



HJ0076

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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, culminating in his tenure of more  
20 than 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 the conference room used by staff to brief  
16          members of COGFA at Room 703, Stratton Office Building,  
17          Springfield, is renamed and shall be known as the "Dan Long  
18          Conference Room"; and be it further

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