



HR0555

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Illinois Legislature operates the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA), the bipartisan fiscal forecasting arm of the General Assembly; and

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WHEREAS, During the fiscal situation that began with the worldwide economic downturn of 2008-09, the work of COGFA has become increasingly vital as it has provided nonpolitical guidance to policymakers in and out of the Illinois General Assembly on the somber trends facing the State and its revenues; and

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WHEREAS, During this challenging time, the Illinois General Assembly and the 12 legislative members of the Commission have been fortunate to have the services of COGFA's longtime Executive Director, Dan Long; and

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WHEREAS, Dan Long graduated from the University of Illinois in 1975 and immediately began working for the office of Illinois State Comptroller, George W. Lindberg; the office of Comptroller was created by election in 1972 following ratification of the Constitution of 1970; when Dan started work for the State of Illinois, our State's new constitutional fiscal structure was less than two and a half years old; and

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1           WHEREAS, After more than 40 years, Dan Long has seen this  
2           fiscal structure from almost literally every angle, including  
3           that of Chief Fiscal Officer in the Executive Office of  
4           Governor James R. Thompson, executive rank in several code  
5           departments (the former Department of Commerce and Community  
6           Affairs, now DCEO, and the Department of Central Management  
7           Services (CMS)), and executive rank on the legislative staff of  
8           Illinois House Republican Leader and House Speaker Lee A.  
9           Daniels; and

10           WHEREAS, In February of 2001, Dan Long was appointed  
11           Executive Director of the Illinois Economic and Fiscal  
12           Commission, the legislative support arm that was renamed COGFA  
13           in the 2004 budget implementation (BIMP) bill; and

14           WHEREAS, Under law, a key statutory duty of COGFA's  
15           permanent staff is to work with the 12 legislative members of  
16           the Commission to provide the General Assembly and its members  
17           with "the most reliable and authoritative information  
18           available concerning economic developments and trends in this  
19           State and the operations of State Government"; and

20           WHEREAS, Soon after Dan Long took over at COGFA in early  
21           2001, these economic developments and trends turned negative  
22           for Illinois, negative in real terms during all too many of  
23           these years and negative in relation to the other 49 U.S.

1 states in almost every year of the past 16; during this period  
2 of time, Dan's consummate professionalism, low-key  
3 personality, and prompt responses to legislators' inquiries  
4 won him the respect of almost every member of the Illinois  
5 General Assembly; and

6 WHEREAS, It is easy to be popular when one is the bearer of  
7 good news, but to be respected when one is the bearer of bad  
8 news is a sign of skill that deserves to be appreciated and  
9 remembered for a long time to come; and

10 WHEREAS, After 38 years working for the State of Illinois  
11 and after almost 42 years in public sector-related service, and  
12 much to the regret of the members of the Commission on  
13 Government Forecasting and Accountability and to the members of  
14 the General Assembly as a whole, Dan Long has announced his  
15 retirement effective July 31, 2017; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
17 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
18 thank Dan Long for his almost four decades of public service,  
19 climaxing in his tenure of more than 16 years as the Executive  
20 Director of the Commission on Government Forecasting and  
21 Accountability (COGFA); and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That we mention and praise the role of Dan Long,

1 and COGFA's permanent staff, in providing guidance to the  
2 Illinois General Assembly during the challenging fiscal  
3 climate that has marked the history of Illinois since the  
4 events of 2001; and be it further

5       RESOLVED, That we acknowledge the essential role of  
6 bipartisan support service agencies to the life of the Illinois  
7 General Assembly, and praise Dan Long and COGFA's permanent  
8 staff in their rapid responses to legislative members of both  
9 chambers and both parties as they have searched for data and  
10 guidance to meet these challenges; and be it further

11       RESOLVED, That we wish Dan Long a full life upon his  
12 retirement, with the support of his friends, children, and  
13 family; and be it further

14       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
15 presented to Dan Long, Executive Director of the Commission on  
16 Government Forecasting and Accountability, as a sign of our  
17 deep respect for his public service.