

House to vote on impeachment again, just to make sure

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After tomorrow's swearing-in ceremony at the University of Illinois at Springfield, the Illinois House of Representatives will vote for a second time on whether to impeach Gov. Rod Blagojevich, House Speaker Michael Madigan said today.

The House voted 114-1 on Friday to impeach the Democratic governor, who now will be tried in the Illinois Senate.

House lawmakers previously said they would take the second vote as a precautionary measure. They want to make sure there are no questions about the validity of proceeding with impeachment as one version of the General Assembly ends and gives way to a new one at noon tomorrow.

Madigan told House members their ceremony tomorrow will last longer than expected because members -- including the newly elected lawmakers -- will vote on impeachment.

They also will vote on re-creating the House investigative committee that examined whether the governor should be impeached. Officials have said the committee will remain active for a while in case there are further developments that could affect Blagojevich's impeachment trial.

The House will cancel its scheduled Thursday session, Madigan said.