



HR0796

LRB099 14464 MST 38577 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

7 WHEREAS, No budget has been enacted for fiscal year 2016,
8 the fiscal year that began on July 1, 2015; as a result, soon
9 the State of Illinois will have operated under 4 different
10 budgets in the span of 2 years - the fiscal 2015 budget signed
11 by former Governor Quinn, the revised fiscal year 2015 budget
12 containing necessary "fixes" to the original, flawed FY15
13 budget, the fiscal year 2016 non-budgeted State spending cycle
14 being carried out right now under a series of State and federal
15 court orders, and an enacted budget that will cover the
16 remainder of FY16; and

17 WHEREAS, Under the fiscal year 2016 non-budgeted State
18 spending cycle, State spending is continuing without
19 legislative participation, putting Illinois on the financial
20 brink and setting our State on a path to utter financial ruin
21 and economic devastation for our taxpayers; and

22 WHEREAS, Political pressures associated with the 2016

1 election cycle will only increase with time, further tainting
2 the budget process with politics and raising the possibility
3 that, in the absence of corrective action, a repetition of this
4 dismal pattern will occur as the spring 2016 deadline nears to
5 craft and enact a budget for fiscal year 2017; and

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

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

15 WHEREAS, The Constitution of Illinois directs the Governor
16 of Illinois to present an annual budget proposal to the General
17 Assembly, but, as we have come to know all too well, nothing
18 constrains the General Assembly's actual responses to these
19 proposals, and nothing prevents the General Assembly from
20 adopting a planning process that faces the fact that we, as a
21 State, are on the financial brink, and responds to it in a
22 professional manner and in keeping with our identity as
23 legislators and our oaths of office; and

1 WHEREAS, In these times, moving toward a long-term budget
2 planning cycle will enable State agencies performing essential
3 services, third-party service providers whose services are no
4 less essential, and institutions and entities of higher
5 education to obtain the information that their leaders have
6 testified is essential to carrying out their duties; therefore,
7 be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
10 declare that it is expedient for the General Assembly to adopt
11 a 2-year budget planning document to cover revenues in all of
12 fiscal years 2016 and 2017, take account of moneys already
13 spent, and control spending in the remainder of fiscal year
14 2016 and all of fiscal year 2017; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That this planning document should rely upon an
16 honest estimate, without false promises or shoddy planning, of
17 the actual financial income (especially general funds income)
18 that the State will take in during fiscal years 2016 and 2017;
19 and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we urge the Commission on Government
21 Forecasting and Accountability and the Governor's Office of
22 Management and Budget to work together to develop an

1 extraordinary consolidated revenue estimate for fiscal years
2 2016 and 2017, this estimate to be presented to both chambers
3 of the General Assembly no later than 30 days after the
4 adoption of this resolution; and be it further

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

9 RESOLVED, That our goal, as we develop this budget planning
10 document, will be to end the current political cycle of
11 reactive emergency measures and budget court orders; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
14 presented to Michael J. Madigan, Speaker of the House of
15 Representatives, John Cullerton, President of the Senate, and
16 Bruce Rauner, Governor.