce and Community
6 Affairs, now DCEO, and the Department of Central Management
7 Services (CMS)), and executive rank on the legislative staff of
8 Illinois House Republican Leader and House Speaker Lee A.
9 Daniels; and

10 WHEREAS, In February of 2001, Dan Long was appointed
11 Executive Director of the Illinois Economic and Fiscal
12 Commission, the legislative support arm that was renamed COGFA
13 in the 2004 budget implementation (BIMP) bill; and

14 WHEREAS, Under law, a key statutory duty of COGFA's
15 permanent staff is to work with the 12 legislative members of
16 the Commission to provide the General Assembly and its members
17 with "the most reliable and authoritative information
18 available concerning economic developments and trends in this
19 State and the operations of State Government"; and

20 WHEREAS, Soon after Dan Long took over at COGFA in early
21 2001, these economic developments and trends turned negative
22 for Illinois, negative in real terms during all too many of
23 these years and negative in relation to the other 49 U.S.

1 states in almost every year of the past 16; during this period
2 of time, Dan's consummate professionalism, low-key
3 personality, and prompt responses to legislators' inquiries
4 won him the respect of almost every member of the Illinois
5 General Assembly; and

6 WHEREAS, It is easy to be popular when one is the bearer of
7 good news, but to be respected when one is the bearer of bad
8 news is a sign of skill that deserves to be appreciated and
9 remembered for a long time to come; and

10 WHEREAS, After 38 years working for the State of Illinois
11 and after almost 42 years in public sector-related service, and
12 much to the regret of the members of the Commission on
13 Government Forecasting and Accountability and to the members of
14 the General Assembly as a whole, Dan Long has announced his
15 retirement effective July 31, 2017; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE
18 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we thank Dan Long for his almost four
19 decades of public service, climaxing in his tenure of more than
20 16 years as the Executive Director of the Commission on
21 Government Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA); and be it
22 further

1 RESOLVED, That we mention and praise the role of Dan Long,
2 and COGFA's permanent staff, in providing guidance to the
3 Illinois General Assembly during the challenging fiscal
4 climate that has marked the history of Illinois since the
5 events of 2001; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That we acknowledge the essential role of
7 bipartisan support service agencies to the life of the Illinois
8 General Assembly, and praise Dan Long and COGFA's permanent
9 staff in their rapid responses to legislative members of both
10 chambers and both parties as they have searched for data and
11 guidance to meet these challenges; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we wish Dan Long a full life upon his
13 retirement, with the support of his friends, children, and
14 family; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to Dan Long, Executive Director of the Commission on
17 Government Forecasting and Accountability, as a sign of our
18 deep respect for his public service.