



FILED

SEP 18 '08 -4 05 PM

SECRETARY OF STATE, INDEX DEPT.

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

2008-366

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the people of the State of Illinois deserve to have full faith and trust in the integrity of governmental decision-making and the process by which taxpayer dollars are spent; and

WHEREAS, I am committed to enhancing public trust in government by promoting high ethical standards in the procurement process and other areas of State government, and by supporting strong measures to enforce those standards; and

WHEREAS, I have signed an Executive Order that implements enhanced ethical standards in the State procurement process as applied to all State agencies under my jurisdiction and control; and

WHEREAS, to ensure full transparency in government and its decision making, it is imperative that all State elected officials adhere to the same high standards in ethics, and avoid transactions that may appear to compromise the independence of governmental decisions; and

WHEREAS, political contributions by State contractors to State elected officials or to political organizations that make expenditures on behalf of such officers contribute to public cynicism regarding the integrity of the government procurement process; and

WHEREAS, the potential for conflicts of interest created by dual governmental employment jeopardizes public trust in government; and

WHEREAS, to promote transparency, it is crucial that those State elected officials who lobby or appear before a governmental entity on behalf of clients, for economic gain, be required to disclose such information; and


WHEREAS, to ensure accountability, it is important that all increases in pay, whether for members of the executive or legislative branch, be subject to the affirmative approval of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, I have proposed recommendations to House Bill 824 to enhance ethical standards by uniformly applying restrictions to political contributions by State contractors to all State elected officials who play a role in the procurement process, enhancing lobbying disclosures, prohibiting dual public employment, and requiring an affirmative vote for executive and legislative pay raises; and

WHEREAS, these measures are intended to and will increase transparency, accountability, and public confidence in government; and

WHEREAS, given the significance of ethics in government, it imperative that the General Assembly promptly engage in debate and discussion aimed at implementing comprehensive ethics reform in the State of Illinois.

THEREFORE, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 (b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby call and convene the 95th General Assembly, in duly constituted quorums capable of conducting business, in a special session to commence on September 22, 2008, at 1:00 p.m., to consider measures aimed at formulating and implementing comprehensive ethics reform.


ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor

Dated: September 18, 2008