



**SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**

**FILED**

**2008-279**

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**SECRETARY OF STATE, INDEX DEPT.**

**PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the Illinois Constitution requires the General Assembly, by law, to make appropriations for all expenditure of public funds for each fiscal year for the operations of State government, departments, authorities, and public agencies, among other things;

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 2(b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970 requires the General Assembly to pass a balanced budget in which appropriations for the fiscal year do not exceed funds estimated to be available during that year;

WHEREAS, the General Assembly passed four appropriations bills for the expenditure of public funds for Fiscal Year 2009;

WHEREAS, the appropriations passed by the General Assembly for Fiscal Year 2009 exceed funds estimated to be available during that year and thus render the budget passed by the General Assembly unbalanced by approximately \$2 billion, in clear violation of Article VIII, Section 2(b) of the Illinois Constitution;

WHEREAS, the Illinois Senate has passed several funding solutions, including a capital bill and a fund transfer bill, among other things, that if enacted could support a balanced budget;

WHEREAS, the capital bill which has overwhelmingly passed the Senate not only provides additional funding solutions to support a balanced budget, but also spurs the economy by creating approximately 600,000 jobs across Illinois;

WHEREAS, the leadership of the House of Representatives refused to present any of the funding solutions passed by the Illinois Senate to the House for a vote of the body prior to adjourning on May 31, 2008;

WHEREAS, during debate on the House floor on May 29, 2008, several representatives acknowledged that the spending measures the House was considering (and ultimately passed) lacked supporting revenues;

WHEREAS, on the day the appropriation bills were passed by the Illinois House of Representatives, numerous representatives questioned the constitutionality of knowingly passing a budget that was grossly unbalanced;

WHEREAS, it was emphatically noted on the House floor that intentionally passing an unbalanced budget under the premise that it would be balanced by the Governor did not comport with the General Assembly's constitutional duty to pass a balanced budget;

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2008, I called upon the House of Representatives to pass the funding solutions already passed by the Illinois Senate by July 9, 2008, in order to bring the budget into balance;

WHEREAS, the leadership of the House of Representatives has refused to call the House into session to deal with the grossly unbalanced budget passed;

WHEREAS, according to the Comptroller, a budget must be in place prior to July 9, 2008, in order to prevent the interruption of the operations of State government; and

WHEREAS, unless the General Assembly passes revenue generating measures to support a balanced budget, I will have no choice but to make significant cuts to State services and sponsored programs, thereby causing great harm to the citizens of this State, which could be avoided;

THEREFORE, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5(b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby call and convene the 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, in duly constituted quorums capable of conducting business, in a special session to commence on July 9, 2008, at 2:28 p.m. to (a) consider any measures, including but not limited to Senate Bill 790, House Bills 6339, 2651, 4723, 1496, and 5618, which would provide the necessary revenue to support the appropriations contained in House Bill 5701, and Senate Bills 1102, 1115, and 1129, and (b) accept and immediately enter in the journal any veto, line-item veto, or reduction veto of any appropriation bills returned by the Governor.

  
ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH  
Governor

Dated: July 9, 2008