

STATE OF ILLINOIS



HOUSE JOURNAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

9TH LEGISLATIVE DAY

REGULAR & PERFUNCTORY SESSION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025

11:30 O'CLOCK A.M.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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9th Legislative Day**

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The House met pursuant to adjournment.

Speaker Welch in the chair.

Prayer by Pastor John Hannah, New Life Covenant Southeast in Chicago, Illinois.

Representative Canty led the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

By direction of the Speaker, a roll call was taken to ascertain the attendance of Members, as follows:

116 present. (ROLL CALL 1)

By unanimous consent, Representatives Andrade and Meier were excused from attendance.

REPORTS

The Clerk of the House acknowledges receipt of the following correspondence:

2024 LCSO Camera Letter, submitted by the Logan County Sheriff's Office on February 19, 2025

2024 The Illinois Investment Tax Credit Program Report, submitted by the Illinois Department Of Commerce and Economic Opportunity on February 19, 2025

Dekalb County FY24-ROE16, submitted by the Regional Office Of Education on February 19, 2025

FY 2024 LCSO BWC & In-Car Camera Report, submitted by the Logan County Sheriff's Office on February 19, 2025

FY24-State Of Illinois South Cook Intermediate Service Center #04, submitted by the Regional Office Of Education on February 19, 2025

Lasalle, Marshall, And Putnam Counties FY24-ROE35, submitted by the Regional Office Of Education on February 19, 2025

State Of Illinois McHenry County FY23-ROE44, submitted by the Regional Office Of Education on February 19, 2025

State Of Illinois Vermillion County FY24-ROE54, submitted by the Regional Office Of Education on February 19, 2025

LETTERS OF TRANSMITTAL

February 19, 2025

John Hollman
Clerk of the House
Room 400, Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 60701

Dear Clerk Hollman,

Pursuant to House Rule 14, please allow this correspondence to serve as a notification that I am assigning the minority appointments for the Judiciary-Civil Subcommittees. Following the name of each subcommittee, I am outlining the number of members each subcommittee will have and the appointments that I am assigning. Below the subcommittees listed and the appointments are as follows:

Civil Procedure & Tort Liability Subcommittee

[February 19, 2025]

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- Composition of the Subcommittee: Two (2) Democratic members and one (1) Republican Member.
- Appointments to the Subcommittee: Representative David Friess

Constitutional & Family Law Subcommittee

- Composition of the Subcommittee: Two (2) Democratic Members and one (1) Republican Member.
- Appointments to the Subcommittee: Representative Dan Ugaste

Commercial & Property Law Subcommittee

- Composition of the Subcommittee: Two (2) members and one (1) Republican Member.
- Appointments to the Subcommittee: Representative David Friess

Data Privacy Law & Emerging Issues Subcommittee

- Composition of the Subcommittee: Two (2) Democratic Members and one (1) Republican member.
- Appointments to the Subcommittee: Representative Dan Ugaste

Sincerely,

s/Representative Dan Ugaste
Representative Dan Ugaste
Minority Spokesperson, Judiciary-Civil Committee

February 19, 2025

John Hollman

Clerk of the House

Room 400, Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 60701

Dear Clerk Hollman,

Pursuant to House Rule 14, please allow this correspondence to serve as a notification that I am assigning the minority appointments for the Labor & Commerce Subcommittees. Following the name of each subcommittee, I am outlining the number of members each subcommittee will have and the appointments that I am assigning. Below the subcommittees listed and the appointments are as follows:

Job & Workforce Development Subcommittee

- Composition of the Subcommittee: Four (4) Democratic members and three (3) Republican Members.
- Appointments to the Subcommittee: Representative Tom Weber (Chair), Representative Dan Ugaste, Representative Jed Davis

Occupational Licenses Subcommittee

- Composition of the Subcommittee: Four (4) Democratic Members and three (3) Republican Members.
- Appointments to the Subcommittee: Representative Brad Halbrook (Chair), Representative Dan Ugaste, Representative Jason Bunting

Wage Policy Study Subcommittee

- Composition of the Subcommittee: Four (4) members and three (3) Republican Members.
- Appointments to the Subcommittee: Representative Blaine Wilhour (Chair), Representative Dan Ugaste, Representative Brad Halbrook

Minority & Women Business Subcommittee

- Composition of the Subcommittee: Four (4) Democratic Members and three (3) Republican members.
- Appointments to the Subcommittee: Representative Brad Stephens (Chair) Representative Dan Ugaste, Representative Brad Fritts

Domestic & International Commerce Subcommittee

- Composition of the Subcommittee: Four (4) Democratic Members and three (3) Republican members.
- Appointments to the Subcommittee: Representative Blaine Wilhour (Chair), Representative Dan Ugaste, Representative Jed Davis

Workers' Compensation Analysis Subcommittee

- Composition of the Subcommittee: Four (4) Democratic Members and three (3) Republican members.
- Appointments to the Subcommittee: Representative Dan Ugaste (Chair), Representative Brad Fritts, Representative Jason Bunting

Sincerely,

s/Representative Dan Ugaste
 Representative Dan Ugaste
 Minority Spokesperson, Labor & Commerce Committee

TEMPORARY COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR COMMITTEES NOT REPORTING

Representative Vella replaced Representative Faver Dias in the Committee on Education Policy on February 19, 2025.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

Representative DeLuca, Chairperson, from the Committee on Cities & Villages to which the following were referred, action taken on February 18, 2025, reported the same back with the following recommendations:

That the bill be reported “do pass” and placed on the order of Second Reading -- Short Debate: HOUSE BILL 1082.

The committee roll call vote on HOUSE BILL 1082 is as follows:
 10, Yeas; 0, Nays; 0, Answering Present.

Y DeLuca(D), Chairperson	Y Smith(D), Vice-Chairperson
Y Stephens(R), Republican Spokesperson	Y Deuter(D)
Y Hanson(D)	Y Hernandez, Barbara(D)
Y McLaughlin(R)	Y Moylan(D)
Y Reick(R)	A Sosnowski(R)
Y West(D)	

Representative Gong-Gershowitz, Chairperson, from the Committee on Judiciary - Civil to which the following were referred, action taken on February 19, 2025, reported the same back with the following recommendations:

That the bill be reported “do pass” and placed on the order of Second Reading -- Short Debate: HOUSE BILLS 24, 28 and 1077.

The committee roll call vote on HOUSE BILL 24 is as follows:
18, Yeas; 0, Nays; 0, Answering Present.

Y Gong-Gershowitz(D), Chairperson	Y Canty(D), Vice-Chairperson
Y Ugaste(R), Republican Spokesperson	A Buckner(D)
Y Davis, Jed(R)	Y Delgado(D)
Y Didech(D)	Y Friess(R)
Y Fritts(R)	Y Hoffman(D)
Y Jiménez(D)	A Jones(D)
Y Katz Muhl(D)	Y McLaughlin(R)
Y Olickal(D)	Y Reick(R)
Y Tarver(D)	Y Vella(D)
Y Weber(R)	Y Williams, Ann(D)

The committee roll call vote on HOUSE BILL 28 is as follows:
18, Yeas; 1, Nay; 0, Answering Present.

Y Gong-Gershowitz(D), Chairperson	Y Canty(D), Vice-Chairperson
N Ugaste(R), Republican Spokesperson	Y Buckner(D)
Y Davis, Jed(R)	Y Delgado(D)
Y Didech(D)	Y Friess(R)
Y Fritts(R)	Y Hoffman(D)
Y Jiménez(D)	A Jones(D)
Y Katz Muhl(D)	Y McLaughlin(R)
Y Olickal(D)	Y Reick(R)
Y Tarver(D)	Y Vella(D)
Y Weber(R)	Y Williams, Ann(D)

The committee roll call vote on HOUSE BILL 1077 is as follows:
12, Yeas; 7, Nays; 0, Answering Present.

Y Gong-Gershowitz(D), Chairperson	Y Canty(D), Vice-Chairperson
N Ugaste(R), Republican Spokesperson	Y Buckner(D)
N Davis, Jed(R)	Y Delgado(D)
Y Didech(D)	N Friess(R)
N Fritts(R)	Y Hoffman(D)
Y Jiménez(D)	A Jones(D)
Y Katz Muhl(D)	N McLaughlin(R)
Y Olickal(D)	N Reick(R)
Y Tarver(D)	Y Vella(D)
N Weber(R)	Y Williams, Ann(D)

Representative Andrade, Chairperson, from the Committee on Transportation: Vehicles & Safety to which the following were referred, action taken on February 19, 2025, reported the same back with the following recommendations:

That the bill be reported “do pass” and placed on the order of Second Reading -- Short Debate: HOUSE BILLS 1120 and 1226.

The committee roll call vote on HOUSE BILLS 1120 and 1226 is as follows:
11, Yeas; 0, Nays; 0, Answering Present.

A Andrade(D), Chairperson	Y Kelly(D), Vice-Chairperson
Y Rosenthal(R), Republican Spokesperson	Y Benton(D)
Y Croke(D)	Y Deering(R)
Y Fritts(R)	Y Gonzalez(D)
Y Guerrero-Cuellar(D)	Y Hanson(D)
Y Hernandez, Barbara(D)	Y Stephens(R)

Representative Morgan, Chairperson, from the Committee on Health Care Licenses to which the following were referred, action taken on February 19, 2025, reported the same back with the following recommendations:

That the bill be reported “do pass” and placed on the order of Second Reading -- Short Debate: HOUSE BILL 1365.

The committee roll call vote on HOUSE BILL 1365 is as follows:
12, Yeas; 0, Nays; 0, Answering Present.

Y Morgan(D), Chairperson	Y Mah(D), Vice-Chairperson
Y Hauter(R), Republican Spokesperson	A Chung(D)
Y Costa Howard(D)	Y Jacobs(R)
Y LaPointe(D)	Y Manley(D)
Y Moeller(D)	Y Moore(R)
Y Ortiz(D)	Y Ryan(D)
A Schmidt(R)	Y Tipsword(R)
A Williams, Jawaharial(D)	

AGREED RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were offered and placed on the Calendar on the order of Agreed Resolutions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 139

Offered by Representative Hoffman:

Congratulates Glyn Ramage on the occasion of his retirement as business manager of the Downstate Illinois Laborers' District Council of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA). Recognizes his dedication to and impact on LIUNA.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 141

Offered by Representative Weber:

Congratulates Charlene Wexler of Richmond on being inducted into the Department on Aging's Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame for her devotion to the art of writing.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 142

Offered by Representative Didech:

Mourns the passing of Max Jordan Chiswick.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 143

Offered by Representative Morgan:

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Phil Goldstick, who passed away on February 5, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Phil Goldstick was a proud member of the University of Illinois ROTC during his time there; he served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955; he earned his Juris Doctor from the Depaul College of Law in 1958; and

WHEREAS, Phil Goldstick was a key member of the Fighting Illini football team during the 1953 Rose Bowl and remained a devoted supporter of the university throughout his life; he was elected to the board of the University of Illinois Foundation, eventually becoming a life member; and

WHEREAS, Phil Goldstick was a member of the Illinois House of Representatives during the 74th General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Phil Goldstick's deep commitment to Illinois extended to his partnership with Chabad Campus for Jewish Living, where he worked tirelessly to ensure that Jewish students felt at home and proud to be a part of the University of Illinois community; and

WHEREAS, Phil Goldstick was dedicated to supporting research regarding Rett Syndrome in addition to his involvement with the university, and he played an active role in supporting the special education program at Illinois; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of Phil Goldstick and extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we join Phil Goldstick's family, friends, and the University of Illinois community in celebrating and revering the life and accomplishments of a distinguished individual; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Phil Goldstick as an expression of our deepest sympathy.

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were offered and placed in the Committee on Rules.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 140

Offered by Representative Halbrook:

WHEREAS, Each year the President of the United States declares January 16th as Religious Freedom Day and calls upon Americans to observe this day through appropriate events and activities in homes, schools, and places of worship; and

WHEREAS, Our Founding Fathers knew the importance of freedom of religion, and the U.S. Constitution protects an individual's right to worship as they so choose with the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, Declaring such a day for religious freedom is part of our American foundation and heritage; and

WHEREAS, January 16th was the chosen date for celebration as it is the anniversary of the exact date in 1786 when the Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom was passed; and

WHEREAS, This statute restrained the practice of taxing people to pay for the support of the local clergy and protected the civil rights of people to express their religious beliefs without suffering discrimination; and

WHEREAS, In Illinois, this date was observed by former Governor Rauner, and this important day of freedom should be brought into our chamber and State; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare January 16, 2025 as "Religious

Freedom Day" in the State of Illinois and encourage our citizens to reflect on our proud tradition of religious freedom so that it may be preserved for future generations.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 15

Offered by Representative Halbrook:

WHEREAS, Executive Orders by the President of the United States have become a vehicle through which the President may overstep the limits of his constitutional authority; and

WHEREAS, The concentration of power at the federal level has had the effect of making federal officials less responsive to the will of the people and more readily influenced by lobbyists, wealthy corporations, and special interests in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Much of federal law is now enacted by federal bureaucrats who were never chosen by the people and have no accountability to the people whatsoever; and

WHEREAS, Policy decisions made at the state level tend to be more responsive to the needs and desires of the people; and

WHEREAS, The federal government has created a crushing national debt through improper and imprudent spending; and

WHEREAS, The federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the states through the manipulative process of federal mandates, most of which are unfunded to a great extent; and

WHEREAS, The states have the ability to restore the responsiveness of government to the people and to restrain abuses of federal power by proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States through a limited Convention of the States under Article V; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the legislature of the State of Illinois hereby applies to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Illinois Secretary of State is hereby directed to transmit copies of this application to the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, to the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to the Illinois Congressional Delegation, and to the presiding officers of each of the legislative houses in the United States, requesting their cooperation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the states have made applications on the same subject.

RECESS

At the hour of 11:45 o'clock a.m., Speaker of the House Welch moved that the House do now take a recess for the Governor to address the Joint Session.

The motion prevailed.

JOINT SESSION 12:00 O'CLOCK P.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 his Budget Message in person to the One Hundred Fourth General Assembly.

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

The two Houses being convened in Joint Session, President Harmon of the Senate announced that a quorum of the Senate was present.

Clerk Hollman, 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 Gabel offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

JOINT SESSION RESOLUTION 1

RESOLVED, That a committee of eleven be appointed, six 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 JB Pritzker and invite him to address the Joint Assembly.

Representative Kam Buckner
Representative Eva-Dina Delgado
Representative Robyn Gabel
Representative Will Guzzardi
Representative Paul Jacobs
Representative Wayne Rosenthal
Senator Christopher Belt
Senator Michael Halpin
Senator Celina Villanueva
Senator Chris Balkema
Senator Dale Fowler

The motion prevailed and the resolution was adopted.

GOVERNOR PRITZKER BUDGET ADDRESS

Speaker Welch, President Harmon, Minority Leader McCombie, Minority Leader Curran, Lieutenant Governor Stratton, my fellow constitutional officers, members of the 104th General Assembly, Chief Justice Theis and members of the Supreme Court, First Lady MK Pritzker, honored guests, and all the people of the great state of Illinois, I'm JB Pritzker, and I'm grateful to be here to deliver my seventh State of the State and Budget address:

In 1818, the first Illinois Constitution mandated that the Governor “shall, from time to time, give the General Assembly information of the state of the government, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall deem expedient.”

Remarkably, as far as I can tell, every single year for two hundred and seven years, in one fashion or another, Illinois governors have stood before this body to do what our first constitution mandated of them.

These messages have reflected the unique times during which each Governor served. Our second Governor, Edward Coles advocated for the abolition of slavery decades before Abraham Lincoln — passionate in his entreaty that it was a matter of “justice and humanity.” Dwight Green, our 32nd governor, implored Illinoisans at the start of the Second World War to not let the “tragic spirit of despair” overcome us.

I like what this tradition represents. No matter what budget circumstances, no matter if there's a world war or a deadly pandemic, no matter how many governors and legislators have been elected and installed –

every year our democratic process begins again. And every year, we come together as democratically elected representatives of the people — to acknowledge that the power they grant us with each election and reelection is not unlimited.

It's traditions like this one which bring together all our branches of government to stand in respect of each other — that underpin the guardrails of our democracy. The only power that the Constitution truly recognizes is power that is capable of humbling itself before our people.

Since I became governor, each of our budgets has been an effort to strengthen the fiscal foundation upon which we could all confidently work to build prosperity throughout Illinois, in good years and bad.

Together so far, we've paid down more than \$12 billion in debt, grown a rainy-day fund of more than \$2 billion, improved our pension funded ratio, and earned nine credit upgrades, which are the first upgrades in a quarter century. And we invested in things that matter to Illinoisans — education, healthcare, public safety, infrastructure and job creation.

Every single one of these budget years has presented its own unique set of difficulties.

This year is no exception.

Here's the good news — we've made responsible investments, and Illinois is better built for the long term. That means that lean budget years are a challenge — and no longer a catastrophe.

Overcoming a challenging budget year starts with growing our economy. Because every business we add, every dollar they invest, every worker we employ, every entrepreneur we uplift, strengthens our resiliency.

For too many years, Illinois lacked an organized effort to attract, retain and expand businesses, payrolls, and career opportunities. Global CEOs and site selectors have told me Illinois was never on their radar screen because for decades our state wasn't proactively competing for their new factories or headquarters like other states were.

That's all changing, thanks to the work of the General Assembly and our new Team Illinois economic development organization.

This state has so much to offer — among the best in the nation for workforce talent, innovation, clean energy, abundant fresh water, fertile soil, educational and scientific institutions and more. I've been across the country and around the world with Illinois business leaders showing our wares to company leaders looking for a place to expand, and we've had real success. In 2019 CNBC's list of Top States for Business ranked Illinois 30th out of 50 states. Today we're 15th.

Our economy is over \$1.1 trillion and growing — the fifth largest in the United States and the 18th largest in the world.

We're now ranked number two in the nation for corporate expansions and relocation destinations. You can see that progress, from Du Quoin to Decatur to Manteno to Belvidere.

Back in 2016, Mitsubishi closed its only US plant in Normal Illinois, putting the community's future in jeopardy. Along came Rivian Automotive, which bought the idled plant and brought new life to the factory, and in turn, to the community. Not satisfied with that, Team Illinois worked with the General Assembly to support Rivian's decision to invest \$1.5 billion more in a factory expansion. In 2018 there were 27 Rivian employees in Normal. There are now thousands.

When Vaughan & Bushnell Manufacturing — an economic engine and community institution in Bushnell for over 150 years — was on the verge of closing, hundreds of jobs and the future of the community were at risk.

A small town where generations of Illinoisans had laid down roots, built lives, and raised families could have disappeared.

Team Illinois immediately began working with the company and local officials to make sure that didn't happen. Those efforts compelled Marshalltown Company to step in and acquire Vaughan & Bushnell – keeping jobs right here in Illinois and keeping a small town together.

Bushnell Mayor Robin Wilt is here with us today – would you stand and be recognized? When her community was in need, Mayor Wilt rolled up her sleeves and worked with my team to keep it together. She didn't worry about partisan politics or budget games. Her focus was – as ours should be – on the working families who depend on our ability to get results.

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Voortman Steel Machinery, Kellanova, PsiQuantum, Prysmian Group, Nexamp, Manner Polymers and more, representing tens of billions of dollars of investment and revenue — these are just some of the new facilities and headquarters that have moved to Illinois or expanded here in the last few years, and they are part of the vital new economic foundation of our state.

Economic growth is an essential ingredient that allows us to move beyond a challenging budget year like this one.

None of this happens without fiscal responsibility.

I'm proud to say this year's budget proposal is balanced and responsible. It represents some hard sacrifices and moderated spending. We're preserving the progress we've made over the last six years, streamlining certain departments to do more with less, and delivering for our residents without raising their taxes.

Like so many other states, our FY26 revenue will grow at a slower rate than we experienced in recent years. For example, state sourced revenue increased 15.9% in 2021 and 13.2% in 2022. We expect to finish this year with 5% revenue growth. For 2026, our forecast projects a 1.9% increase — much more modest, in part because the US economy is projected to grow at a slower pace. While we hope this is temporary in nature, I am not going to base a budget on bloated revenue estimates. I have never done that. Therefore, our spending must reflect reality. We have to live within our means.

New discretionary spending is increasing by less than 1% in the FY26 budget. Other expenditures are mandatory: full pension payments, inflation on healthcare coverage, and debt pay-down, for example.

This proposed budget enacts cost-saving operational efficiencies, improves productivity, curtails new hiring at agencies, consolidates unnecessary segregated funds, eliminates dormant boards and commissions, and overhauls state purchasing to save taxpayers money.

Each and every year I have proposed a balanced budget, and each and every year the General Assembly has passed a balanced budget.

As always, I stand ready to work with members of the General Assembly to deliberate and negotiate the final budget. But let's be clear, I will only sign a balanced budget. If you come to the table looking to spend more – I'm going to ask you where you want to cut. I have made difficult decisions – including to programs I have championed, which is hard for me, just as I know some of the difficult decisions you will have to make will be hard for you.

I believe strongly that we must continue our firm commitment to building up the Rainy Day Fund, new funding for our public schools, investing in economic growth and jobs, and improving much needed services to working families and to the most vulnerable. These are things we cannot compromise on, particularly when we face the uncertainty of the federal government's haphazard "ready, fire, aim" tactics toward everyday Americans.

I know it's in fashion at the federal level right now to just indiscriminately slash school funding, healthcare coverage, support for farmers, and veterans' services. They say they're doing it to eliminate inefficiencies. But only an idiot would think we should eliminate emergency response in a natural disaster, education and healthcare for disabled children, gang crime investigations, clean air and water programs, monitoring of nursing home abuse, nuclear reactor regulation, and cancer research.

Here in Illinois, ten years ago we saw the consequences of a rampant ideological gutting of government. It genuinely harmed people. Our citizens hated it. Trust me – I won an entire election based in part on just how much they hated it. So, while this budget makes sacrifices – it preserves Illinois' progress toward delivering what children and families need most.

We ought to be focused on making life more affordable for everyday Illinoisans. With the new tariffs already put in place by President Trump and the ones that he has proposed, the cost of everyday goods like tomatoes and beef and beer is likely to rise again. It's confounding that when that happens, it seems like large corporations just hike up prices to drive up profits, while everyday people get stuck with the bill. It's not right, and we ought to call out the federal government and the companies on it.

We can do something about it at the state level.

Last year, we lowered taxes on parents when we enacted the Child Tax Credit and permanently eliminated the state grocery tax – together saving Illinoisans more than half a billion dollars per year. This year, we are going to need to do even more to address high prices and counteract Trump's tariffs that will raise taxes on working families.

At the top of the list: We need to lower healthcare costs.

One of the great ironies of our modern age is that breakthroughs in research are producing medications that can treat and even cure longstanding chronic diseases, but the high cost of these drugs are making them unaffordable for the people who need them the most.

What's causing that? Patients, healthcare providers, and independent pharmacists will all tell you that Pharmacy Benefit Managers – or PBMs – are driving up prices.

PBMs are middlemen in the healthcare industry. They extract extra profit from patients through opaque and often predatory tactics. They are not doctors, but they work with insurance companies to deny people the drugs and treatments doctors prescribe. Not only are they driving up healthcare costs for Illinois families by hundreds of millions of dollars per year, but they are also putting small, local, independent pharmacies out of business.

Michelle Dyer of Macoupin County is a pharmacy owner. Will you stand and be recognized? Michelle was forced to close three of her stores after years of skyrocketing PBM fees. Her livelihood was threatened – and so were her patients. She’s not alone. We are talking about rural small businesses being ruined by large pharmacy store chains that own PBMs. Michelle and all the independent, family-run pharmacies under threat deserve a level playing field.

That’s why I’m introducing the Prescription Drug Affordability Act to reign in the unfair practices of PBMs, reduce drug costs for Illinois patients by hundreds of dollars per year on average, and protect independent pharmacists.

We’ll also give full statutory authority to the Illinois Department of Insurance to examine the books and records of PBMs and require them to submit to annual reporting and auditing. We’re going to end their overcharging for drugs people rely on, from insulin for diabetics to chemotherapy for cancer patients.

Millions of Illinoisans have had an unexpected illness or accident that left them owing thousands of dollars in medical bills they may never be able to pay. Today I am announcing a second batch of medical debt cancellations, made possible through our landmark program established last year. Over 100,000 Illinoisans have now seen their medical debt automatically erased.

This is a great example of the creative policies that allow us to transform the lives of our people for the better while remaining fiscally prudent. So far, \$900,000 has allowed us to eliminate over \$128 million in medical debt owed by middle class and working class families – saving them over a thousand dollars on average.

Last year, we enacted the Healthcare Protection Act – allowing doctors and patients to make their own medical decisions without interference from insurance companies. It will save Illinoisans money while improving the quality of medical care in our state.

This year, we are going a step further.

We need to stop insurance companies from blocking access to mental health. We can do that by banning prior authorization for all behavioral healthcare.

And for rural Illinois families and those who live far away from certain medical care, we’ll require insurance reimbursement for reasonable travel costs associated with medical appointments when the distance traveled exceeds network adequacy requirements.

The days of unchecked health insurance greed are coming to an end here in Illinois. Predatory practices are being dismantled one by one, and we’re going to lower the cost of healthcare for working families.

One of the biggest affordability challenges people are facing is housing. Amid the construction supply chain challenges of the past few years, along with higher interest rates, Illinois’ housing inventory decreased more than the national average. That’s got to change.

Last year, I appointed a Director of Housing Solutions and formed an advisory committee of housing experts. They proposed a slate of reforms to unlock new financing, attract capital, incentivize builders, and eliminate unnecessary barriers to housing construction. This year, I’m asking the General Assembly to put those recommendations to work so we can make Illinois housing more available and economical.

While this is a year for tightening our belts, we’ve made real progress toward giving every Illinois child the support they need to live a healthy, prosperous life. Let’s not lose that forward momentum.

Our historic investments in Evidence-Based Funding have made a profound impact on student success. In 2024, reading scores for Illinois’ eighth graders were the second highest in the nation, and their math scores

were fifth highest in the nation. On top of that good news, high school graduation rates in Illinois have reached a 14-year high. I believe in building on what works. So, despite the challenge we are facing this year, my budget proposal increases our commitment to Evidence Based Funding for public education so that we put new resources in underfunded schools first.

Improving the classroom environment and limiting distractions is vital to student achievement, and in conversations with educators and parents around the state – there is one thing they commonly cite as an impediment to learning in the classroom: cell phones. Furthermore, cyber bullying has expanded at alarming rates, and it's time for Illinois to take measures to protect our kids.

That's why this session, I'll move forward with legislation requiring all school districts in Illinois to adopt a cell phone policy that bans the use of phones during classroom instruction. More focus on learning will bring even greater success for kids across the state.

According to US News and World Report, Illinois ranks number seven in the nation for PreK-12 education, and that's one reason why so many of our students go to college. And our MAP grant and AIM HIGH scholarship programs, along with our state universities' free college offers like the Huskie Pledge and Illinois Promise are making university education in Illinois more affordable. But making it more accessible would help us keep the best and brightest students here at home.

So I propose we pass the Public University Direct Admission Program Act introduced by Majority Leader Kimberly Lightford last year. It would allow students to know before they apply whether they qualify for admission to any or all of our state's public universities. That way a student can apply with no fee and full confidence in their acceptance. More kids in Illinois will stay and go to school here, and that's great for our state's families and our economy.

Along those lines, I want to offer one final proposal focused on one of the jewels of the Illinois education system – our community colleges. Illinois is home to one of best community college systems in the nation – third largest in size and still growing. Last fall, enrollment at Illinois community colleges grew for the third consecutive year –outpacing the national average by almost 3 percent.

One of those students is Melissa McKaig of Jerseyville who is here today. Will you stand and be recognized? Melissa is a nursing student at Lewis and Clark Community College, and a student trustee, along with being a devoted mother and grandmother. Melissa wants to pursue a baccalaureate degree in Nursing – but the cost and the commute to a school farther away will make it too expensive.

There are people like Melissa all across Illinois – who want to get a four year degree to make a better living. We should make that easier for them.

That's why I'm proposing we allow Community Colleges to offer four- year Baccalaureate Degrees for in-demand career paths – like nursing, advanced manufacturing, early childhood education, and beyond. With lower tuition rates and a greater presence across the state — especially in rural areas — community colleges provide the flexibility and affordability students need. This is a consumer driven, student-centered proposal that will help fill the needs of regional employers in high-need sectors and create a pathway to stable, quality jobs for more Illinoisans.

This is my seventh state of the state address. I've come before you to present a budget in good years and in bad, in years of crisis and years of relative stability. There is a whole industry of backseat bellyachers in this state and around the country who make a profession out of rhetorically tearing down Illinois and suggesting that if we would just enact one of their magic bean fixes we would never face another difficult budget year.

But if there's one thing I've learned as Governor – there are no magic bean fixes. And each year there's some difficulty that requires us to work hard to overcome it. This year the surfacing difficulty is Donald Trump's and Elon Musk's plan to steal Illinois' tax dollars and deny our citizens the protection and services they need.

Let me offer a few examples.

20 million Americans, 700,000 of them here in Illinois, will lose healthcare coverage — if Congressional Republicans are successful in their effort to cut the Affordable Care Act — and rural hospitals across Illinois will be shuttered.

The Trump administration cut off funding for food safety inspectors for nearly a month, impacting more than 70 meat and poultry facilities in Illinois. Without these inspectors, the supply chain collapses, prices go through the roof, from farmers to truckers to meat packers to retailers, jobs will be lost.

Meals on Wheels programs — which home deliver 12 million meals per year to 100,000 seniors and people with disabilities in Illinois — are on the federal chopping block.

This is real. The new administration and the Republican Congress and Elon Musk intend to take these programs away. For all the Illinoisans watching at home — let me be clear, this is going to affect your daily lives. Our state budget can't make up for the damage that is done to people across our state if they succeed.

There are people — some in my own Party — who think that if you just give Donald Trump everything he wants, he'll make an exception and spare you some of the harm. I'll ignore the moral abdication of that position for just a second to say — almost none of those people have the experience with this President that I do. I once swallowed my pride to offer him what he values most — public praise on the Sunday news shows — in return for ventilators and N95 masks during the worst of the pandemic. We made a deal. And it turns out his promises were as broken as the BIPAP machines he sent us instead of ventilators. Going along to get along does not work — just ask the Trump-fearing red state Governors who are dealing with the same cuts that we are. I won't be fooled twice.

I've been reflecting, these past four weeks, on two important parts of my life: my work helping to build the Illinois Holocaust Museum and the two times I've had the privilege of reciting the oath of office for Illinois Governor.

As some of you know, Skokie, Illinois once had one of the largest populations of Holocaust survivors anywhere in the world. In 1978, Nazis decided they wanted to march there.

The leaders of that march knew that the images of Swastika clad young men goose stepping down a peaceful suburban street would terrorize the local Jewish population — so many of whom had never recovered from their time in German concentration camps.

The prospect of that march sparked a legal fight that went all the way to the Supreme Court. It was a Jewish lawyer from the ACLU who argued the case for the Nazis — contending that even the most hateful of speech was protected under the first amendment.

As an American and a Jew, I find it difficult to resolve my feelings around that Supreme Court case — but I am grateful that the prospect of Nazis marching in their streets spurred the survivors and other Skokie residents to act. They joined together to form the Holocaust Memorial Foundation and built the first Illinois Holocaust Museum in a storefront in 1981 — a small but important forerunner to the one I helped build thirty years later.

I do not invoke the specter of Nazis lightly. But I know the history intimately — and have spent more time than probably anyone in this room with people who survived the Holocaust. Here's what I've learned — the root that tears apart your house's foundation begins as a seed — a seed of distrust and hate and blame.

The seed that grew into a dictatorship in Europe a lifetime ago didn't arrive overnight. It started with everyday Germans mad about inflation and looking for someone to blame.

I'm watching with a foreboding dread what is happening in our country right now. A president who watches a plane go down in the Potomac – and suggests — without facts or findings — that a diversity hire is responsible for the crash. Or the Missouri Attorney General who just sued Starbucks – arguing that consumers pay higher prices for their coffee because the baristas are too “female” and “nonwhite.” The authoritarian playbook is laid bare here: They point to a group of people who don't look like you and tell you to blame them for your problems.

I just have one question: What comes next? After we've discriminated against, deported or disparaged all the immigrants and the gay and lesbian and transgender people, the developmentally disabled, the women and the minorities – once we've ostracized our neighbors and betrayed our friends – After that, when the problems we started with are still there staring us in the face – what comes next?

All the atrocities of human history lurk in the answer to that question. And if we don't want to repeat history – then for God's sake in this moment we better be strong enough to learn from it.

I swore the following oath on Abraham Lincoln's bible: “I do solemnly swear that I will support the constitution of the United States, and the constitution of the state of Illinois, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Governor according to the best of my ability.”

My oath is to the Constitution of our state and of our country. We don't have kings in America – and I don't intend to bend the knee to one. I am not speaking up in service to my ambitions — but in deference to my obligations.

If you think I'm overreacting and sounding the alarm too soon, consider this:

It took the Nazis one month, three weeks, two days, eight hours and 40 minutes to dismantle a constitutional republic. All I'm saying is when the five-alarm fire starts to burn, every good person better be ready to man a post with a bucket of water if you want to stop it from raging out of control.

Those Illinois Nazis did end up holding their march in 1978 – just not in Skokie. After all the blowback from the case, they decided to march in Chicago instead. Only twenty of them showed up. But 2000 people came to counter protest. The Chicago Tribune reported that day that the “rally sputtered to an unspectacular end after ten minutes.” It was Illinoisans who smothered those embers before they could burn into a flame.

Tyranny requires your fear and your silence and your compliance. Democracy requires your courage. So gather your justice and humanity, Illinois, and do not let the “tragic spirit of despair” overcome us when our country needs us the most.

Thank you.

At the hour of 12:45 o'clock p.m., President Harmon moved that the Joint Assembly do now arise.
The motion prevailed.

At the hour of 12:47 o'clock p.m., The Senate having withdrawn, the House resumed its session.
Representative Welch in the Chair

AGREED RESOLUTIONS

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS 139, 141 and 142 were taken up for consideration.
Representative Gabel moved the adoption of the agreed resolutions.
The motion prevailed and the agreed resolutions were adopted.

At the hour of 12:52 o'clock p.m., Representative Gabel moved that the House do now adjourn until Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 12:00 o'clock p.m., allowing perfunctory time for the Clerk.

The motion prevailed.

And the House stood adjourned.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE ROLL CALL
QUORUM CALL

February 19, 2025

0 YEAS

0 NAYS

116 PRESENT

P Ammons	P Ford	P Kelly	P Scherer
E Andrade	P Friess	P Kifowit	P Schmidt
P Avelar	P Fritts	P La Ha	P Schweizer
P Benton	P Gabel	P LaPointe	P Severin
P Blair-Sherlock	P Gill	P Lilly	P Sheehan
P Briel	P Gong-Gershowitz	P Mah	P Slaughter
P Buckner	P González	P Manley	P Smith
P Bunting	P Gordon-Booth	P Mason	P Sosnowski
P Cabello	P Grant	P Mayfield	P Spain
P Canty	P Grasse	P McCombie	P Stava
P Cassidy	P Guerrero-Cuellar	P McLaughlin	P Stephens
P Chung	P Guzzardi	E Meier	P Stuart
P Coffey	P Haas	P Meyers-Martin	P Swanson
P Costa Howard	P Halbrook	P Miller	P Syed
P Crawford	P Hammond	P Moeller	P Tarver
P Crespo	P Hanson	P Moore	P Tipsword
P Croke	P Harper	P Morgan	P Ugaste
P Davidsmeyer	P Hauter	P Morris	P Vella
P Davis, Jed	P Hernandez, Barbara	P Moylan	P Walsh
P Davis, Lisa	P Hernandez, Lisa	P Mussman	P Weaver
P Davis, Will	P Hernandez, Norma	P Ness	P Weber
P Deering	P Hirschauer	P Niemerg	P West
P Delgado	P Hoffman	P Olickal	P Wilhour
P DeLuca	P Huynh	P Ortíz	P Williams, Ann
P Deuter	P Jacobs	P Rashid	P Williams, Jawaharial
P Didech	P Jiménez	P Reick	P Windhorst
P Du Buclet	P Johnson	P Rita	P Yang Rohr
P Elik	P Jones	P Rosenthal	P Mr. Speaker
P Evans	P Katz Muhl	P Ryan	
P Faver Dias	P Keicher	P Sanalidro	

E - Denotes Excused Absence

9TH LEGISLATIVE DAY

Perfunctory Session

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025

At the hour of 1:07 o'clock p.m., the House convened perfunctory session.

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF BILLS

The following bills were introduced, read by title a first time, ordered reproduced and placed in the Committee on Rules:

HOUSE BILL 3868. Introduced by Representative McCombie, AN ACT concerning appropriations.

HOUSE BILL 3869. Introduced by Representative DeLuca, AN ACT concerning education.

At the hour of 1:09 o'clock p.m., the House Perfunctory Session adjourned.