



# **SENATE JOURNAL**

**STATE OF ILLINOIS**

**NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**129TH LEGISLATIVE DAY**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2008**

**11:42 O'CLOCK A.M.**

**SENATE**  
**Daily Journal Index**  
**129th Legislative Day**

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The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.  
 Senator James A. DeLeo, Chicago, Illinois, presiding.  
 Prayer by Dr. Clifford Hayes, First Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Illinois.  
 Senator Maloney led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Thursday, February 14, 2008, 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.

The Journal of Friday, February 15, 2008, 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.

### REPORTS RECEIVED

The Secretary placed before the Senate the following reports:

JCAR 2007 Annual Report, submitted by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission Annual Financial State and Auditor's Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, submitted by the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission.

The foregoing reports were ordered received and placed on file in the Secretary's Office.

### LEGISLATIVE MEASURES FILED

The following Committee amendment to the Senate Resolution listed below has been filed with the Secretary and referred to the Committee on Rules:

Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 to Senate Resolution 483

The following Committee amendment to the Senate Bills listed below has been filed with the Secretary and referred to the Committee on Rules:

Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1878

### 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:

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 96

**BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN,** that the two Houses shall convene in Joint Session on Wednesday, February 20, 2008 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 of Illinois and to hear the Budget Message for the Fiscal Year 2009, as required by Chapter 15, Section 20/50-5 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes.

[February 20, 2008]

Adopted by the House, February 15, 2008.

MARK MAHONEY, Clerk of the House

By unanimous consent, on motion of Senator Sullivan, the foregoing message reporting House Joint Resolution No. 96 was taken up for immediate consideration.

Senator Sullivan 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.

At the hour of 11:50 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. 96.

**JOINT SESSION  
11:54 O'CLOCK A.M.**

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

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

The two Houses being convened in Joint Session, President Jones 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 2**

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, and the resolution was adopted.

The President of the Senate announced his appointments, as Members of such Committee, on the part of the Senate: Senators Mattie Hunter, Randall Hultgren, David Koehler, John Millner and Michael Noland.

The Speaker of the House announced the appointments, as Members of such Committee, on part of the House: Representatives Maria Berrios, Will Davis, Patricia Lindner, Frank Mautino and Jim Meyer.

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  
Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Address  
Governor Rod R. Blagojevich**

As we gather here in this historic chamber, we can feel the presence of history, of great events that shaped our state and nation. But today, we must pause to remember a tragic and inexplicable event, one that words cannot heal; perhaps, only time can, and surely, never completely.

To the parents and loved ones of those lost last week at Northern Illinois University and to those heroically recovering, we offer our prayers and support. And for the students who were taken from us,

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may God bless them, keep them close, and watch over them. There is little we can do to explain or understand “why” – it is for us to gather closely those we love, to appreciate what we have and to be there for those who lost so much. A moment of silence, please.

Now, I want to turn to our future and to the tasks that lie ahead. In a time of economic challenge, it is our challenge to offer a way forward. Times are tough. People are worried. But there are solutions. I am here to talk about the state of the state and to present a budget. But how do you talk about the state of Illinois without first talking about the state of the nation?

Today, we are a country at war. Leading economists warn of a recession, unemployment is up, more and more Americans find themselves without health care, and many families face the very real possibility of losing their homes.

In America the promise of the American Dream is a promise that is getting harder to keep. In Illinois we are guiding a ship in the midst of a storm. But, our ship of state is on the right course to navigate through that storm.

In spite of national trends, here in Illinois, we have made real progress for people. Over the last four years, we led the Midwest in job creation; we raised the minimum wage twice, more than three quarters of a million people have gotten health care, including All Kids. We are the first state in the nation to create a fund to help families keep their homes. We put a record amount of money in our public schools without raising taxes on people and, most recently, Illinois became the only state in the nation where a senior citizen can ride the bus for free.

We have made a lot of progress for people. But make no mistake about it these are tough times. And when times are tough, I believe the best way to fight for families and fight for people is to focus on strengthening the economy.

The economy is about interest rates, inflation rates, the velocity of money and sub-prime mortgages. It is about the balance of trade and taxes, fiscal and monetary policy, the unemployment rate and more.

But, what it really comes down to is families and their economy. Today as we focus on what I believe we must do to strengthen the economy, we must never lose sight of the fact that it is all about families and our ability to help them build a better, more secure life.

What I will propose today is a comprehensive approach to the economy. It will focus on three clear and achievable goals. It will be challenging. But we can do this.

A stronger economy requires an infrastructure that will support and spur growth. A stronger economy requires that families get more of their hard earned money to spend and save the way they want to. A stronger economy requires that we cut taxes for businesses that create jobs and growth. Invest in our Infrastructure. Relief for families. Tax cuts for businesses. If we make the tough choices elsewhere in our \$58 billion budget, we can do these things and strengthen our economy. And we should do it now.

My first proposal focuses on families. Why? Because our state’s economy is based on the family and every month, at the kitchen table, that reality hits home with the parents as they try to balance a checkbook with all the bills their family faces. They do not need an economist to tell them the economy is in trouble. They know it. Because at the end of every month, they do not have any money left over. Our focus on the economy must always keep in mind that family. If they are stronger, our state is stronger. If they are struggling, our economy is weakened, our future diminished.

So here is what I propose: we do in Illinois what Washington just did. Help middle-class families, by giving them another \$300 tax credit for their children. This doubles the tax credit Washington just passed. Doubling the tax credit would give parents a little more money to pay for the things their kids need now, and, maybe, have a little left over to invest in their kids’ future.

A Republican President and a Democrat-controlled Congress put aside their differences and came together to act quickly. If Washington can do it, we can do it. They did their share, we should do ours.

[February 20, 2008]

Economic experts say this is good policy. It will strengthen the economy by putting more money into the hands of families. And besides, families need it. It is hard to make ends meet these days.

When I was growing up, every hard earned penny my parents made was spent on paying the rent, feeding their children, and paying their bills. Like a lot of families, they lived paycheck to paycheck. There was no money left over for things like movies, restaurants or vacations. For my parents, life was hard but there was real opportunity. Hard work meant a better life for their kids.

But imagine how hard it is for families to make ends meet today? How can they afford to build a better life for their children when the cost of everything is going up? In the last five years, the cost of gasoline has doubled. The cost to heat your home is up more than 50%. It costs 25% more just to turn your lights on. Eggs cost twice as much. Bread costs three times as much. And a gallon of milk is a dollar more than it was a few years ago.

Wages do not keep pace. And leaders at every level of government keep talking about raising taxes on people. Enough is enough. The middle class is getting squeezed. They are doing their part. They are working longer and harder than ever before. But they are finding it harder and harder to make ends meet and provide for their families. Let's help those families and let's do it now.

So, I am asking you to immediately pass this child tax credit. Let's give parents the help they need as they work and raise their kids. So let's strengthen our economy by helping families. And let's strengthen our economy by helping businesses.

I propose we cut taxes on businesses by 20%. Cut taxes, that is, on those businesses that actually pay taxes. Now last year I proposed the GRT, designed in part, to make our tax system more fair. I didn't believe then, and I don't believe now, that 20% of business in Illinois should pay 96% of corporate taxes. The tax system in Illinois is loophole-ridden, outdated and unfair. I believe it actually stifles economic growth.

But I am not asking you to do that again. What I am asking you to do, is to cut taxes on those businesses that are paying more than their fair share. They are driving our economy. They are small. They are mid-sized. They are start-ups. They are family owned. They are the few big corporations that actually do pay corporate income taxes. They are meeting their responsibilities and, most importantly, they are creating jobs.

When times are tough it is hard for businesses to keep people on their payroll. Cutting taxes on those businesses will allow them to invest more, stimulate the economy, keep people working and put more people to work.

Cutting taxes on business is a way to strengthen the economy through the private sector. But we should also strengthen the economy through the public sector. I know I am not alone when I say, it is about time we pass a capital bill.

Let's pass a capital bill. Let's make those necessary investments in our aging infrastructure. Let's make our bridges safe. Let's repair our roads. Let's build schools. Let's put people to work. And let's put an end to the delays, the excuses, and the poison pills.

How is it that virtually everybody here says they support a capital bill that will create jobs, but you have yet to send me something I can sign? Actions speak louder than words. Act and send me a capital bill that I can sign.

And here's why: in a global economy with national economic forces, when so much of the economic activity that affects us here in Illinois is out of our control, the single most direct thing we can do at the state level to create jobs, is to invest in our infrastructure and invest in a public works jobs program. If the Bush administration can invest billions in the re-building of Iraq, the least we can do is to invest to re-build Illinois.

[February 20, 2008]

Those of us who are Democrats; those of us who are the descendants of Franklin Roosevelt; those of us who philosophically believe that it's the proper role of government to put people to work through public works programs, especially during hard economic times; and for those of us, the Democratic Governor, the Democratic Senate and the Democratic House – this should not be hard to do.

And we Democrats are not alone. The two Republican leaders, and I believe most rank and file Republican members, have joined us in our call to invest in our infrastructure and pass a capital bill. In fact, I think our Republicans colleagues are just as enthusiastic as we Democrats say we are. The stars are perfectly aligned and we have a golden opportunity. Let's seize this opportunity and strengthen our economy.

I like the idea of a capital bill of the size and scope I am proposing because first and foremost, it means that we will put more than 700,000 people to work. More than 700,000 jobs. Good jobs. Jobs that pay good wages. Jobs that have good benefits. Jobs that help families. Jobs that help businesses. Jobs that strengthen our economy. And jobs that do the work that needs to be done.

There are bridges across Illinois that desperately need to be fixed. There are bridges that need to be built. There are roads in each of your districts that need to be repaired. And there are too many of our school children trying to learn their lessons in classrooms that are overcrowded, or going to school in buildings that are old and crumbling and not good places to learn. Let's build them good places to learn.

And speaking of good places, I think Chicago is a great place to host the Olympics in 2016. Strengthening Chicago's infrastructure strengthens Chicago's bid to get the Olympics. Let's pass a capital bill, let's help Chicago win the Olympics.

It has been nine years since Illinois has had a major plan to invest in our infrastructure. And there are millions of Federal funds waiting to be matched by State dollars. If you do not act, that money will be left on the table and we will miss this summer's construction season. So I am asking you to pass a capital bill and I am asking you to get it done now.

How do we get it done? I am flexible. I am convinced we can find common ground; that old options and new approaches can and should be put on the table. But because I want to help, and not hurt families, I will not raise taxes on people. There are other ways to achieve our goals.

Last year, many of you proposed expanding gaming in Illinois as a way to invest in our infrastructure. I was, in the spirit of compromise, open to that idea. But after months of haggling, pretending, poison pills, and no results, let me suggest another way.

I am proposing a multi-faceted approach that centers around private investment in the Lottery. It is a fiscally sound idea. And if linked to a capital bill, it is an idea that could easily pass. It would preserve current education funding, and the proceeds from the Lottery - along with other funding mechanisms - will allow us to fund a \$25 billion capital bill. This proposal is the same size and scope as the State Senate passed last September with bipartisan support.

I am appointing a team of business, labor and government leaders to join with me and the other legislative leaders to immediately begin work on passing a comprehensive capital bill. I am inviting the members of this working group to be as much a part of the process of passing a capital bill as the Governor, the Legislative leaders, and the members of the General Assembly. These leaders know we need to act now to strengthen the economy. We know it too.

The idea of giving parents more money to help pay for the things their kids need is exciting. The idea of cutting taxes on businesses, that are already paying more than their fair share, is good policy. The idea of a major public works program that puts hundreds of thousands of people to work, in every part of Illinois, what is not to like?

All of this is a way forward to help families and strengthen our economy. But like most things in life, nothing good worth doing comes without some sacrifice. To give families and businesses more of their money back, we have to cut spending. These spending cuts will allow us to cut taxes and get the economy moving.

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The sacrifice I am suggesting is a 3% spending cut across the board, in areas outside health care, education, and public safety. I am also proposing that we cut more pork, consolidate more administrative functions and close unnecessary facilities.

By cutting spending and eliminating pork we can afford to give the people more of their money back and afford to cut taxes on business. If we manage our budget in tough but clear-eyed ways, we can move, and move quickly, on strengthening our economy. And by strengthening our economy, we also strengthen our State Budget.

There are, of course, other important priorities of government. We will continue to fund and support our state police. We will continue to provide critical social services to protect children, seniors and help families in need. We will fund our schools and continue to work for higher standards and accountability. And, without question, we will continue on our important mission to provide affordable, quality health care for all.

To my fellow Democrats, who the people have entrusted to run state government, we need to make good on our campaign promises to pass legislation that provides access to health care to all the citizens of Illinois.

The Democratic Party platform of Illinois states that health care is one of the most critical issues facing families. Senator Obama is running for President on the platform of providing health care to all Americans.

I am calling on the Democratic leaders, to join Senate President Jones and me and do what our party platform pledges, and expand access to health care to all of the citizens of Illinois.

We all know the urgent tasks that lie ahead. We have a deadline. It is real. It is the deadline that every week, a family faces, when balancing a paycheck against the cost of gas, electric rates, food prices and an economy that is faltering.

Build our infrastructure. Give families more of what they have earned and now need. Help businesses by cutting their taxes so they can create jobs. These actions by us, now, will strengthen our economy, now.

My father spent every working day punching a time clock. I grew up in a neighborhood where people worked shifts and those shifts were defined by the mechanic click of punching in and punching out. I can hear that noise now. I can smell those factories. I can see the worn and calloused hands of the people holding those time cards. I know their work ethic, I know their dreams, I know their worries, and the hopes and aspirations they have for their children.

There is a clock here in this chamber. It is our time clock. It is our time to get to work. The economy needs our attention. Time marches on and unless we act, a recession will deepen, the hurt will spread and real people will pay the price. It is time to strengthen our economy. It is time to get to work.

At the hour of 1:15 o'clock p.m., President Jones moved that the Joint Assembly do now arise. The motion prevailed.

#### **AFTER RECESS**

Thereupon the Senate returned to the Senate Chambers and resumed consideration of business. Senator DeLeo, presiding.

#### **MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT**

#### **OFFICE OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT STATE OF ILLINOIS**

[February 20, 2008]



EMIL JONES, JR.  
SENATE PRESIDENT

327 STATE CAPITOL  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

February 19, 2008

Ms. Deborah Shipley  
Secretary of the Senate  
Room 403 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Madam Secretary:

Pursuant to Senate Rule 2-10, please be advised that I am canceling session for Friday, February 22, 2008.

Sincerely,  
s/Emil Jones, Jr.  
Senate President

cc: Senate Republican Leader Frank Watson

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

EMIL JONES, JR.  
SENATE PRESIDENT

327 STATE CAPITOL  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

February 20, 2008

Ms. Deborah Shipley  
Secretary of the Senate  
403 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Madam Secretary:

Pursuant to Senate Rule 3-5(c), I hereby appoint Senator Rickey Hendon to resume his position on the Senate Rules Committee. This appointment is effective immediately.

Sincerely,  
s/Emil Jones, Jr.  
Senate President

cc: Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson

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

EMIL JONES, JR.  
SENATE PRESIDENT

327 STATE CAPITOL  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

February 20, 2008

Ms. Deborah Shipley  
Secretary of the Senate  
403 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

[February 20, 2008]

Dear Madam Secretary:

Pursuant to Senate Rule3-2(c), I hereby appoint Senator Rickey Hendon to resume his position on the Senate Executive Committee. This appointment is effective immediately.

Sincerely,  
s/Emil Jones, Jr.  
Senate President

cc: Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson

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

EMIL JONES, JR.  
SENATE PRESIDENT

327 STATE CAPITOL  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

February 20, 2008

Ms. Deborah Shipley  
Secretary of the Senate  
403 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Madam Secretary:

Pursuant to Senate Rule3-2(c), I hereby appoint Senator Martin Sandoval to resume his position on the Senate Appropriations I Committee. This appointment is effective immediately.

Sincerely,  
s/Emil Jones, Jr.  
Senate President

cc: Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson

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

EMIL JONES, JR.  
SENATE PRESIDENT

327 STATE CAPITOL  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

February 20, 2008

Ms. Deborah Shipley  
Secretary of the Senate  
403 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Madam Secretary:

Pursuant to Senate Rule3-2(c), I hereby appoint Senator Ira Silverstein to resume his position on the Senate Executive Committee. This appointment is effective immediately.

Sincerely,  
s/Emil Jones, Jr.  
Senate President

[February 20, 2008]

cc: Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson

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

EMIL JONES, JR.  
SENATE PRESIDENT

327 STATE CAPITOL  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

February 20, 2008

Ms. Deborah Shipley  
Secretary of the Senate  
403 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Madam Secretary:

Pursuant to Senate Rule3-2(c), I hereby appoint Senator Michael Noland to replace Senator Ira Silverstein as a member of the Senate Judiciary-Criminal Law Committee. This appointment is effective immediately.

Very truly yours,  
s/Emil Jones, Jr.  
Senate President

cc: Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson

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

EMIL JONES, JR.  
SENATE PRESIDENT

327 STATE CAPITOL  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

February 20, 2008

Ms. Deborah Shipley  
Secretary of the Senate  
403 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Madam Secretary:

Pursuant to Senate Rule3-2(c), I hereby appoint Senator Kwame Raoul to replace Senator Ira Silverstein as a member of the Senate Judiciary-Civil Law Committee. This appointment is effective immediately.

Very truly yours,  
s/Emil Jones, Jr.  
Senate President

cc: Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson

**MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE**

A message from the House by

[February 20, 2008]

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. 81**

Concurred in by the House, February 15, 2008.

MARK MAHONEY, Clerk of the House

**PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION**

**SENATE RESOLUTION 549**

Offered by Senator Wilhelmi and all Senators:

Mourns the death of Kathleen T. Crehan, nee Cavanaugh, of Lemont.

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

Senators Dillard and Hultgren offered the following Senate Resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Rules:

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 550**

WHEREAS, Interoperability in communications is an urgent problem affecting every level of government as well as citizen trust in government; and

WHEREAS, Communications interoperability is also recognized as a vital element of effective day-to-day public safety services; and

WHEREAS, Interoperable communications is required in the management of a variety of incidents, ranging from Amber alerts to hurricanes, that typically require a response from multi-agency task forces; and

WHEREAS, When multiple first-responder organizations convene at an incident scene, their radios are frequently incompatible because they operate over different frequencies and use different technologies; and

WHEREAS, Public safety agencies have tried many approaches to improve interoperability in communications, including swapping radios, mutual-aid channels, and gateways that bridge 2 or more radio systems; and

WHEREAS, All of these approaches provide some benefit, but none completely solves the inherent limitations of radio communications; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary for local governments in Illinois to be able to communicate with one another, especially in the case of an emergency; and

WHEREAS, Local officials in Illinois appreciate the funding that will be awarded to areas around the State of Illinois in the coming months for the Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Illinois Congressional Delegation to support an increase in funding for the Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant Program the next time this program comes up for renewal; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to all members of the Illinois  
[February 20, 2008]

Congressional Delegation, the Governor of Illinois, and the Chairman of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force.

### **READING BILLS FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES A FIRST TIME**

**House Bill No. 2482**, sponsored by Senator Hendon, was taken up, read by title a first time and referred to the Committee on Rules.

**House Bill No. 4163**, sponsored by Senators Haine - Wilhelmi, was taken up, read by title a first time and referred to the Committee on Rules.

**House Bill No. 4170**, sponsored by Senators Harmon - Clayborne, was taken up, read by title a first time and referred to the Committee on Rules.

**House Bill No. 4191**, sponsored by Senator Collins, was taken up, read by title a first time and referred to the Committee on Rules.

### **COMMITTEE MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair announced the following committees will meet this afternoon:

Judiciary Civil Law, 3:00 o'clock p.m., in Room 212.

Judiciary Criminal Law, 3:30 o'clock p.m., in Room 212

Local Government, 3:00 o'clock p.m., in Room 409

Pensions and Investments, 4:00 o'clock p.m., in Room 400

Environment and Energy, 9:00 o'clock a.m., Thursday, February 21, 2008, in Room 212.

### **PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION**

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

#### **SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 82**

WHEREAS, The General Assembly takes pride in recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of Illinois officials and citizens; and

WHEREAS, In honor of the lasting legacy and many sacrifices that Senator Vince Demuzio made for the citizenry of the State of Illinois, the General Assembly would like to recognize him with the rare honor of naming a State facility after this former official; and

WHEREAS, Vince Demuzio was born May 7, 1941 in Gillespie; he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in education and human services from the University of Illinois at Springfield in 1981 and a Master of Arts degree in education and public policy in 1996; he received an Honorary Doctorate from Lewis & Clark Community College and a Doctor of Laws, Honorist Causa, from Blackburn College; and

WHEREAS, Senate Majority Leader Vince Demuzio was one of the most influential and highly regarded members of the Illinois Senate; and

WHEREAS, Vince Demuzio used his influence to fight for the interests of downstate Illinois throughout his career of public service and played the leading role in securing funding for numerous economic development and job creation and training efforts; and

WHEREAS, Before his service in the State Senate, Vince Demuzio served as the Executive Director

[February 20, 2008]

of the Illinois Valley Economic Development Corporation, which provided job training and other services for the physically and developmentally disabled; and

WHEREAS, Naming the Greene County Work Camp in Vince Demuzio's honor carries on his legacy of public service and assisting individuals with learning the skills that improve their lives and contributions to society; and

WHEREAS, Senator Vince Demuzio made vital contributions of service and merit to the State of Illinois and to the State's citizens and deserves to have his achievements noted and remembered by current and future generations, as his memory is now honored by the General Assembly; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that we rename the Greene County Work Camp located in Roodhouse, in honor of Vince Demuzio, as the Vince Demuzio Greene County Work Camp; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this preamble and resolution be presented to the Director of Central Management Services and the Director of Corrections.

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

#### **SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 83**

WHEREAS, During the 1970s, a special provision was written into the Social Security Act of 1935 concerning contingent academic workers; that provision excluded education workers from receipt of unemployment benefits unless they can demonstrate that they do not have "reasonable assurance" of continued employment; and

WHEREAS, Academic contingent workers in higher education are frequently denied access to unemployment benefits based on a very broad interpretation of "reasonable assurance"; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Unemployment Insurance for Contingent Academic Workers Task Force; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be charged with the following tasks:

- (1) to estimate costs to higher education institutions of a change in law that allows contingent academics to collect unemployment insurance; and
- (2) to examine the growth of employment of part-time contingent faculty over the past 10 years; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be composed of the following:

- (1) 2 members who are statewide education labor union representatives from a 2-year institution; each member shall be appointed by the union that he or she represents;
- (2) 2 members who are statewide education labor union representatives from a 4-year institution; each member shall be appointed by the union that he or she represents;
- (3) 2 members who are management representatives from higher education institutions appointed by the Board of Higher Education;
- (4) one member appointed by the Director of Labor;
- (5) 4 legislative members; one of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate; one of whom shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and one of whom shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; and
- (6) one member appointed by the Governor; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall hold 3 statewide hearings on the issue of unemployment

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insurance for contingent academic workers and report its findings to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2009; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the Board of Higher Education and the Director of Labor.

Senator Dahl offered the following Senate Joint Resolution, which was ordered printed and referred to the Committee on Rules:

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 84  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT**

SC0084

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the State for adoption or rejection at the general election next occurring at least 6 months after the adoption of this resolution a proposition to amend Section 5 of Article XIII of the Illinois Constitution as follows:

ARTICLE XIII  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 5. PENSION AND RETIREMENT RIGHTS

(a) Membership in any pension or retirement system of the State, any unit of local government or school district, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, shall be an enforceable contractual relationship, the benefits of which shall not be diminished or impaired.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), after the effective date of this subsection (b), the pension benefits and rights for all executive branch and legislative branch constitutional officers and their employees shall be administered under a unified system enacted by law that provides the same rights and benefits for all members.

(Source: Illinois Constitution.)

SCHEDULE

This Constitutional Amendment takes effect upon being declared adopted in accordance with Section 7 of the Illinois Constitutional Amendment Act.

**REPORT FROM RULES COMMITTEE**

Senator Halvorson, Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, during its February 20, 2008 meeting, reported the following Legislative Measures have been assigned to the indicated Standing Committees of the Senate:

Education: **SENATE BILLS 2091, 2288 and 2328.**

Environment and Energy: **SENATE BILLS 2083, 2095, 2120, 2129, 2163 and 2238.**

Executive: **SENATE BILLS 2176 and 2240.**

Financial Institutions: **SENATE BILL 2098.**

Higher Education: **SENATE BILLS 2076 and 2086.**

Housing and Community Affairs: **SENATE BILLS 2115 and 2146.**

Human Services: **SENATE BILLS 2165 and 2199.**

Insurance: **SENATE BILLS 2109, 2187 and 2197.**

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Judiciary Civil Law: **SENATE BILLS 2124, 2138, 2154 and 2212.**

Judiciary Criminal Law: **SENATE BILLS 2117, 2118, 2135, 2142, 2254, 2275 and 2280.**

Labor: **SENATE BILLS 2070, 2188 and 2216.**

Licensed Activities: **SENATE BILLS 2179, 2211, 2217, 2222, 2285 and 2290.**

Local Government: **SENATE BILLS 2160, 2190, 2239, 2292, 2297, 2307, 2314 and 2321.**

Pensions and Investments: **SENATE BILLS 2068, 2078, 2093 and 2250.**

Public Health: **SENATE BILLS 2150, 2173, 2300 and 2303.**

Revenue: **SENATE BILLS 2097, 2298 and 2301.**

State Government and Veterans Affairs: **SENATE BILLS 2074, 2149, 2193, 2311 and 2327.**

At the hour of 2:41 o'clock p.m., the Chair announced that the Senate stand adjourned until Thursday, February 21, 2008, at 10:30 o'clock a.m.