



NINETEENTH SPECIAL SESSION

SENATE JOURNAL

STATE OF ILLINOIS

NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1ST LEGISLATIVE DAY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2008

5:01 O'CLOCK P.M.

**SENATE
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1st Legislative Day**

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The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.
Senator James F. Clayborne, Belleville, Illinois, presiding.
Prayer by Reverend Joseph Eby, Chatham Presbyterian Church, Chatham, 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

December 26, 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. 2007-427, filed in my office on December 26, 2007, by Governor Rod R. Blagojevich, calling for a Special Session of the 95th General Assembly, to begin at 5:00 p.m. on January 2, 2008.

A notice and accompanying Proclamations have been delivered today to each Member's District office.

Sincerely,
s/Jesse White
Secretary of State

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

PROCLAMATION

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

[January 2, 2008]

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;

WHEREAS, although the Senate passed a bill that provides for approximately \$200 million in interim relief for mass transit; that Bill has yet to be considered by the House; and, the Legislature has been unable to reach a funding solution that is acceptable to its membership; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives cancelled a previously scheduled session to address the asserted mass transit shortfall;

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 January 2, 2008, at 5:00 p.m., to consider any and all funding options for the RTA, CTA, Metra, and Pace including but not limited to HB 4161 and/or SB 307 as amended.

s/Rod Blagojevich
Governor

Dated: December 26, 2007

INQUIRY OF THE CHAIR

Senator Brady questioned whether a quorum was present and requested a roll call.

The Chair stated that since the Senate was not organizing and that no business would be conducted, a quorum of the Senate was not necessary.

At the hour of 5:10 o'clock p.m., the Chair announced that the Senate stand adjourned until Wednesday, January 9, 2008, at 12:19 o'clock p.m.

[January 2, 2008]