



SENATE JOURNAL

STATE OF ILLINOIS

NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2ND LEGISLATIVE DAY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2005

9:07 O'CLOCK A.M.

SENATE
Daily Journal Index
2nd Legislative Day

Action	Page(s)
Presentation of Senate Joint Resolution No. 1	5
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Bill Number	Legislative Action	Page(s)
SJR 0001	Adopted	5
SJR 0002	Committee on Rules	4
SJR 0003	Committee on Rules	4
SR 0009	Committee on Rules	3
SR 0010	Committee on Rules	4

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.
Senator Debbie DeFrancesco Halvorson, Kankakee, Illinois, presiding.
Prayer by Reverend Brandon Boyd, Loami Christian Church of Christ, Loami, Illinois.
Senator Maloney led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Senator Maloney moved that reading and approval of the Journal of Wednesday, January 12, 2005, be postponed, pending arrival of the printed Journal.
The motion prevailed.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 6

Offered by Senator Shadid and all Senators:
Mourns the death of Joyce Joanne Thome of Mapleton.

SENATE RESOLUTION 7

Offered by Senator Shadid and all Senators:
Mourns the death of Peoria Police Officer Christy S. Tindall of Peoria.

SENATE RESOLUTION 8

Offered by Senator Cullerton and all Senators:
Mourns the death of Blanca Flores of Brighton Park.

By unanimous consent, the foregoing resolutions were referred to the Resolutions Consent Calendar.

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

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 9

WHEREAS, Breathing is the single most important act we do to stay alive; and

WHEREAS, Pulmonary fibrosis is a largely unknown disease that is often misdiagnosed and that most people have never heard of; and

WHEREAS, As many as 200,000 Americans have been diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis and 40,000 Americans die each year from this disease; and

WHEREAS, Education on the part of physicians and patients is critical; and

WHEREAS, Support from our communities is imperative so that more people can be aware of the symptoms of pulmonary fibrosis in order to obtain quicker diagnosis and earlier treatment; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we proclaim the month of November 2005 as Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month and November 22, 2005 as Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Day in the State of Illinois; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation.

Senator del Valle offered the following Senate Resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Rules:

[January 13, 2005]

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 10

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Illinois has recognized the inadequate funding that Illinois disabled veterans have been receiving compared to other states; the federal Veterans Affairs office located in Chicago, Illinois has been noted for having a problematic system with regard to granting compensation for Illinois disabled veterans; according to the 2003 Veterans Affairs Annual Benefits Report, 6 percent of Illinois' 922,000 veterans received disability payments; the national average for veterans receiving disability payments is 10 percent; and

WHEREAS, Disability benefits vary greatly among the states and U.S. territories; for example, veterans living in Puerto Rico (ranked number one) received an average of \$11,607 per year in benefits, while veterans living in Illinois (ranked 50th) received an average of \$6,802 per year; and

WHEREAS, For the last several years, Illinois veterans have received the lowest, or near lowest, disability payments compared to other states; delays in rulings and appeals have left many Illinois veterans waiting many years to receive responses to claims; some have even died before receiving responses to claims; it is imperative that such claims be considered and awarded in a much more expedient manner; Illinois veterans who are disabled as a result of their service to this country deserve compensation equal to that received by their peers in other states; and

WHEREAS, Wounded soldiers, as a result of their military service in Iraq and Afghanistan, are surviving at an unprecedented rate thanks to better medical technology, improved equipment, and faster evacuations and surgery; soldiers injured in these operations will only add to the growing demand for services from the federal Veterans Affairs office in Chicago; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the federal Department of Veterans Affairs to address the inequities that have been so identified; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage the Illinois Congressional delegation to pursue legislation or administrative remedies to ensure that benefits granted to Illinois disabled veterans are, at a minimum, comparable to the national average so that Illinois can begin to compensate its disabled veterans in a manner equivalent to other states.

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

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Joint Task Force on Illinois Immigrants and Refugees established under House Joint Resolution 21 of the 93rd General Assembly is hereby continued until such time as the Joint Task Force delivers its report to the General Assembly summarizing its findings and recommendations, but no later than December 31, 2005.

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

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

WHEREAS, The increasing cost of medical liability insurance results in increased financial burdens upon physicians and hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Various groups have cited data to support the contention that frivolous medical malpractice suits and excessive medical malpractice judgments are the cause of this crisis; and

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WHEREAS, Other groups have cited other data in support of their claims that medical malpractice suits and judgments are not the cause of the crisis but that the medical liability insurance industry is actually at the root of the crisis; and

WHEREAS, The collection of information in court records can play an important role in helping the citizens of this State determine the degree to which the legal system and the cost of medical liability insurance are related; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that we request the Supreme Court to modify its administrative orders to provide for specific medical malpractice case recordkeeping by circuit court clerks and reporting of this information to the public and the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we request the Supreme Court to order a new case designation of "MM" to be used in medical malpractice cases filed in the circuit court; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be delivered to the Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court.

RESOLUTIONS CONSENT CALENDAR

SENATE RESOLUTION 6

Offered by Senator Shadid and all Senators:
Mourns the death of Joyce Joanne Thome of Mapleton.

SENATE RESOLUTION 7

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SENATE RESOLUTION 8

Offered by Senator Cullerton and all Senators:
Mourns the death of Blanca Flores of Brighton Park.

Senator Halvorson moved the adoption of the foregoing resolutions. The motion prevailed, and the resolutions were adopted.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Senator Shadid offered the following Senate Joint Resolution and, having asked and obtained unanimous consent to suspend the rules for its immediate consideration, moved its adoption:

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that when the two Houses adjourn on Thursday, January 13, 2005, the Senate stands adjourned until Wednesday, January 19, 2005, in perfunctory session; and when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Wednesday, January 26, 2005, in perfunctory session; and when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 01, 2005, at 12:00 noon; and the House of Representatives stands adjourned until Wednesday, January 26, 2005, at 12:00 noon.

The motion prevailed.
And the resolution was adopted.

Ordered that the Secretary inform the House of Representatives thereof and ask their concurrence therein.

[January 13, 2005]

At the hour of 9:15 o'clock a.m., pursuant to **Senate Joint Resolution No. 1**, the Chair announced the Senate stand adjourned until Wednesday, January 19, 2005, in perfunctory session.

[January 13, 2005]