



HR0055

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The people of Illinois - who pay for a General Assembly to plan for the long-term affairs of the State - deserve to have a budget planning document in place that considers medium-term and long-term spending pressures in the setting of State spending priorities; and

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WHEREAS, No budget was enacted for fiscal years 2016 or 2017; during this period, State spending continued without legislative participation, putting Illinois on the brink of financial disaster; and

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WHEREAS, Political pressures associated with the 2020 election cycle will only increase with time, further tainting the budget process with politics and raising the possibility that, in the absence of corrective action, a repetition of this dismal pattern will occur as the spring 2020 deadline nears to craft and enact a budget for fiscal year 2021; and

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WHEREAS, The General Assembly needs to re-establish a budget cycle and re-establish the credibility it needs in order to shift its attention to pension reform, property tax relief, crime and violence, the jobs climate, the outmigration from Illinois of younger and highly-educated workers and professionals, and other urgent issues; and

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1 WHEREAS, Many states such as Nebraska, Ohio, and Texas, and
2 including the neighboring state of Indiana, practice 2-year
3 spending plans or full-scale biennial budgeting; and

4 WHEREAS, The Constitution of Illinois directs the Governor
5 of Illinois to present an annual budget proposal to the General
6 Assembly, but, as we have come to know all too well, nothing
7 constrains the General Assembly's actual responses to these
8 proposals; nothing prevents the General Assembly from adopting
9 a planning process that faces the fact that we, as a State, are
10 on the brink of financial disaster and responds to that fact in
11 a professional manner and in keeping with our identity as
12 legislators and our oaths of office; and

13 WHEREAS, In these times, moving toward a long-term budget
14 planning cycle will enable State agencies performing essential
15 services, third-party service providers whose services are no
16 less essential, and institutions and entities of higher
17 education to obtain the information that their leaders have
18 testified is essential to carrying out their duties; therefore,
19 be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
21 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
22 we declare that it is expedient for the General Assembly to

1 adopt a 2-year budget planning document to cover revenues in
2 all of fiscal years 2020 and 2021, take account of moneys
3 already spent, and control spending in the remainder of fiscal
4 year 2019; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That this planning document should rely upon an
6 honest estimate, without false promises or shoddy planning, of
7 the actual financial income (especially general funds income)
8 that the State will take in during fiscal years 2020 and 2021;
9 and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That we urge the Commission on Government
11 Forecasting and Accountability and the Governor's Office of
12 Management and Budget to work together to develop an
13 extraordinary consolidated revenue estimate for fiscal years
14 2020 and 2021, this estimate to be presented to both chambers
15 of the General Assembly no later than 30 days after the
16 adoption of this resolution; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That we, the sponsors of this resolution, pledge
18 to use this consolidated 2-year revenue estimate to work with
19 our colleagues to develop a 2-year State budget and financial
20 planning document; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That our goal, as we develop this budget planning
22 document, will be to end the current political cycle of

1 reactive emergency measures and budget court orders; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
4 presented to Michael J. Madigan, Speaker of the House of
5 Representatives, John Cullerton, President of the Senate, and
6 J.B. Pritzker, Governor.