



News from
State Representative Franco Coladipietro

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Coladipietro Disappointed by Lack of Progress in Special Sessions

Springfield ... Six days into the start of the new fiscal year, State Representative Franco Coladipietro (R-Bloomington) is dishearten by the lack of progress in addressing the state's most critical issues including producing a fair and balanced budget.

"I am pleased to see that the legislature is finally addressing our massive \$40 billion pension shortfall. I think that the Committee of the Whole is an excellent forum to allow for testimony by financial experts and staff on these important matters," Coladipietro said. "However, we are seven months into the start of the new session and May 31st was the last scheduled day of session. These are extremely critical matters facing the state and they should have been discussed and dealt with in January not 36 days after the end of session. These issues have been years in the making and the solutions to these problems can not be solved overnight."

Governor Blagojevich has called the legislature into special session and Speaker Madigan has used the opportunity to call a Committee of the Whole to discuss the Governor's budget proposals including selling the lottery and taking out additional bonds to solve the pension crisis.

"Selling the lottery is an extremely risky maneuver by the Governor. The 75 year lease would result in a quick one-time infusion of \$10 billion to help pay down our pension debt, however the lottery produces a reliable, annual source of funding for education. The state is still trying to tackle the issue of finding additional avenues of revenue for education. I'm worried that if we sell off this asset we will end up digging ourselves a bigger hole in education funding," Coladipietro said.

For additional information, Rep. Coladipietro can be contacted at (630) 582-0045.