



Illinois Community College Trustees Association Action Alert

June 25, 2004

JUNE 24 SPECIAL SESSION HAS SHAKY START . . . SO GOVERNOR CALLS ANOTHER ONE

The Illinois General Assembly's First Special Session of 2004 convened at 2 PM, Thursday, June 24.

By 2:30 PM, House Speaker Michael Madigan had adjourned his chamber until noon, Friday, June 25, and then noon, Monday, June 28, for both the regular and First Special Sessions. Speaker Madigan said there wasn't anything for the House to do until the Senate acts on the eight Senate appropriation bills that were mentioned in the First Special Session Proclamation. All of those bills are currently on First Reading in the Senate. So, the Speaker released his troops.

At 3 PM, Gov. Rod Blagojevich assembled the media in his office and announced another Special Session for noon on Friday, June 25, to "consider any legislation (new or pending), which will address directly the budget of the Department of Transportation for FY 05." That Special Session concluded in the House much the same way as the first Special Session.

GOVERNOR CALLS NEW SPECIAL SESSIONS

Having already called two Special Sessions this week, Gov. Blagojevich has called at least two additional Special Sessions for this weekend, as well as for Monday, June 28. The Third Special Session will address the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (10 AM, Saturday, June 26). The Fourth Special Session, regarding the Department of Natural Resources funding, starts at 4 PM, Sunday, June 27. And the Fifth Special Session (noon, Monday, June 28) will address the Department of Aging.

Speaker Michael Madigan convened the First and Second Special Sessions today, said there wasn't anything to do, and adjourned his members. He indicated that he will do the same thing for the sessions scheduled this weekend, and convene the House at noon, Monday, June 28. Meanwhile the Senate has been working to advance the bills identified in the First Special Session to passage stage.

There have been no announcements of the status of community college funding for FY 05 or any final budget agreements.

If all this seems perplexing, then remember the immortal words of Milo Minderbinder in the book *Catch 22*: "In confusion, there's opportunity."

The Illinois Community College Trustees Association continues to encourage calls to legislators with the following message:

Please support a \$16.7 million special appropriation for the City Colleges of Chicago, and restore the FY 2005 community college system budget to FY 2004 levels.

For additional legislative updates, contact ICCTA at iccta@communitycolleges.org or 1-800-454-2282.