



FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

SENATE JOURNAL

STATE OF ILLINOIS

NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1ST LEGISLATIVE DAY

THURSDAY, JULY 5, 2007

12:32 O'CLOCK P.M.

NO. 1

[July 5, 2007]

**SENATE
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The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.
Honorable Emil Jones Jr., President of the Senate, presiding.
Prayer by Pastor Clint Cook, Real Life Church, Springfield, Illinois.
Senator Maloney led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
JESSE WHITE • Secretary of State

June 29, 2007

Honorable Deborah Shipley
Secretary of the Senate
Room 401
Capitol Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Secretary Shipley:

Enclosed please find a copy of Proclamation No. 2007-228, filed in my office on June 29, 2007, by Governor Rod R. Blagojevich, calling for a Special Session of the 95th General Assembly, to begin at 12:00 p.m. on July 5, 2007.

A notice and accompanying Proclamation has been mailed today to each Member's Springfield office.

Sincerely,
s/Jesse White
Secretary of State

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois supports five retirement plans covering State employees, university employees, teachers, judges, and members of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, many retired employees rely on these benefit plans to help pay for daily necessities, including housing and healthcare; and

WHEREAS, during his first term, Governor Blagojevich invested \$13.3 billion in the State's pension systems, which is more than any governor in Illinois' history; and

WHEREAS, the State's \$13.3 billion investment increased funding from 48% up to 60.5% of liability from Fiscal Years 2003 through 2006; and

WHEREAS, despite recent efforts, due to thirty years of underfunding the pension systems, the State of Illinois is faced with a crushing \$41 billion pension debt; and

WHEREAS, this gross underfunding will cause the debt to increase each year at a drastic rate, threatening to consume new revenues at the expense of other needs facing the State, including healthcare and education; and

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WHEREAS, to adequately fund and secure pensions, reduce long-term interest costs, and more effectively manage pension obligations, the State must pay down its pension debt; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has proposed to lease the State Lottery to a private operator and to issue \$16 billion in pension obligation bonds; and

WHEREAS, the \$16 billion in pension obligation bonds would allow the State to refinance its existing pension debt, which grows at an interest rate of 8.5% annually, with a lower interest rate; and

WHEREAS, the \$16 billion in pension obligation bonds would build upon the State's \$10 billion pension obligation bond issued in 2003, which allowed the State's pension systems to increase their funding ratio over the last three years; and

WHEREAS, much work remains to address the pension underfunding in Illinois, and it is critical that the General Assembly convene to address this issue and take action to stabilize the State's pension systems;

THEREFORE, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 (b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby call and convene the 95th General Assembly in a special session to commence on July 5, 2007, at 12:00 p.m., to consider any legislation, new or pending, which will address the pension crisis.

s/Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor

Dated: June 29, 2007

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS

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

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, AT THE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION THEREOF, that the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a majority of the members of the Senate has assembled, pursuant to the proclamation of the Governor, convening a First Special Session of the General Assembly, and are now ready for the transaction of business.

The motion prevailed.
And the resolution was adopted.

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

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, AT THE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION THEREOF, that the President appoint a committee of five to wait upon his Excellency, the Governor, and inform him that the First Special Session of the Ninety-Fifth General Assembly is now duly in session in pursuance of his proclamation, and is ready to receive any message he may desire to submit.

The motion prevailed.
And the resolution was adopted.

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

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 3

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, AT THE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION THEREOF, that a Committee of three (3) members of the Senate be appointed, two (2) members to be appointed by the President and one (1) member to be appointed by the Minority Leader, to approve any and all Journals of the Senate for all days of the First Special Session of the Ninety-fifth General Assembly where such Journals, prior to adjournment SINE DIE, have not been approved by the body as a whole.

The motion prevailed.
And the resolution was adopted.

COMMITTEE MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Senator Noland, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Revenue, announced that the Revenue Committee will meet today in Room 212, at 2:00 o'clock p.m.

EXCUSED FROM ATTENDANCE

On motion of Senator Righter, Senators Cronin, Dahl, Dillard and Radogno were excused from attendance due to family business.

At the hour of 12:44 o'clock p.m., the Chair announced that the Senate stand adjourned until Friday, July 6, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock a.m.