

STATE OF ILLINOIS
90TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

60th Legislative Day

May 31, 1997

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

...Session of the 90th General Assembly will come to order. Will the Members please be at their desks, and will our guests in the gallery please rise? Our prayer today will be given by Senator Sieben. Senator Sieben.

SENATOR SIEBEN:

(Prayer by Senator Sieben)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Senator Radogno.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

(Pledge of Allegiance, led by Senator Radogno)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

...for The Associated Press requests permission for still photography in the Senate. Hearing no objection, leave is granted. Reading of the Journal.

SECRETARY HARRY:

...Journals of Thursday, May 22nd; Friday, May 23rd; Tuesday, May 27th; and Wednesday, May 28th, 1997.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Hawkinson.

SENATOR HAWKINSON:

Mr. President, I move that the Journals just read by the Secretary be approved, unless some Senator has additions or corrections to offer.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Hawkinson moves to approve the Journals just read. There being no objection, it is so ordered. Senator Hawkinson.

SENATOR HAWKINSON:

Mr. President, I move that reading and approval of the Journals of Thursday, May 29th, and Friday, May 30th, in the year 1997, be postponed, pending arrival of the printed Journals.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Hawkinson moves to postpone the reading and approval of the Journal, pending arrival of the printed transcripts. There being no objection, it is so ordered. Committee Reports.

SECRETARY HARRY:

Senator Weaver, Chair of the Committee on Rules, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Referred to the Committee on Judiciary - Conference Committee Report 1 to Senate Bill 574 and Conference Committee Report 1 to Senate Bill 465; to the Committee on Licensed Activities - Conference Committee Report 1 to Senate Bill 603 and Conference Committee Report 1 to House Bill 2215; to the Committee on Public Health and Welfare - Senate Amendment 3 to House Bill 204; and Be Approved for Consideration - Conference Committee Report 1 to House Bill 1628.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senate will stand at ease for a few minutes.

(SENATE STANDS AT EASE)

(SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

...Syverson, what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR SYVERSON:

For a purpose of announcement, Mr. President. The Public Health Committee will be meeting at 10:30 to address the -- the final amendment on the welfare reform package.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Butler, what purpose do you rise?

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SENATOR BUTLER:

Purposes of announcement. The Local Government and Elections Committee will meet at 10 a.m. 10 a.m. 10 a.m., in Room A-1.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Geo-Karis, what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Good morning, Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. On a point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

State your point.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

In the gallery behind the Podium, we have a group of students from St. Gilbert School in Grayslake, and they are -- some of them are being represented by Senator Peterson and some of them are being represented by me. And we're delighted to have you and we welcome you. Will you please rise and be recognized?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Will our guests in the gallery please rise and be recognized? Welcome to Springfield. Senator Demuzio, what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

Yes. A lot of Members over here have been asking if you've -- you know, if you've got your game plan together yet, because they want to know whether or not they should check out tonight or not and...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Well, I haven't checked out yet. Senator Demuzio.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

I hope you had a good night's rest, because, you know, you and I were talking about a motion right before you abruptly left. You must have been real tired. I hope you got a good night's rest. Maybe we could do it again sometime today?

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Thank you, Senator Demuzio. Senator Madigan, what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR MADIGAN:

Thank you, Mr. President. Purpose of an announcement: that the Insurance and Pensions Committee will meet at 10 o'clock, in Room 212, to consider, I think, three conference committee reports and three Floor amendments. Should take about a half an hour, forty-five minutes. I'd I ask everybody on the committee to be prompt so we can continue this process.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

If you turn to the bottom of page 9 of your regular Calendar, to the Order of Secretary's Desk, Concurrence, Senate Bills, there's a Motion to Nonconcur on Senate Bill 1048, with Senator Jones. Mr. Secretary. Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES:

Thank you, Mr. President. I move to nonconcur in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate -- Senate Bill 1048. Oh. Senate {sic} Amendment 1 and 2.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Any discussion? If not, Senator Jones moves to nonconcur in House Amendments No. 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 1048. All those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The motion carries, and the Secretary shall so inform the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MAITLAND)

...Burzynski, for what purpose do you arise, sir?

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you, Mr. President. For the purpose of an announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MAITLAND)

Please make your announcement.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Yes, just to let the Members know that the Licensed Activities

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Committee will be meeting in Room 212, at 11 o'clock. Room 212, at 11 o'clock.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MAITLAND)

Thank you. Resolutions.

SECRETARY HARRY:

Senate Resolution 91, offered by Senator Jacobs.

It's substantive, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MAITLAND)

Senator Hawkinson, for what purpose do you arise, sir?

SENATOR HAWKINSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. Purposes of an announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MAITLAND)

State your...

SENATOR HAWKINSON:

The Senate Judiciary Committee will meet at 11 a.m., in Room 400. 11 a.m.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MAITLAND)

Thank you. Senator Fawell, for what purpose do you arise?

SENATOR FAWELL:

For the purpose of an announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MAITLAND)

State your announcement.

SENATOR FAWELL:

Transportation Committee will meet at 11:30, in Room 400. 11:30, in Room 400.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MAITLAND)

Thank you. Senator Radogno, for what purpose do you arise?

SENATOR RADOGNO:

Purpose of an announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MAITLAND)

State your announcement.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

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Yes. As Vice-Chairman of Commerce and Industry, in the absence of our Chairman, I'd like to announce a meeting of the Commerce and Industry Commission {sic} (Committee), 11:30, on the Senate Floor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MAITLAND)

All right. Thank you very much. Is there any further business to come before the Senate? Any further business? If not, the Senate will stand in recess to the call of the Chair.

(SENATE STANDS IN RECESS)

(SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

...come to order. ABC-7, Chicago, requested permission to videotape. Chris Young, State Journal-Register, requests permission to photograph. John Buehner, Illinois Information Service, has requested to record the proceedings. Hearing no objection, leave is granted. Committee Reports.

SECRETARY HARRY:

Senator Syverson, Chair of the Committee on Public Health and Welfare, reports Senate Bills 240 and 317, the First Conference Committee Reports Be Approved for Consideration; Senate Amendment 3 to House Bill 204 Be Adopted.

Senator Madigan, Chair of the Committee on Insurance and Pensions, reports Senate Bill 423, the First Conference Committee Report Be Approved for Consideration; House Bills 23 and 223, First Conference Committee Reports Be Approved for Consideration; and Senate Amendments 1, 3 and 4 to House Bill 110 Be Adopted.

Senator Burzynski, Chair of the Committee on Licensed

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Activities, reports Senate Bill 603, the First Conference Committee Report Be Approved for Consideration; and House Bill 2215, the First Conference Committee Report Be Approved for Consideration.

Senator Hawkinson, Chair of the Committee on Judiciary, reports Senate Bills 574, 465 and 408, First Conference Committee Reports all Be Approved for Consideration.

Senator Fawell, Chair of the Committee on Transportation, reports Senate Bills 454, 730, the First Conference Committee Reports Be Approved for Consideration.

And Senator Lauzen, Chair of the Committee on Commerce and Industry, reports House Bill 228, the First Conference Committee Report Be Approved for Consideration; and Senate Bills 469 and 663, First Conference Committee Reports also Be Approved for Consideration.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Messages from the House.

SECRETARY HARRY:

Message from the House by Mr. Rossi, Clerk.

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has adopted the following joint resolution, in the adoption of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit:

House Joint Resolution 30.

Adopted by the House, May 30th {sic} (31), 1997. It's substantive.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Demuzio, what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

Senator, I filed a motion to discharge. It's on the Calendar on page 10. I just wanted to let you know I've -- in my hand here I've -- I've got about twenty more cosponsors, and I just want to

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invite anybody on the other side of the aisle to -- to get on this discharge motion of House Bill -- Senate Bill 645. So, I'll be back at you shortly.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Thank you, Senator Demuzio. ...the Members' desks was distributed Senate Calendar Supplemental No. 1. If you turn your attention to the top of page 2 of Supplemental Senate Calendar No. 1 in the Order of Conference Committee Reports, will Senators Fitzgerald, Madigan, Lauzen, Shadid, Dillard, Karpel, Syverson, Cullerton, Fawell, Klemm, Obama, Watson, Farley. We will be going to that Order of Business immediately. The top of page 2 in the Order of Conference Committee Reports of the Supplemental Senate Calendar No. 1 is House Bill 23. Senator Fitzgerald. Madam Secretary, do you have a file on Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 23?

ACTING SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes, Mr. President. I have First Conference Committee Report on House Bill 23.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Fitzgerald.

SENATOR FITZGERALD:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 23 is a final agreement of all parties involved on allowing the local policemen and firemen's pension funds to invest up to thirty-five percent of their assets in stocks. The Department of Insurance is in agreement. The Municipal League is in agreement. The policemen, the firemen, they're in agreement. Everybody's on board, and it is a good public policy. And I'd appreciate your favorable consideration.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the

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Senate adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 23. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 58 Ayes, no Nays, none voting Present. And the Senate does adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 23, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. WCIA has requested permission to tape. Hearing no objection, leave is granted. House Bill 223. Madam Secretary, do you have a file on Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 223?

ACTING SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. First Conference Committee Report on House Bill 223.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Madigan.

SENATOR MADIGAN:

Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. House Bill 223 contains numerous provisions, all of which have been agreed upon. First of all, it provides that a limited liability company that transacts insurance business as an insurance agency shall be registered with the Department of Insurance. It deals -- secondly, it deals with language that we've had before insofar as privileged information exempt from the discovery rules with regards to personal injury claims, exempting internal audits from discovery procedures. Amends the Illinois Insurance Guaranty Fund of the Insurance Code relating to third party claims against the Fund. It adds the language from House Bill 829 with regards to mine subsidence. Creates a new Act called the Employee Leasing Company Act, dealing with leasing companies and workmen's comp coding insofar as job descriptions and coding of their -- of those job descriptions. That language has been agreed upon. It abolishes the Illinois Insurance Exchange and creates new regulations,

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established in case they want to reorganize and create a new Illinois Insurance Exchange. Establishes regulations for that creation. That is the language contained in House Bill -- or, Conference Committee Report to House Bill 223. I'll be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 223. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. And the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 58 Ayes, no Nays, none voting Present. And the Senate does adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 223, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. House Bill -- Madam Secretary, do you have a file on Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 228?

ACTING SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. First Conference Committee Report on House Bill -- pardon me, 228.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Thank you, Mr. President. This Conference Committee Report is agreed language between business and labor. The Report requires out-of-state businesses to {sic} bid for projects in Illinois to pay the same rates of worker compensation as does Illinois business. The purpose of this language is to keep out-of-state businesses from offering a lower bid for Illinois projects because they pay a lower out-of-state worker compensation rate. I'd like to thank Senator Garcia and all those involved for putting together this agreed bill.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Is there any discussion? Senator Myers.

SENATOR MYERS:

I'd just like to rise in support of this bill. I think it's an excellent bill. I think it's much needed, and I would ask the sponsor if I could be signed on as a cosponsor of this bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Sure. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

The question is, shall the Senate adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 228. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 59 Ayes, no Nays, none voting Present. And the Senate does adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 228, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Shadid, on House Bill 1628. Madam Secretary, do you have a conference committee report on file for House Bill 1628?

ACTING SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. First Conference Committee Report on House Bill 1628.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Shadid.

SENATOR SHADID:

Thank you, Mr. President. On House Bill 1628, Conference Committee Report creates the Wildlife Prairie (Park) Act. There are no opponents. Proponents are Lieutenant Governor's Office, Wildlife Prairie Park Foundation and DNR. I'd appreciate a favorable roll call.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

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Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 1628. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. And the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 58 Ayes, no Nays, none voting Present. And the Senate does adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 1628, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Dillard. Madam Secretary, do you have a conference committee report on House Bill 2215?

ACTING SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. First Conference Committee Report on House Bill 2215.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. This bill makes numerous changes to the Pawnbroker Regulation Act in Illinois, and it places pawnbrokers now under the Commissioner of Banks and Real Estate. While we have a pawnbroking Statute in Illinois, there is no regulator. It updates the pawnbroking Act to come into this century and allows pawnbrokers to computerize their records, as opposed to the old longhand method where, literally, they wrote them out with an ink pen. It changes the fees pawnbrokers can receive from a schedule to a percentage of loan basis. It requires pawnbrokers to disclose information to consumers in compliance with the Federal Truth in Lending-type requirements. And it requires the cost of regulating the pawnbroker industry to be paid by the industry itself. The Illinois Pawnbrokers Association is in favor of this, and I know of no known opposition. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Is there any discussion? Senator del Valle.

SENATOR DEL VALLE:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Dillard, I certainly appreciate the work that has gone into this bill and the changes that have been made. I did vote originally against it in committee because the original bill eliminated the interest rate cap, but that has been changed in the bill. And I think that now the bill allows us to take a step in the right direction. We still have serious problems with some pawnbrokers functioning as fencing operations for stolen goods. It is a serious problem, and I think this bill, by computerizing the reporting, will help us deal with that serious problem. But there is, in the bill, a change that I think we need to address at a later date, and that is a change that allows pawnshops in cities of under twenty-five thousand in Cook County to not have to provide a daily report to law enforcement authorities. I think this change may make pawnshops -- these pawnshops havens for criminal activity, and I would suggest that in future legislation, in the near future, we be -- we're able to correct this problem.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Any further discussion? If not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 2215. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. And the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, no Nays, none voting Present. And the Senate does adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 2215, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Madam Secretary, do you have a -- on file a conference committee report on House -- on Senate Bill 240?

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ACTING SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. First Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill 240.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Karpziel.

SENATOR KARPIEL:

Thank you, Mr. President. Conference Committee No. 1 on Senate Bill 240 does four things. The original bill was a provision and it requires the Inspectors General at the Departments of Children and Family Services and Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities to report both to the Director of their agency and to the Governor. The second provision, embodied in House Amendment 1, requires the Inspector General of DCFS to adopt rules in accordance with the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act. The third provision adds new language that requires the Department of Human Services and DCFS to execute an interagency agreement by January 1st, 1998, to ensure that the two agencies coordinate their activities and work together. And finally, the conference committee adds new language that defines the term "subsidized guardianship" and authorized -- authorizes subsidized guardianship as a permanent placement option under the Juvenile Court Act.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 240. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 58 Ayes, no Nays, none voting Present. And the Senate does adopt the Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 240, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. WGN-TV requests permission to record the proceedings. Hearing no objection, leave

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is granted. Madam Secretary, do you have on file a conference committee report on Senate Bill 317?

ACTING SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. First Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill 317.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. Some of the changes that were made in the Senate Bill 317: We retain all the original language of the bill. We've also added a number of provisions, one that would allow chiropractors and osteopaths to participate in the MediPlan Plus Program. We've also included language from Senator Garcia on the -- prohibiting managed care entities from engaging in door-to-door marketing activities. We also have the Attorney General's language in here regarding Medicaid fraud and language from Senate Bill 1035, of Senator Cullerton's, with psychotropic medications. I don't know of any other opposition. Be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 317. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. And the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, no Nays, none voting Present. And the Senate does adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 317, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Madam Secretary, do you have on file a conference committee report on Senate Bill 408?

ACTING SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. Senate Bill -- First Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill 408.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. This Conference Committee Report has four separate measures, all dealing with condominiums, two of which we have already passed out of the Senate and two of which were the subject matter of Senate bills that were not called in committee initially. The first one deals with entry on adjoining land to accomplish repairs. Right now we have a law that allows you to go on -- on someone else's land to accomplish a repair by going to court and getting the -- the court to supervise it. The condominiums were not included when that bill was passed. The purpose of this bill is to include condominiums in that law; although, I must say that we did agree in committee that this shall, in the future, be limited to just between condominiums. The second issue deals with forcible entry and detainer actions against a defaulting owner and tenant. If a condominium association wants to sue a defaulting owner of a unit, frequently they don't know whether or not there's a tenant in that unit or not, and they may or may not want to continue to have that tenant as a tenant. All this does is to clarify that if they wish to also evict the tenant, they can do so in -- even though they have also sued the -- the landlord. It just means they can sue both of them if they wish. The third one deals with forcible entry and detainer actions, also, when there's a -- a demand for possession. It just clarifies that with the thirty-day period, in terms of satisfying the demand, begins when the notice is mailed. There's some confusion in the law now and that's what that does. And the fourth element deals with the examination of condominium records. This comes from the condominium -- Association of Condominium Presidents. This is a bill, which we've already passed, which allows for obtaining records of condominium board of

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managers, certain guidelines and rules that you have to follow to gain access to those records. I don't know of any opposition, except for one person up in Chicago, and I'd be happy to answer any questions and ask for a -- a vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 408. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 Ayes, 1 Nay, none voting Present. And the Senate does adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to -- to Senate Bill 408, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Madam Secretary, do you have a file on Conference Committee Report No. 423 -- on Senate Bill 423?

ACTING SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. First Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill 423.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Fitzgerald.

SENATOR FITZGERALD:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. This Conference Committee Report is the final agreement of all parties with respect to the community college retirees' health insurance plan. The Department of Central Management Services, the Illinois Community College Trustees Association, the IEA, the IFT, the Illinois Community College Board, and the State Universities Annuitant Association have all signed off on this. And I would like to memorialize in the record, although these points are not part of the bill, it is important that I specify that all the parties to this legislation have agreed to a certain health insurance plan and this is the plan that all parties have

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agreed to: First, a one-million-dollar lifetime maximum benefit; second, annual deductible of three hundred dollars for persons with Medicare and five hundred dollars without Medicare; third, general out-of-pocket maximum of eight hundred dollars that will be tied to the amount in the State Employees' plan; fourth, no pre-existing exclusion period; fifth, PPO hospital benefit of eighty percent after the deductible; sixth, non-PPO hospital benefit of sixty percent after the deductible; seven, non-PPO out-of-pocket maximum is four thousand dollars; eight, skilled nursing care facility of a hundred days per plan year; nine, outpatient mental health care of fifty percent after the deductible; ten, the dental plan is a scheduled benefit program; and eleven, the vision plan is the National Network of Providers. Also, it should be noted that nothing in this legislation prohibits collective bargaining with a local community college board that results in a community college district picking up the cost of the premium for the annuitant or a community college picking up the costs of the deductible or negotiating with a bargaining agent any and all costs associated with the health insurance plan. I'd appreciate favorable consideration on this legislation.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 423. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 58 Ayes, no Nays, none voting Present. And the Senate does adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 423, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Madam Secretary, do you have a file on conference committee -- a conference committee report on Senate

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Bill 454?

ACTING SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. First Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill 454.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Fawell.

SENATOR FAWELL:

Thank you very much. The House Amendment No. 1 becomes the bill. It amends the Vehicle Code and allows meter maids and local police officers to enforce a local ordinance stating that it is illegal to operate a motor vehicle with expired license plates or a license plate sticker. The municipality would have to adopt an ordinance, and the fine would -- cannot exceed twenty-five dollars and the -- the fine will go to the municipality. The Municipal League is in...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 454. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 53 Ayes, 3 Nays, 1 voting Present. And the Senate does adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 454, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Madam Secretary, do you have on file a conference committee report on Senate Bill 465?

ACTING SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. First Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill 465.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. This

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Conference Committee Report contains measures which were very controversial, which were not approved in the committee. So I would ask that we not adopt this Conference Committee Report and ask for a second conference committee report.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

The question is, shall the Senate -- is there any discussion? The question is, shall the Senate adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 465. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. And the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are no -- no Yeas, 55 Nays, 2 voting Present. And the Senate -- the Conference Committee Report is not adopted, and the Senate shall so inform the House. Sponsor has requested a second conference committee report. Senator Hawkinson, what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR HAWKINSON:

Personal privilege, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

State your point.

SENATOR HAWKINSON:

Mr. President, last evening I went home to attend the high school commencement of my daughter, and before I left, I instructed the Sergeant-at-Arms to take my key so that I would not be voted. But I have found that I was voted on the first bill of the evening, House Bill 994, and that should not have happened. It was -- it was, obviously, that the Sergeant-at-Arms did not remove my key until after that bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Record will so reflect, Senator Hawkinson. Madam Secretary, is there a conference committee -- a file on Conference Committee Report to Senate Bill 469?

ACTING SECRETARY HAWKER:

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Yes. First Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill 469.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Klemm.

SENATOR KLEMM:

Thank you, Mr. President. Unlike Senator Cullerton's bill, this should get all green lights. It's -- exempts the 9-1-1 emergency dispatch units, created through intergovernmental agreements, with under twenty employees, from the Public Labor Relations Act, and it also prevents striking from dispatchers. It defines dispatchers and it allows a -- these small dispatch units of the telecommunications for the 9-1-1 to be exempt from the -- organizing for the purposes of collective bargaining. It's agreed by AFSCME and all the other parties, and I do ask for your support.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 469. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 53 Ayes, 1 Nay, no -- none voting Present. And the Senate does adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 469, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Madam Secretary, do you have on file a conference committee report to Senate Bill 574?

ACTING SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. First Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill 574.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Obama.

SENATOR OBAMA:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. This is a bill that we previously voted out 57 to nothing. Got

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sent over to the House, related to administrative adjudication. We had some changes over in the House. Came back here. We've worked out an agreement with all the various parties involved. I know of no opposition. I'd ask for an affirmative roll call.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 574. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. And the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, no Nays, none voting Present. And the Senate does adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 574, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Madam Secretary, do you have a -- a conference committee report on Senate Bill 603?

ACTING SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. First Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill 603.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President. This, too, is an agreed piece of legislation. It comes to us from the Illinois Pharmacists Association, the Illinois Retail Merchants Association, Department of Public Health, the Pharmacy College and others. It defines the -- first of all, it's a Pharmacy Practice Act amendment, and it defines the dispensing and patient counseling. It expands the number of times that the pharmacy licensing exam would be given each year to three. It's currently given twice. It staggers the terms of the Board of Pharmacy. It allows for electronic transfer of prescriptions. It allows the Board of Pharmacy to write rules and regulations automated -- for the use of automated dispensing systems in hospitals and nursing homes. It allows pharmacists to

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use the electronic prescription balances, which actually are more accurate than the former mechanical devices. And it -- it allows for digital imaging, so that scanning can be used to store, electronically, prescriptions. I know of no objection and appreciate the vote of the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt Conference Committee Report to Senate Bill 603. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 55 Ayes, 1 Nay, none voting Present. And the Senate does adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 603, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Madam Secretary, do you have on file a conference committee report to Senate Bill 663?

ACTING SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. First Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill 663.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Farley.

SENATOR FARLEY:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Conference Committee Report No. 1 would talk about and add the word "services" to the Telephone Solicitation Act. When this bill left the Senate, I had indicated that we were going to send it over to the House, we were going to work on it, there were some concerns. I'm sure there still are some concerns, but I think it's a step in the right direction to -- to try to give people an opportunity to be taken off lists by these people that are constantly soliciting them. House Amendment No. 1 takes out the -- from the telecommunication, the phone people. House Amendment No. 2 to takes out Realtors. I think it's a step in the right

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direction, Mr. President. If there are any questions, I would be happy to answer them.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Is there any discussion? Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Would the sponsor yield?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Sponsor indicates he will yield. Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

Senator, as a matter of clarification, page 2, lines 13 to 20 state, and I quote: "and if the person called requests to be taken off the contact list of the business or organization, the operator must refrain from calling that person again and take all steps necessary to have that person's name and telephone number removed from the contact records of the business or organization so that the person will not be contacted again by the business or organization." Is the intent here that the caller initiates removal from the call list questioned, or that if the person being called requests removal, then it shall be done?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Farley.

SENATOR FARLEY:

Senator Jacobs, the intent of the bill is that the person receiving the call can request to be removed from the list. This doesn't mean that the operator or the person making the call has to ask -- ask that question.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

And then I stand -- stand, Senator, in strong support of this bill.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Any further discussion? Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Thank you, Mr. President. Just a quick question. I -- I am opposed to this bill because of the impact that it's going to have on small business in the State, people just using the telephone to call and solicit. There is one piece of the bill -- and I had asked the question before, so I'm not -- no surprises. The question was: What instructions do you give a telemarketer -- a small business -- do you give a telemarketer to ask, at the beginning of a telephone call, "Do I have your permission to solicit you for" lawn care service, bottled water, you know, any kind of service? What words do you actually use and how does that hurt commerce in Illinois?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Farley.

SENATOR FARLEY:

I don't know the exact words, and there's no exact words here in this -- in this legislation. I would imagine it would be some kind of script written by the telecommunication solicitor: "Can I have a few minutes of your time", "May I talk to you about this -- this issue", or something like that. It would be a -- an opening remark by whoever developed that opening remark for whatever service that might be.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Any further discussion? Senator Collins.

SENATOR COLLINS:

Thank you, Mr. President and Members of the Senate. I rise in support of this bill. Maybe it could have been stronger in this area, 'cause I know for a fact because I live in a zip code that is often targeted for all kind of high-pressure telephone solicitation. It is unfair and I'm not sure whether this bill is

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-- is strong enough to minimize the impact of that kind of solicitation by zip codes in -- and especially in the City of Chicago. Some of the people are so rude. They often do it when you're sitting down trying to have dinner with your family. They don't let you know what -- what it is that -- that they're trying to sell. And it often causes you to be rude to the telephone solicitor also. So, if we can just tighten this up and hopefully come back and make it stronger so that our names can be removed from the list. I don't know how to remove our names from these various lists, and maybe we need to just consider what we were dealing with before, that -- as it related to automobiles, that we just totally eliminate the right of anyone to sell our numbers for solicitation purposes. And we need to seriously look at that. So I support the bill because it's better than -- better than nothing, but it's most certainly not as strong as we need it to be.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Any further discussion? If not, Senator Farley, to close.

SENATOR FARLEY:

Well, thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. In regard to it being strong or stronger, Senator Collins, go forth with a continuation of this idea, by all means. It's not my intention or is it our intentions to put people out of business. This doesn't put people out of business. Let's be very clear about that. People can still call. People can still solicit -- solicitate their services. What it does is give that person on the other end of the phone the opportunity, the right, to say, "Don't call me. Don't call me anymore and take me off your list because I don't want to hear about XYZ in the next half hour or hour." So I think it's a good consumer piece of legislation, and I would ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

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The question is, shall the Senate adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 663. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 55 Ayes, 2 Nays, none voting Present. And the Senate does adopt Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 663. And the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Madam Secretary, do you have a file on Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 730?

ACTING SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes, Mr. President. First Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill 730.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Fawell.

SENATOR FAWELL:

Thank you very much. There is a portion of this bill that was not agreed to in the committee, and I would like to dump this Report and ask for a second conference. So I would like a lot of red votes up there and ask for a -- a No vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the Senate adopt the Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 730. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 3 Ayes, 52 Nays, and 1 voting Present. And the Senate -- and the Conference Committee Report is not adopted, and the Secretary shall so inform the House. Senator Demuzio, what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

A point of personal privilege.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

State your point.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

I got a couple more cosponsors on that discharge motion for Senate Bill 645, and I just want to let everybody know that the train's moving out, so hope the other side can hurry up and get on this thing. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

...Senate Bill 730, a second conference committee report had been requested by the sponsor. Messages.

SECRETARY HARRY:

Message from the House by Mr. Rossi, Clerk.

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has refused to recede from their Amendments 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 to a bill of the following title, to wit:

Senate Bill 320.

And I'm further directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives requests a First Committee of Conference.

We have like Messages on Senate Bill 417 and 1048.

Action taken by the House, May 31st, 1997.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Without objection, the Senate accedes to the request of the House for conference committees on those bills just read by the Secretary. Leave is granted. Turn your attention to the top of page 10 of your regular Calendars, to the Order of Secretary's Desk, Non-concurrence to House Bills. House Bill 18. Senator Maitland.

SENATOR MAITLAND:

Thank you very -- thank you very much, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. I move that the Senate refuse to recede from Senate Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 18 and request a committee on

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conference.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Maitland moves the Senate refuse to recede from the adoption of Senate Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 18 and that a conference committee be appointed. All those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The motion carries, and the Secretary shall so inform the House. House Bill 108. Senator Weaver.

SENATOR WEAVER:

Thank you, Mr. President. I'd move that the Senate refuse to recede from Senate Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 108.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Weaver moves that the Senate refuse to recede from the adoption of Senate Bill -- Senate Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 108 and that a conference committee be appointed. All those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The motion carries, and the Secretary shall so inform the House. House Bill 1171. Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. President. I move to -- to nonconcur on House Bill 1171.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Senator Rauschenberger moves that the Senate refuse to recede from the adoption of Senate Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 1171 and that a conference committee be appointed. All those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the motion carries, and the Secretary shall so inform the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

...Reports.

SECRETARY HARRY:

Senator Weaver, Chair of the Committee on Rules, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Referred to

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the Committee on Environment and Energy - Conference Committee Report 1 to House Bill 1230, Conference Report 1 to House Bill 1887; to the Committee on Executive - Senate Amendment 1 to House Bill 1696; to the Committee on Financial Institutions - Conference Committee Report 1 to Senate Bill 680; to the Committee on Insurance and Pensions - Conference Committee Report 1 to House Bill 1641; to the Committee on Public Health and Welfare - Conference Committee Report 1 to House Bill 1699; to the Committee on Transportation - Conference Committee Report 1 to House Bill 1254; and Be Approved for Consideration - Conference Committee Report 1 to House Bill 2209, Conference Committee Report 1 to Senate Bill 1109, Conference Committee Report 1 to House Bill 1197, and Conference Committee Report 1 to House Bill 127. (Referred to the Committee on Education - First Conference Committee Report to Senate Bill 681.) (Legislative Measure within parentheses submitted in writing, but inadvertently not read into record.)

The following bills are, pursuant to Senate Rule 3-9(b), exempt from the automatic re-referral provision of that rule: And refer to the Committee on Executive - Senate Bills 18, 219, 309, 325, 403, 412, 413, 761, 774, 958, 1067, 1113, Senate Resolution 72, House Bills 38, 570, 646 and 1504; Judiciary - Senate Bills 1052, 1053, 1058, and House Bill 1612; Public Health and Welfare - Senate Bills 389, 743, 754, (House Bills) 797, 1503, 1614, 2081 and 2224; Revenue - House Bill 525; and State Government Operations - House Bill 1268.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

...could have the Body's attention. We will be going to your regular Calendar, page 9, the Order of Secretary's Desk, Concurrence, on Senate Bill 709. Mr. Secretary.

SECRETARY HARRY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their

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Amendment -- or, Amendments 1, 2, 3 and 5 to Senate Bill 709.

The motion filed by Senator Fitzgerald.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

...has been a change in sponsorship, and Senator Dillard will be handling the motion. Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Madam President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I'm going to move that we concur in House Amendments 1, 2, 3 and 5 to Senate Bill 709. The first amendment over in the House is a bill that -- and contains portions of a bill that's already on Governor Edgar's desk. It was the same as House Bill 1506, and it created a Service Evaluation Committee, under the Lieutenant Governor's Office, to design and modify evaluation forms used by school districts. The second amendment is an amendment that requires the State Board of Education, subject to appropriation, to implement and administer a Giant Steps pilot program for the study and evaluation of autism and teacher-related training. And the third amendment is -- is eventually deleted by Amendment No. 5, and that Amendment No. 5 amends the law defining "residency" for non-special education students. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Is there discussion? Senator Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

Thank you, Madam President. I'm not sure which amendment it is, but one of the amendments contains some language that I've been notified by the Illinois Center for Autism in the Metro East area that they're concerned about, and that involves the Giant Step program. And -- and I'd like, if Senator Dillard would and yield, to explain what that program is and why there would be such opposition.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

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Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Senator Watson. I think there's some confusion on that program, and there -- there's a group called Giant Steps, which operates a school in Montreal, St. Louis, and somewhere down near Australia. And this is a -- a sunsetted provision. It's a three-year kind of pilot program with the State Board of Education. And, Senator Watson, as I think I've told you, no other autism group in the State should worry about this pilot program. We'll reevaluate it in three years. This will not take money from any other autism program anywhere in Illinois. Autism is a -- is a very expensive and strange mental affliction, and it is becoming more and more prevalent in the United States, and we need to find better ways, cheaper ways, to try to treat children that have autism. And we want to set up a pilot program in the metropolitan Chicago area to do this, and hopefully it will benefit yours down in the Metro East area with what we are able to find works in terms of teaching these children in the metropolitan Chicago area. Your group, Senator Watson, is -- is pretty much an aberration. The North Suburban Autism Chapter, the City of Chicago's Autism Chapter, as well as the autism coordinator for the Chicago Board of Education, is in support of this bill. The Far West Suburban, the Fox Valley Support Autism Group, the Northeastern Illinois Chapter of the Autism Society of Illinois, and the Near West Suburban Chapter, are overwhelmingly in support of trying to figure out what is the best way to teach these students. So there is always, in these kinds of things, sometimes, confusion, Senator Watson, but I don't think your folks in the Metro East area need to worry at all, and I believe if they understood it, they would understand that hopefully we will find better teaching techniques that will help their children in the Metro East area. But most importantly, Senator Watson, not one

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dollar will be negatively impacting your area of the State by this pilot program, and we'll reevaluate it in three years.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Is there further discussion? Is there further discussion? I think, Senator Dillard, you'd closed. This is final action. And the question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendments 1, 2, 3 and 5 to Senate Bill 709. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. And the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 Ayes, 1 Nay, no -- none voting Present. The Senate does concur in House Amendments 1, 2, 3 and 5, and Senate Bill 709, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Dudycz, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR DUDYCH:

Thank you, Mr. -- Madam President. Point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Please state your point.

SENATOR DUDYCH:

Seated on the Senate Floor with one of our colleagues are two individuals that you may think are his younger brother and sister, but, in fact, seated beside Senator Dan Cronin are his mother and father, Mrs. Claire and Dr. Richard Cronin, and I would like for the Senate to recognize them.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

We'd like you to rise and be recognized. Dr. and Mrs. Cronin, welcome. Going back to your regular Calendar again, we're going to page 2, House Bills 3rd Reading. First up will be House Bill -- House Bill 110. Senator Bomke. Mr. -- do you wish to have this bill recalled to the Order of 2nd Reading for the purposes of an amendment? Senator Bomke seeks leave of the Body to return House

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Bill 110 to the Order of 2nd Reading for the purposes of an amendment. Hearing no objection, leave is granted. And on the Order of 2nd Reading is House Bill 110. Mr. Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HARRY:

Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Bomke.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Bomke, on Amendment No. 1.

SENATOR BOMKE:

Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. The -- the amendment deals with the SER pension system and SUR pension system. Under the SER pension system, it would change the graduated rate to a flat rate of 1.67 for noncoordinated employees and 2.2 percent for -- excuse me, 1.67 for coordinated and 2.2 for noncoordinated employees. Also for SERS, it would provide State Police parity for employees retiring after January 1st, 1998, who are covered under the alternative formula. A cap of a hundred and fifteen percent of average monthly compensation of the last two years of service is established. To cover the cost of the change for the pension system, the employees will give up a three-percent COLA increase the first year. In addition, they will give up buy back of sick leave in the future. Also they will be required, after eight years of service, to purchase health insurance after retiring, on a graduated basis, starting at six percent and reducing five percent over -- up until twenty years, in which case it would -- there would be no charge. Under the SURS, we are changing the maximum annuitant amount to eighty percent from seventy-five percent. Also we are offering a thirty years and out. Now the thirty years and out will start at thirty-five years and gradually reduce down to thirty-four -- or, thirty years. At the end of five years it will be revisited and could, in fact, be changed to thirty-five years. There is -- it

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has been determined that there is no cost to that system, the SURS system. The -- State Universities are also giving up their sick leave -- future sick leave and also will be on a graduated purchase of health insurance after eight years and retired.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Thank you, Madam President. Just a couple of questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

He indicates he'll yield, Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

This just covers SERS and SURS?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Bomke.

SENATOR BOMKE:

That is correct.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Just turn your light on, Senator Lauzen. Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Was there -- let's see. The cost -- you mentioned under the SURS program that there's no cost -- unfunded liability. Over on the SERS, what's the estimate of that amount?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Bomke.

SENATOR BOMKE:

The -- the first year estimate -- and let me explain if -- if I can. The -- in 1992, Senator Lauzen, we set up a system whereby the systems would be ninety percent funded by year 2045, and we set that up on a ramp. If we were within that ramp, the cost would be approximately six million dollars the first year; however, through negotiations, the Governor has chosen -- this --

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excuse me. This was outside negotiations. The Governor has chosen to take this outside the ramp and fund it at an accelerated rate. So the first year is expected to be fifty million dollars.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Lauzen, the light goes on when you're speaking and when you punch the button it blinks. So you need to punch it each time, 'cause it goes off on my board. Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

So the answer is that it's fifty million dollars?

SENATOR BOMKE:

Correct.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Okay. Could I get a -- an analysis of that from any member of the staff? And who has that been certified by?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Bomke.

SENATOR BOMKE:

Is estimates from the Bureau of the Budget.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Further discussion? Further discussion? Seeing none, on Amendment No. 1, all those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted. Are there further amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HARRY:

Amendment No. 2, offered by Senator Bomke -- or, Amendment No. 3, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Bomke, on Amendment No. 3.

SENATOR BOMKE:

Thank you, Madam President. Amendment 3 is a technical amendment. It alters slightly the language that was included at AFSCME's request concerning premium cost information being

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reported to SERS by CMS. Does not require SERS Director to verify or certify premium amounts.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted. Are there further Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HARRY:

Amendment No. 4, offered by Senator Maitland.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Maitland, on Amendment No. 4.

SENATOR MAITLAND:

Thank you very much, Madam President, Members of the Senate. Senate Amendment No. 4 to House Bill 110 contains about sixteen or seventeen different, mostly technical, issues, or items, most of which have been previously approved by -- by this Chamber, and they were a part of a bill in the House that -- that went down because some hostile -- because of some hostile language on -- on the bill. They -- they are issues that have been approved by the Pension Laws Commission. The only new issue is -- is one that deals with a University of Illinois athletic department employee. That also has been approved by the Pension Laws Commission. There is no -- no cost on this. This is at the request of Senator Weaver and the Pension Laws Commission did approve this. I would move for the adoption, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Is there discussion? Is there discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted. Are there further Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HARRY:

No further amendments reported.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading is House Bill 110. Mr. Secretary, read the bill.

SECRETARY HARRY:

House Bill 110.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Bomke.

SENATOR BOMKE:

Thank you, Madam President. Amendments 1, 3 and 4 become the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Is there any discussion? Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES:

Thank you, Mr. {sic} President. I rise in support of House Bill 110, as amended, and I rise in support -- for those of you who are new to this Body, a few years ago there was legislation passed by this Body, mostly on a partisan basis, that set up collective bargaining between public employees and their employer. In this case, it happened to be the State of Illinois. And -- and it gave those employees the right to -- collectively bargain for benefits such like this, wages and salaries and so forth. And through many negotiations between the employer and the employee, as a result of this, we have this bill. We have this bill to deal with the retirement benefits for employees. It would increase their benefit level and so forth. So I want everybody in the Body to know where this originally came from. I think Senator Collins had worked hours, and many hours and years to sponsor this piece of -- this legislation so that we can arrive at the point we are today. So I -- I stand up gladly and proudly to -- to support you in this endeavor, but I think we should know where the real, real

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support originally came from and how it all came about. And it came about as a result of collective bargaining legislation.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Is there further discussion? Is there further discussion? Senator Bomke, to close.

SENATOR BOMKE:

I'd ask for a favorable roll call. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

The question is, shall House Bill 110 pass. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. And the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 58 Ayes, no Nays, none voting Present. House Bill 110, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Syverson, do you seek leave of the Body to return House Bill 204 to the Order of 2nd Reading for the purposes of an amendment? Hearing no objection, Senator Syverson seeks leave of the -- seeks leave -- seeks leave of the Body to return House Bill 204 to the Order of 2nd Reading for the purposes of an amendment. Hearing no objection, leave is granted. And on the Order of 2nd Reading is House Bill 204. Mr. -- Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Like to move to table Amendments No. 1 and No. 2.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Syverson moves to table Amendments 1 and 2 to House Bill 204. All those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and Amendments 1 and 2 are tabled. Are there any further Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HARRY:

Amendment No. 3, offered by Senators Syverson, Donahue, Mahar and Watson.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

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Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you, Madam President. Amendment No. 3 becomes the bill, and if I could take a couple minutes to explain what Amendment No. 3 does. On August 22nd, in 1996, President Clinton signed into law the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act. This comprehensive welfare reform plan was designed to change the nation's welfare system. With the passage of this law, we replaced a sixty-year-old AFDC system with the new Transitional Assistance for Needy Families, otherwise known as TANF. This new law requires states to follow federal policies and guidelines but does give us the flexibility and options to design plans that will promote work, responsibility, self-sufficiency and ultimately strengthen families. If I can take a second to highlight some of the -- the major points of this plan. First and foremost, this plan promotes work. One of the requirements in the federal law is that twenty-five percent of the recipients be at work this year, increasing to -- up to the year 2002, in which we need to have fifty percent in work programs. There is penalties in place if the states don't reach those numbers. Secondly, time limits: This plan follows the federal guidelines, which will limit individuals to sixty months out of a lifetime, maximum. Next, in the area of felons, we have decided, through negotiations both with Senator Obama, with the House Leadership, regarding this issue, that those who are convicted of Class X and Class 1 felonies will never be able to get onto the welfare system. These are individuals who have sold drugs, been found guilty of selling drugs to our kids, and we don't believe that they should participate in our tax dollars. We will, however, on Class 2, 3 and 4 felons, they will -- they will have a two-year limit, unless they're involved in a drug treatment program. Next is the -- the area on immigration: The State is mandated by

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federal law to provide only a very few categorical areas of immigration. The State of Illinois, again in negotiations, will cover additional classes of immigrants. We do, later on, have a resolution coming that's going to further address that -- the areas that they're still -- where there's a gap still in place. We believe most of this is the responsibility of the federal government, who has set the immigration laws in the past. But, again, I think we've reached a pretty good agreement on how far the State is going to go. Next is the area of domestic violence: Again, we've worked out an agreement that all parties have agreed to on how we will handle domestic violence. The last couple of areas that I'll cover briefly is -- first is child care. We believe, for successful welfare reform to work, we are going to have to have adequate child care. This provision, again, in working with the Governor's Office, working with both sides of the aisle and the House, we are putting into place the largest increase ever in day care, which will bring us up to the fifty percent of the median income level. This is showing a serious commitment to making the whole TANF program work. Next is the area of displacements. One thing we don't want to do, whether it's subsidized or unsubsidized care, we do not want welfare recipients moving into the work rolls and taking the jobs of those individuals who are already working. We've worked with a number of the unions, as well, again, with people on both sides of the aisle, to draft language that has been acceptable to everybody, that is going to protect those individuals who are currently working. Those are some of the -- the overall highlights. I would like to take a second to -- to thank Senator Obama for the -- the hours of time that he spent with us in trying to work out a plan that is acceptable and workable. We believe that with this in place that we will be helping tens of thousands of individuals move from the welfare rolls to the work rolls. With that, I'd be

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happy to answer any questions you might have.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Is there -- is there discussion? Senator Obama.

SENATOR OBAMA:

Thank you very much. Will the sponsor yield?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Indicates he'll yield, Senator Obama.

SENATOR OBAMA:

First of all, what I'd like to do is just commend both Senator Syverson, as well as the Governor's Office, for entering into good-faith negotiations on what is a huge bill that hasn't received too much attention. There hasn't been too much political heat around this issue. There hasn't been too much rhetoric around this issue. Nevertheless, this may be as important a bill as we pass in this Session. It will affect a huge number of people. I am not a defender of the status quo with respect to welfare. Having said that, I probably would not have supported the federal legislation, because I think it had some problems. But I'm a strong believer in making lemonade out of lemons, and I think that Senator Syverson and the Governor's Office have done a good job in working with this side of the aisle and the other Chamber to come up with the framework that potentially can succeed in moving people from welfare to work. Now, having said that, I want to emphasize that I continue to have some concerns, and I think that those concerns are going to have to be dealt with over the coming months and the coming years as we evaluate how, exactly, the program is functioning. Concern number one relates to job training. There are a hundred and sixty thousand people who are going to be moving off the rolls. And right now, in Illinois, for entry level workers with relatively few skills, which is the cohort that we're going to be talking about here, there are not enough jobs for the current number of people searching for jobs.

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The only way that we're going to be able to employ them in a way that allows them a livable wage is if we upgrade their skills and upgrade their training. And, unfortunately, we do not have yet a firm commitment in terms of dollars and a sound framework in terms of programs to make sure that these people are going to be trained. Now, Senator Lauzen, as well as Senator Garcia, in the Commerce and Industry Committee, have been working on this. I applaud them for working on this, but we have to follow up in this area to determine which programs are working, which programs are not, making sure that we put money into the programs that are working, eliminate the programs that aren't, so that we can transition people effectively into high-skill, high-wage jobs. That's concern number one. Concern number two, which I know some of my colleagues are going to be addressing in more detail, and I think is absolutely critical, is the issue of legal immigrants. Everybody in this Chamber, at some point, comes from an immigrant family. And I don't like the notion that those people who are here legally, contributing to our society, paying taxes, are not subject to the same benefits, the same social safety net that the rest of us are. I understand the State's position that they don't want to let the federal government off the hook. At the same time, I'm a little concerned that we are playing chicken with the federal government to see who, in fact, is willing to veer away first on this vital issue of providing basic protections to legal immigrants who can't naturalize because of disability, because of old age, or are in the pipeline but it's going to take them a while to get naturalized. Now, the -- the Governor's Office, with the help of Senator Syverson and Senator Rauschenberger, have given us what appears to be some accommodations and immediate stopgap measures, although we have not finalized the language as yet. We're close, and I'm hoping that we will finalize that soon, and we're -- I'm -- I'm standing up here today based on the

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assumption that that language will be pinned down in the next few minutes. But, even with that language, there are still some problems with protections for legal immigrants. And I think it is vital for us to take it upon ourselves, during the summer months, to look and see what, in fact, we can do within our constraints, within our budget, to make sure that this relatively small number of people are protected, if we can afford to protect them, particularly if the federal government falls down on the job in providing them those protections. That's my second concern. My final concern is that we decided not to put in Statute a legislative oversight program -- a -- a legislative oversight board or commission to oversee this process of welfare reform. I am concerned if, having passed this bill, we then just leave it up to the administration and the bureaucracy to see what happens with folks who are moving off the welfare rolls. It is easy for these folks to drop out of our line of sight. They generally are not represented down here in Springfield. They don't have powerful lobbies. They do not contribute to our political campaigns. And as a consequence, if, in fact, we start having problems in this bill, it is not clear, unless we are firm on it, that those folks are going to be protected. And so I strongly urge, although there is not a concrete mechanism for legislative oversight in this bill, that we look very carefully and very strongly over the next five years to see, in fact, how this bill is working and whether these folks are protected. Let me just end with -- with a brief story about what -- something that happened to me last weekend, during Memorial Day weekend. I was outside late at night. I confess I was smoking a cigar; my wife doesn't let smoke inside. And there's an alleyway that runs behind our house, and oftentimes, behind our house, we end up having people who are collecting cans, as their primary means of employment; collecting cans for recycling. Most of the time they're single men. They've

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got shopping carts. Some of you have seen them, maybe I don't know if they have them in your neighborhoods. They're in mine. What I saw that evening was an entire family, at midnight. A man with a shopping cart, behind him a mother pushing a baby cart - baby inside - at midnight. This was their visible means of support. This is the job that awaited them if they weren't on welfare. We have an obligation to that family. We have an obligation to that child. I strongly urge that -- although we've taken a good step on this bill, that we look at this carefully and continue to make a commitment to ensuring that all Illinois' children and all Illinois families have an opportunity to succeed in this economy. Nevertheless, I think this is a good start, and I urge support of this bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Is there further discussion? Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank -- thank you. I have a question of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Indicates he'll yield, Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Senator Syverson, the federal law requires that twenty-five percent of eligible adults on cash assistance be moved to jobs by October 1st, 1997, and I believe the State Department of Public Aid says we can meet that. What are the other deadlines and what are the percentages required by the federal law, of Illinois?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Are you speaking on the -- strictly the work participation levels? It goes up approximately five percent per year until it hits 2002, when fifty percent needs to be at work. Failure to meet that, by the way, just so we know the penalty, is five

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percent of the block grants, increasing by two percent a year every year after that, up to a total loss to the State of twenty-one percent, if we do not keep and maintain those levels.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Is there a component in here, other than a training program, that will find jobs for individuals on welfare?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Is your question, is there a job training mechanism in this legislation?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Other than this job training mechanism that was discussed, what program is in this bill that will find jobs for individuals? Does this just prepare individuals to fill out resumes or give them a skill, so that if a job exists, they could fill it, or does this actually help them find a job?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Part of this new program is the assessment process that the -- the caseworker takes is going to be much broader than what they had before, involving and helping individuals, getting them steered into the right direction, whether it's into a job training, whether it's into a literacy program. And there's going to be more of that role. The Governor's Office, through Howard Peters, is going to put a serious emphasis on helping individuals get to work. There's talk about creating a job czar. We have

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done is -- instead of trying to, within the last thirty days, cram a program into here, we thought that the work that Senator Lauzen and Senator Garcia are doing on trying to coordinate, working with the House, job training programs that will work, we thought it made more sense to sit back for the summer, let them formulate a plan to bring back to us that we can implement. But I -- I can -- I agree totally that, for this to work, the two major components are going to be the day care and jobs and that good job training programs are going to have to be part of this.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Well, the reason I brought this up was that when Howard Peters appeared in the Appropriations Committee, I asked him if this program and his Agency was going to help create jobs for these individuals, and he said, "No, we're not. What we are doing is helping individuals prepare resumes and teach them how to find jobs that are already out there." And his opinion seems -- seemed to be, at that time, about a month ago, that there are all these jobs out there just waiting for somebody to knock on the door with the correct resume. Now, is it -- are you saying to me now that Mr. Peters has changed his position and this Agency and this program is going to help create jobs, as well as just help people prepare resumes and tell them necessary things for going to work?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

I can't speak for Director Peters. I can only tell you that I know what he wants to see succeed, and that is helping people get to work. I think it's a combination of things. He agrees and -- and I do, too, that there are jobs out there and we just need to help -- many individuals just need to be steered to that

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direction. But there are others who are going to need job training, others who are going to need to have literacy training, and it's going to take a combination. We're going to move forward with the first part, helping people steer into those programs. The second part, there is a commitment from the Second Floor, and certainly a commitment from me to be working with Senator Lauzen and Senator Garcia to move forward with true programs that are going to work.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Further discussion? Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I think Senator Obama pretty much said it all with his three points of concern. But there's one question I would like to ask the sponsor, and...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

He indicates he'll yield, Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

Thank you, Madam President. And that goes along line -- along the lines with the -- someone who is arrested or convicted of a felony and then is not eligible for assistance. Is there a time element on that?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

This is only related to drug felonies, not all felonies. So it's only drug felonies. And it is prospective, as well, in nature. And again, if it's a Class X or Class 1, it's lifetime, no possibility. The Class 2, 3, and 4, it's a two-year wait, unless you're involved in a drug treatment program, then you could continue to maintain your benefit.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

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Senator Jacobs. Oh. Further discussion? Senator del Valle.

SENATOR DEL VALLE:

Thank you, Madam President. Senator, I am also concerned about casting a vote on this bill without really knowing what we're going to end up with in terms of services for the immigrant population that Senator Obama referred to. We are waiting for some language from Director Peters, but there are some things that we know. We know, for example, that we are not going to be providing Medicaid services to immigrants who came into the country after August of '96. They are eligible, according to the federal law, for receiving services in emergency rooms, but they not -- cannot get other kinds of services. What that means is that for individuals who are here legally - again I point out, legal immigrants - if they are left without a job, they're laid off and they find themselves in a situation where there's a need for health care, their primary health care provider will be the emergency room of the hospitals. We will be covering that cost, and as we well know, emergency room care is a lot more expensive than any other type of care. And so we're going to end up paying for these individuals who are going to have to make use of emergency rooms because they can't go anyplace else. And I think that is a serious problem. In this bill, while there have been tremendous improvements and I certainly compliment your work and the work of the committee and the advocates, I still have problems with it because, as was indicated here, jobs and job training is what welfare reform should be all about. Without that component, you don't have movement, you don't have transition from welfare to work. We look at the Earnfare Program, and you saw the article recently regarding the Earnfare Program, the much touted program -- welfare reform program from a few years ago. Seven percent -- only seven percent of the participants over the last few years have moved into permanent full-time employment. What kind of

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track record is that? We really should have started, as we were putting the TANF plan together for the federal government - and it is a requirement; it has to be in place by July 1 - but we really should have started with the job component, the jobs training component. We really should have started there to make sure that all these pieces that are out there with DCCA and the State Board of Education and everywhere you -- where you have a job training program component - and there is fragmentation and there is still a need for more resources for that - we should have pulled those together, put that in place and then fit TANF into that, because that should be the engine that drives welfare reform. But we didn't do that. We're going to wait, and we're going to see and we're going to come up with something in the future. In the meantime, we certainly are going to accept transitioning people, maybe, into daily pay services just so that they could meet their work requirement, get minimum wage, work there a few days, a few weeks, meet the requirements, but never -- never go into a full-time permanent job at a decent living wage. The domestic violence, Murray-Wellstone federal amendment option: We had the opportunity to include that. We have strengthened the language, and we are going to do screening, and we are going to do referrals. My preference would have been that we would have gone with the option in order to guarantee proper screening and proper services for that population. We are saying that those individuals convicted of -- of drug crimes, some will be eligible if they are involved in drug treatment programs, but I don't see the language guaranteeing a slot, a treatment slot, that's accessible for those individuals. So I'm not sure how that's going to work out. We certainly need welfare reform and certainly we need to implement the federal law. But I hope that at some point we do it right, because we're still not getting it right. Thank you.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator -- Senator Demuzio, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

On a point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Please state your point.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

Madam President, I have never interrupted a debate. I know that this is going to be a lengthy one, but a few minutes ago, we had a Rules Committee meeting, and the Rules Committee meeting report is now being passed out. We had asked that our amendments to 1696 be included. I'm requesting that we have another Rules Committee. We have a Jim Edgar Senate Amendment 1, a -- a local income tax program that he introduced apparently back when he was in the House. We have filed Senate Amendment 2 to House Bill 1696, which is his latest program. We'd like to request a Rules Committee so that we might have a run at making sure that that amendment can be heard in committee this afternoon. So I would make that request.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Demuzio, I thought you had someone that you wanted to introduce. We're in the middle of a debate. That should have been made in the Rules Committee. Senator Collins, you're the next up.

SENATOR COLLINS:

Thank you, Madam President. I -- I really just have a very few questions to ask, and -- and one, I guess, is can you tell me -- I understand that we have a deadline on the implementation of the -- of our TANF plan, the restrictions brought by the federal government. But as you also know that we are, and have been, working over the past year to reform welfare in -- in the State of

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Illinois, and what I'd like to know -- and I'm not finding the connections, because even though Senator Rauschenberger and I worked extensively over the summer on the overall welfare reform in the State, and also guiding principles by which -- and policies by which we would hope that this TANF plan and any future efforts in -- in Illinois to improve welfare would, in fact, all come together. That the -- the guiding principles behind welfare reform and the system that we were trying to put together was to avoid duplication and to make, as possible, one-stop shopping, and somehow to bring together all of the various components, including the -- the local and community agencies, in a collaborative effort to improve welfare in the State of Illinois. Somehow I don't know how this piece fits together with all of that. There were a different set of people working on it and I'm -- haven't been preview to any of the meetings, except when you introduced the TANF plan and I think I was fully aware of what was in that. So what I would like to know -- I know that -- that we recommended that there be pilot programs operating so that we could, in fact, have some definitive data to go on and -- and talk about how we were going to do this in partnerships, in collaboration with the various communities and local units of government. How do you see this portion of -- of that effort fitting into the overall package of welfare reform in the State of Illinois?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you. The TANF reform proposal certainly fits into the formation of the new Human Services Department, in which yourself and Senator Rauschenberger and others were working on. This is a work in progress. I think some of the concerns that were raised by Senator del Valle and others are certainly justifiable and right. There is a lot more work to be done and I think the work

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that's currently being done or the work that was being done by your committee will fit very well. We need to implement this and move it into and under the umbrella of the Department, and then start implementing these programs with this in place. And I fully anticipate, and you certainly have my cooperation in working to implement not only pilot programs, but making sure that this new Department is successful in its endeavors.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Further discussion? Senator Collins.

SENATOR COLLINS:

So that in many of the instances in which you refer to giving the Department or the Director -- the President of that -- Secretary of that Department the discretions to implement and make rules, I'm hoping -- and establish policies, I'm hoping that you are referring to those guiding principles and policies and rules that are being worked upon and the pilot program right now is operating on. So is -- is -- does it fit in that context? Because you're -- you're saying -- you're giving him lot of discretionary rulemaking power here, and I'm just wondering is that something separate from the rules and policies and the guiding principles that -- that we've been working on to -- hopefully to bring all of this together in collaboration with the communities and local governments.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

I think you are exactly correct, and those were concerns we had and that's one of the reasons why we tried to, where we could, put more into Statute, as opposed to leaving it to the Department by rules. One of the things that we put in here, and we haven't really discussed is - I think is better than an oversight committee - is the fact that our legislation sunsets their

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rulemaking authority in two years. We're giving the Department two years to put together a program. They're going to have to come back to us and get our approval to move from that point forward, which is going to give us an awful lot of leeway. Knowing that, I think they're going to be very much more willing to work with us over the next two years to implement this program.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Further discussion? Further -- Senator Smith. Senator Collins, all you have to do is put your light on. Senator Collins.

SENATOR COLLINS:

...sorry. Apparently the light is cut off when we change from one to the other. One of the -- the areas that I -- that I was concerned about, and that is giving the -- it appears here that once a person uses up their sixty months that it -- if -- if a local unit of government declares that that person is qualified, that -- that what we could have in some parts of the State, people actually continuing to get services and then in another part of the State, because that local unit of government did not see fit to determine that person eligible, won't be receiving services. And -- and I'm concerned about uniformity and equal opportunity and access to service. And so when you leave those kinds of things up to be discretionary, you open the door for it not to be uniform and these are the kinds of rules. And I won't belabor this, but this is highly, you know, important that -- that the work that we're doing, that somehow it's all coming together and that we're all on one accord, 'cause that's -- that's an example and there are several other examples that I can see where some people could be qualified for services and others could not.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Further discussion? Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

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Madam -- Madam Chairman, -- I mean -- excuse me. Madam President, you can call me to speak next, but I believe it was Senator Smith that you cut off when you went back to Collins, and I just...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Oh. That's right. I'm sorry. Senator Smith, go ahead.

SENATOR SMITH:

Thank you, Madam Chairman and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I stand because I serve as chair -- Minority Spokesman for House -- Health and Welfare, and I wanted to put in a statement that, while we were in Session, I voted -- on Senate Amendment 1, I only voted Present to the House Bill 204, which was tabled by the sponsor and I cast a Yes vote for the Senate Amendment No. 3. In comparison to Senate Bill No. 10 the -- it was in -- it was run in 1995, welfare bill, the public and Members had input in negotiating the contents of Senate Amendment No. 3. I would like to thank Senator Syverson, Senator Obama, who was a Member of the Democratic Minority Team, now a representative on the negotiating team that worked -- are still working with this bill. And I would like to -- Secretary Howard Peters, who I think is doing a tremendous job, even at this stage, who is an official for the Department of Public Aid. The advocate group for all of the hard work that they have compromised and went in on this amendment, Senate Amendment No. 3 to House Bill 204. Senate Amendment No. 3 is a vast improvement over the proposed presented to us by Edgar administration on April the 30th, 1997. Senate Amendment No. 3 contains many elements which were outlined by the Democratic Members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee on April the 1st, 1997. Many of the elements you have heard here this afternoon, but I merely want to mention one that was not expressed, and that is an exemption for persons over sixty years of age and parents of children under one from the

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requirement of participation in the education, training and employment programs. I certainly stand here at this time wishing and hoping that all of the Members of the Senate will feel kindly and support our Chair, of -- Senator Syverson, in voting for House Bill 204, as amended by Senate Bill -- Amendment No. 3. Other issues that are not addressed in this amendment can be handled in subsequent legislation. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Further discussion? Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank -- thank you very much, Madam President. I just want to make a few comments. Yesterday, when we were debating the education funding legislation, it was mentioned that legislators must make hard decisions. It was mentioned more than once that we must take leadership roles. The feds have placed us on a time line in which we must act on this issue, being based on our Constitution and other constraints, and we'll be ending, hopefully, our Session today. So with that, I'd like to commend Senator Syverson and Obama and the other individuals who took up that call and made the hard decisions to put forth this imperfect legislation. And it is certainly imperfect. If we were in a perfect world, we could have these grand expectations to have perfect legislation. Unfortunately, we are not that lucky nor that blessed to do so. So as a consequence, there are some -- some issues in here that -- that many of us are going to be uncomfortable with, but some hard work has been done. Some -- they've been looked at. The immigrant issue, I know we've -- we've talked many, many times with Howard Peters. We've met with the various immigrant groups, groups have come down here, and we cannot resolve all the problems in this Legislative Body. We've talked about, in welfare reform, about child care. Senator Syverson quite clearly and correctly said that we need to have

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good child care, not only just a place where you take your children to be baby-sat, but where they can actually learn something.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Please keep your voices down and take your conferences off the Floor. We're debating a very serious piece of legislation and we can't hear it. Please show him your attention. Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much, Madam President. I'll be very brief. So what we've done with child care is that we've looked at it and we understand that nothing in this world is free. In appropriation process we are looking at, we are putting thirty million dollars on top of seventy million dollars that -- on the Governor's budget, which is a hundred million dollars, so we can get quality child care for these individuals who'll be looking for work mandated by this legislation. This, again, has took a lot of hard work and made some hard decisions to be made. I, again, commend each and every one of those individuals who -- who took the time, who have took their hearts in it also, and also their -- their concerns to the table and they worked out a good compromised piece of legislation that we can look at again during the veto process. That -- so this is not a done deal. This is what we have on the table and we must vote on it today, and I ask everyone, please vote with me. And, believe me, I was asked did I want to take my name off of it. I said no, because we have to also take responsibility for some of those hard decisions and I want everyone to know that I am for this bill, and hopefully by your vote, you will show that you're for this bill, as well.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Further discussion? Senator Parker.

SENATOR PARKER:

Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the

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Senate. I would like to say a couple of things. First of all, to commend the Chairman, Senator Syverson, who did a lot of work on this issue, and Senator Obama, for his bipartisan support and work, and all of the comments that were made here. I'm also on that committee, of course, and we recognize that there are needs and things that we would still like to take care of. One of the issues I wanted to address was the day care issue, because we had heard of House Bill 630. We had a bill over here also, Senate Bill 323, I believe it was, to address the child care issue. Many of those concerns are addressed now in this bill, as this amendment with the welfare bill. Before, we were going to be only addressing at the forty-percent median income, and now we have risen to the fifty percent. And we can now address needs of ninety thousand families, instead of the original seventy thousand, as was in the -- in the original budget. So we are making headway. There are a couple issues, though, that certainly we still need to address later on, and one of those is the provider rate that we need to address. There is a -- a date in here as far as having a study done, as of July 1st, 1998. We would have preferred to have had that study done earlier in December, as was requested by the day care people. I don't believe that that -- just because we have the date later, that that doesn't preclude us from looking at provider rates and maybe, possibly, being able to make some adjustments in the next spring Session. We want to make certain that we provide quality day care. With this, we should be able to pick up those children who are on the waiting list, get them into day care, get the working mothers and help them to have a safe place to put their children, and certainly we can address these continuing issues. And I'm pleased that we were able to at least go further, and I think significantly further, like Senator Trotter said, and have at least another thirty million dollars in here for a total of a

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hundred million dollars. And I think we've addressed many of those issues well, and stand up in favor of this legislation. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Further discussion? Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Thank you, Madam President. Certainly this effort deserves and requires the support of every Senator in our Chamber. My fear is that, even with our best minds and hearts in Illinois, we may fall short and there will still be suffering that could have been avoided if we had been even better at what we're trying to do here. I -- I very much applaud Senator Obama's three-part description of our challenge. I appreciate Senator del Valle's emphasis on jobs, along with child care, transportation and the myriad of rules and regulations and details. And I would encourage the sponsor, and I know that he's working very hard along with everybody else in this effort, to make sure that the Legislature has oversight on this. I'd like to answer Senator Welch's concern about duplication. First of all, I would like to emphasize the fact that it's very important that we have a uniform measurement tool for the effectiveness of job training. Currently we have seven hundred and forty-four million dollars being spent among a hundred different programs in fourteen different agencies. Unless we have a uniform yardstick to evaluate where we should place our money, it's going to be a hopeless challenge and we'll just continue to muddle through. To take a look at one of the concerns that Senator Welch had, it -- it almost appears like we have two worlds here. There's the world of these -- of these fellow citizens who are dealing with these problems. Those people can be helped on a local level by the Department of Human Services, Department of Public Aid. But one of the concerns that we should all have and that I would encourage all of us to keep in

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mind is that we should not have duplication. The more agencies we have doing the same thing, the more waste there's going to be and people are not going to be served who -- who need to be served. There's a whole nother world of -- of agencies that are close to the world of work, and there's a pipeline between those two. Those agencies are like DCCA, Illinois Department of Employment Security, the community colleges, and even community-based organizations. There's a pipeline between those two, and the clearer we make our instructions to the agencies that serve the people of Illinois that the Department of Public Aid and Department of Human Services should pick up the people who need help and refer them to the agencies that are close to the folks who know how to place jobs and do job training, who are then connected to employers, the better off people will be. So, again, I applaud the effort that -- that goes into this. I encourage everyone to support this very good step in the right direction.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Further discussion? Senator Garcia.

SENATOR GARCIA:

Thank you, Madam President. I also rise as a reluctant supporter of this legislation because I recognize that there's been a long process whereby good ideas that have come forth have been incorporated into this bill, which changes welfare as we know it. I do want to comment on the immigrant aspect of the bill and its implications, because I'm an immigrant. And I hope that over the next few months we will take heed of the plight of the immigrant -- legal immigrant population in the State of Illinois to look at what happens to the fate of people throughout this Land of Lincoln. And I want to commend Senator Syverson, Senator Rauschenberger and others who were involved in negotiating a minimal net of protection that will enable us to, hopefully, care for the most vulnerable people in the immigrant population in

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Illinois, namely senior citizens who are incapacitated, disabled or who are elderly and are, therefore, probably not employable, because we are doing something for them. But at the same time, I want to caution and remind all of us that in this bill, and in the budget that we are approving later today, included are not payments for legal residents who were residing in the U.S. prior to August 22nd, 1996, but had not applied for SSI benefits. This bill doesn't address them. We also did not put anything in the bill to help immigrant children in Illinois, and what was being requested was approximately 1.7 {sic} dollars. I understand the idea that we don't want to make a move too soon because that the feds may not reimburse the State of Illinois, but over the next few months that the least we can do is to be cognizant of the fact that we did not act and that we should act, perhaps, when we come back here during the Veto Session. We did not provide for Medicaid benefits to immigrants who came here after August 22nd of 1996. We should look to see what happens to them, and of course, we took no action in providing food stamp benefits to the immigrant -- legal immigrant population that has been now made ineligible. I guess what I'm saying is that I hope that we will learn to strike a fair balance between the -- the economic prosperity that the State of Illinois fortunately is experiencing, but that we will also bring compassion into the picture. As we move through the rest of the summer and we come back here in the fall, I hope that we will continue to ensure that Illinois remains a great state and an important national and international player in the world scene in how it relates to the immigrant populations that have come to the Land of Lincoln. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Syverson, to close.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you very much, Madam President. Again, I would like to

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thank everyone for the work that we've done on this. Senator Smith, when we first met on this, over a month ago, your willingness to come together and help us draft something that everyone can agree on. We know it's a work in progress. We know more needs to be done. I would urge this Body to get in contact with their congressmen and ask them to push Congress, as well as the President, to do the right thing and support the immigration issues that they had supported in the past and not put us in the terrible position of having to decide, "Are we going to help these individuals or do we put money into education, or into day care, or into jobs". The important thing is, this is a work in progress. Much more needs to be done. Certainly you have my commitments. I know, from the time we have spent with Director Peters and Governor Edgar's staff, they are interested in the same results that we are: helping tens of thousands of individuals find good, meaningful, well-paying jobs and move from welfare to work. Thank you for your support on this, and again, I would just ask everyone for a favorable roll call.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Thank you, Senator Syverson. I would kind of remind everybody, we're on 2nd Reading. So all those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted. Are there further Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HARRY:

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading is House Bill 204. Mr. Secretary, read the bill.

SECRETARY HARRY:

House Bill 204.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Syverson. Very briefly.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

May I start over? May I start over, please? I've been working -- no. I would just ask for a favorable roll call on this. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Thank you very much. Seeing no further discussion, the question is, shall House Bill 204 pass. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. And the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 Ayes, 1 Nay, 1 voting Present. House Bill 204, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. ...Ackerman, with Daniels and Ackerman Photographies, photos from the Illinois State Medical Society. Is leave granted? Leave is granted. On page 4 of the regular Calendar on the same order of business of House Bills is House Bill 1707. Does Senator Rauschenberger seeks -- seeks leave of the Body to return House Bill 1707 to the Order of 2nd Reading for the purposes of an amendment. Hearing no objection, leave is granted. On the Order of 2nd Reading is 1707 - House Bill 1707. Mr. Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HARRY:

Amendment No. 1, offered by Senators Syverson and Donahue.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Syverson, on Amendment No. 1.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you, Madam President. I'll be much briefer on this one. This is an administration bill and implements some of the federal mandates that were passed as part of the TANF proposal. Failure to implement this -- these proposals have some pretty stiff

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financial sanctions. This is the child support language. There was an -- originally, administration's proposal that went further than what the federal government required. There was a lot of opposition and concerns regarding this. I believe that the -- this amendment covers the bare-bones requirements and this will meet the requirements that the federal government needs to {sic} us to enact this program. I would like to read, just for intent purposes, regarding the car dealers and the Secretary of State. There were some concerns that liens would be attached on automobile titles and that when a car was sold it would be subject to such a lien. To address this, the bill provides that exempt, with regard to financial institution accounts, the Department's lien against personal property, including automobiles. Let's see, what else? Enforcement of -- manner for -- the enforcement of the judgments under Act {sic} 12 of the Code of Civil Procedure - this is done by the attachments and the sheriff's sale. Again, I'll be happy to answer any questions. I -- I don't know of any objections to this legislation.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Is there any discussion? Any discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor -- Senator Fawell. Senator Fawell.

SENATOR FAWELL:

Thank you very much. This is for legislative intent. Under this legislation, will the Department of Public Aid have the authority to place liens on personal property, such as vehicles?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Yes.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator...

SENATOR SYVERSON:

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No.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Syverson. Senator Fawell.

SENATOR FAWELL:

Does the Department intend to exercise that authority?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

No.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Fawell.

SENATOR FAWELL:

So the Department has indicated that it does not intend to exercise that authority until all parties involved or interested in the placing of liens against personal property agree on language to fairly and equitably exercise such authority. Under this legislation, the Department will also have the authority, like creditors currently have, to pursue the repossession of such property. This will be the method by which the Department intends to seek to liquidate such property to satisfy payments of past-due child support. Is that correct?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Senator Fawell, I could not have stated it better. That is correct.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Further discussion? Further discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted. Are there further Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HARRY:

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No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading is House Bill 1707. Senator Syverson. Mr. Secretary, read the bill. Senator Rauschenberger, this is House Bills -- we're on 1707, 3rd Reading. Senator Rauschenberger. Read the bill, Madam -- Mr. Secretary.

SECRETARY HARRY:

House Bill 1707.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

I'd -- I'd like the Body to know it's always a pleasure to share a bill with Dave Syverson, who's certainly done some amazing legislative work, and -- and after listening to his explanation of that -- that amendment, you know, I -- I would hope the entire Body could overwhelmingly reach for their green switches and -- and support this bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Seeing none, the question is -- Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Will the sponsor yield for a question?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Indicates he'll yield, Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

According to my darling computer over here, it says that the existing law at the present time in revocation or suspension of license for failure to pay child support is amended to allow revocation or suspension for failure to comply with a subpoena or warrant relating to a paternity or child support proceeding. Is

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that still in the bill?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Yes, it is.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Good. I'll support the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Is there further discussion? Is there further discussion? Seeing none, the question is, shall House Bill 1707 pass. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. And the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 Ayes, no Nays, none voting Present. House Bill 1707, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. On Supplemental Calendar No. 2. It has been distributed and we will go... We will be going momentarily to Conference Committee Reports, beginning with House Bill 127. Senator Geo-Karis. ...Mahar, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR MAHAR:

For the purpose of an announcement, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Please state your announcement.

SENATOR MAHAR:

The Senate Environment and Energy Committee will be meeting at Room 6 o'clock -- or, I'm sorry. Make that at 6 o'clock, in Room 212.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Energy and Environment, 6 o'clock, Room 212. Thank you, Senator Mahar. On Supplemental Calendar No. 2 is House Bill 127.

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Senator Geo-Karis. Madam Secretary, do you have on file a conference committee report on House Bill 127?

ACTING SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. First Conference Committee Report on House Bill 127.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Is -- Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Madam President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, the -- this Report is -- now contains the bill the way it was when it left the Senate. They had -- they...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

...second, Senator Geo-Karis. Just a minute. Ladies and Gentlemen, when I'm turned a different direction and I can recognize who's speaking behind me because I recognize your voice, you're speaking too loud. Please keep your voices down. Senator Geo-Karis.

SENATOR GEO-KARIS:

Madam President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, House Bill 127 is now in the position it was when it left the Senate. The -- this is a bill that relates to a person who's convicted of -- of -- of battery -- spousal battery, if I recall correctly. And what it does, if you'll give me just a moment, it is prospective and that's the way we had it in the Senate. And they had refused to accept it and then they finally did, and I would like a favorable vote again. It's a good bill and I dare you not to vote for it.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Is there further discussion? Is there discussion? Seeing none, the question is, shall the Senate adopt the Conference Committee Report on House Bill 127. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. And the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the

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record. On that question, there are 56 Ayes, 1 Nay, none voting Present. The Senate does adopt the Conference Committee Report on House Bill 127, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Smith, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR SMITH:

Thank you, Madam Chairman. By all means, will you please correct me and put me as voting Yes for the legislation that just passed?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

The record will so indicate. Senator Clayborne. House Bill 1197. Madam Secretary.

ACTING SECRETARY HAWKER:

First Conference Committee Report on House Bill 1197.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Clayborne.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

Thank you, Madam President. House Bill 1197, the Conference Committee, basically this -- during the transition of State Community College to Metropolitan Community College, there are funds of about a hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars that are in the -- the College Grants Fund, and basically that money is needed as an authorization. What this does is authorizes this money to be transferred to Illinois Community College Board so that the old obligations of about two hundred and ten thousand dollars can be paid. This identical bill was passed out. The intention was to have a conference committee to add other language. That didn't happen. I just ask for a favorable vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Is there discussion? Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Madam President. Will the sponsor yield for a

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question?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Indicates he'll yield, Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Senator Clayborne, I just notice as I look at the Conference Committee Report on House Bill 1197 that there are no Senate Republican signatures. Is there any opposition to this, or is that just an oversight?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Clayborne.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

I believe that's just an oversight. There's -- there's no opposition that I know of.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Further discussion? Senator Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

Yes. Question of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Indicates he'll yield, Senator Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

This doesn't have the language dealing with Parks College does it, that was being promoted by one of the House Members that you know quite well?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Clayborne.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

No, it doesn't.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

Thank you, then. Inadvertently I was -- did not sign it. I would have, had it been presented to me. I support it.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Is there further discussion? Further discussion? The question is, shall the Senate adopt the Conference Committee Report on House Bill 1197. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. And the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 58 Ayes, no Nays, none voting Present. The Senate does adopt the Conference Committee Report on House Bill 1197, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Petka, on House Bill 2209. Madam Secretary.

ACTING SECRETARY HAWKER:

First Conference Committee Report on House Bill 2209.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Petka.

SENATOR PETKA:

Thank you, Madam President, Members of the Senate. House Bill 2209, Conference Committee Report No. 1, contains language that basically is the administration proposal dealing with the Will County Joliet Arsenal. Among other things, it simply creates a mechanism for the appointments to the Will County Board and removes certain enabling legislation that we had passed and we had sent out of this Chamber in the past, dealing with the State's moral authority towards certain bond programs. I know of no opposition. I would urge its adoption.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Is there further discussion? Is there discussion? Seeing none, the question is, shall the Senate adopt the Conference Committee Report on House Bill 2209. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. And the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 Ayes, no Nays, none

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voting Present. The Senate does adopt the Conference Committee Report on House Bill 2209, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Klemm with House -- Senate -- with Senate Bill 1109. Madam Secretary.

ACTING SECRETARY HAWKER:

First Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill 1109.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Senator Klemm.

SENATOR KLEMM:

Thank you, Madam President. This Conference Committee Report makes changes to the House amendment. That was requested by IDOT, the Division of Aeronautics, and agreed to by the representatives of the telecommunication carriers. This is regarding the location and placement of communication towers. There was a problem in the underlying bill where they could be placed at the end of a runway of an airport, and therefore it would cause, obviously, problems. So this corrected that situation and it's agreed to, and I ask for your support.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Is there discussion? Is there discussion? Seeing none, the question is, shall the Senate adopt the Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill 1109. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. And the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, no Nays, none voting Present. The Senate does adopt the Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill 1109, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. ...stand at ease for a few minutes.

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(SENATE STANDS AT EASE)

(SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

...Walsh, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR T. WALSH:

A point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

Please state your point.

SENATOR T. WALSH:

I voted Yes on Senate Bill 1109. I'd like to be recorded as a Present.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DONAHUE)

The record will so reflect. ...have your attention. The Committee on Public Health will be meeting at 6:30, in Room 400. Committee on Public Health in Room 400, and the Senate will stand at ease -- or, in recess till the call of the Chair.

(SENATE STANDS IN RECESS)

(SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

...O'Malley, what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR O'MALLEY:

For purposes of an announcement, Mr. President. The -- the Financial Institutions Committee will have its meeting this evening at 8 p.m., in Room 400, to consider a conference committee

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report. I don't have the number at hand, but it's been -- is it -- on 680, Conference Report 1 to 680. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

...Klemm, what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR KLEMM:

For purposes of an announcement, Mr. President. The Senate Executive Committee will meet in Room 212, in one hour from now, which would be 8:17 in Room 212. In one hour, Senate Executive Committee. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DUDYCZ)

Committee Reports.

ACTING SECRETARY HAWKER:

...Weaver, Chairman of the Committee on Rules, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Re-refer from Insurance and Pensions to Rules Committee - Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 1641; re-refer to -- refer to Executive Committee - Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 473, Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 229, Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 581, and Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 1641; refer to Local Government and Elections Committee - Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 1374, Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 596, Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 353, and Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 2161; Be Approved for Consideration - Conference Committee Report No. 2 to Senate Bill 730, Conference Committee Report No. 1 to House Bill 1485, and Conference Committee Report No. 2 to Senate Bill 465.

The following bills are -- are, pursuant to Senate Rule 3-9(b), exempt from the automatic re-referral provision of that Rule: Re-refer to -- pardon me, refer to Judiciary Committee - Senate Bills 119, 121, 122, 362, 383, 1028 and House Bill 1422.

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(SENATE STANDS IN RECESS)

(SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR GEO-KARIS)

Senator Rauschenberger, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

For purposes of an announcement, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR GEO-KARIS)

Madam President. Thank you.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

Madam President. All excited there, Geo. Thank you, for --
Geo, thank you for turning me on.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR GEO-KARIS)

I'm sorry. Well, I am stunned. Senator Rauschenberger,
proceed.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

I'd like to announce that we will have a subject matter
appropriation hearing one hour from now, at 10:25, in Room 212. A
subject matter hearing on the FY'98 budget for the Senate
Appropriation Committee, in Room 212, at 10:25. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR GEO-KARIS)

Is that for your committee, or for others?

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

For the Senate Appropriations Committee.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR GEO-KARIS)

Senate Appropriations Committee is going to have a special
committee meeting at 10:25, in Room 212. I repeat, Senate
Appropriations Committee will meet at 10:25, in Room 212, on the
budget. Any further announcements? The Senate will stay at ease
-- remain at ease for the time being.

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(SENATE STANDS AT EASE)

(SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR GEO-KARIS)

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, there will be a Republican Caucus immediately in Senator Philip's Office. I repeat: A Republican Caucus in Senator Philip's Office now. So please come to Senator Philip's Office for a Republican Caucus starting now. Thank you.

(SENATE STANDS AT EASE)

(SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDENT PHILIP:

The Senate will reconvene. Committee Reports.

SECRETARY HARRY:

Senator Cronin, Chair of the Committee on Education, reports Senate Bill 681, the First Conference Committee Report Be Approved for Consideration.

Senator Syverson, Chair of the Committee on Public Health and Welfare, reports House Bill 1699, the First Conference Committee Report Be Approved for Consideration.

Senator Mahar, Chair of the Committee on Environment and Energy, reports Senate Bill 939, the First Conference Committee Report Be Approved for Consideration; House Bills 1230, 1887 and 2164, First Conference Committee Reports Be Approved for Consideration; Senate Bill 54, the Motion to Concur with House

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Amendment 1 Be Approved for Consideration.

Senator O'Malley, Chair of the Committee on Financial Institutions, reports Senate Bill 680, First Conference Committee Report Be Approved for Consideration.

Senator Klemm, Chair of the Committee on Executive, reports Senate Bills 473 and 1019, First Conference Committee Reports Be Approved for Consideration; House Bills 229, 581, 1641, First Conference Committee Reports Be Approved for Consideration; and Senate Amendment 1 to House Bill 1696 Be Adopted.

And Senator Butler, Chair of the Committee on Local Government and Elections, reports Senate Bill 596, the First Conference Committee Report, Be Approved for Consideration; House Bills 353, 1374 and 2161, First Conference Committee Reports Be Approved for Consideration.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

...MAQ-TV asks leave of the Body to videotape the proceedings. Any objection? Leave is granted. Mr. Secretary, Messages from the House.

SECRETARY HARRY:

A Message from the House by Mr. Rossi, Clerk.

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has concurred with the Senate in the passage of a bill of the following title, to wit:

Senate Bill 747, together with Amendments -- House Amendments 2 and 3.

Passed the House, as amended, May 31st, 1997.

...have like Messages on Senate Bill 860, with House Amendment No. 3, and Senate Bill 1031, with House Amendment 1.

Both passed the House, as amended, May 31st, 1991 -- or, 1997.

Message from the House by Mr. Rossi, Clerk.

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has refused to recede from their

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Amendment No. 1 to a bill of the following title, to wit:

Senate Bill 232.

I am further directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives requests a First Committee of Conference.

Action taken by the House, May 31st, 1997.

We have a like Message on Senate Bill 773 and also Senate Bill 1101.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Without objection, the Senate accedes to the request of the House for conference committees on those bills just read by the Secretary. Leave is granted.

SECRETARY HARRY:

Message from the House by Mr. Rossi, Clerk.

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has refused to adopt the First Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill 670, and requests a Second Committee of Conference.

We have a like Message on Senate Bill 730.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Without objection, the Senate accedes to the request of the House for a -- conference committees on those bills just read by the Secretary. Leave is granted. Committee Reports, Mr. Secretary.

SECRETARY HARRY:

Senator Weaver, Chair of the Committee on Rules, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Be Approved for Consideration - Conference Committee Report No. 1 to Senate Bill 1129 and Conference Committee Report 1 to House Bill 1171.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Jones, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR JONES:

Yeah. Thank you, Mr. President. We recognize that you have

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on the desk there a -- a document to -- Supplemental Calendar to deal with the -- the budget for the next fiscal year. I see the Chief of Staff has informed you as to what to say, but -- I'm looking for my caucus chair. So we, the Democrats, will request a -- a caucus immediately and shouldn't last -- where is the budget at? Okay. Well, we got this big, thick package. We don't even know what's in the budget and so forth, and we do want to get out of here, but we just received this big, thick budget. So, what in time for my appropriation staff and my spokesperson to intelligently deal with this issue, we -- we would request that we'll be back here at exactly a quarter to twelve so we can vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Jones, let's just make that twenty-five till twelve, if you would, and we'll -- that'll probably get us going about that time. So we'll give you that time, Mr. Minority Leader. Yes, sir, Mr. Jones. Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES:

Yeah. Mr. President, in all due respect, and I do not -- it's not my intention, nor anyone on this side of the aisle, to delay the proceedings. I want to get out of here, and I want the budget passed. I don't want to be here tomorrow and the next day, and I don't know if your Members seen the budget or what's in it, but they -- but we -- just to vote in blind faith on something that you have just received. So -- so what I'm saying -- or, suggesting, Mr. President, that we will be back at a quarter to, and we intend to vote as soon as we come back.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Thank you, Senator Jones. We will start the proceedings at exactly twenty till and -- twenty till 12. Thank you very much.

(SENATE STANDS IN RECESS)

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(SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

The time is 11:40 and we had agreed with the Democrats that we would proceed at that point in time. I hope they're not still in caucus. Supplemental Calendar No. 3 has been distributed. Should be on your desks. ...there be a possibility that the Democrat Sergeant-at-Arms could notify the -- the Democrats that it is 11:40 and that they return to the Floor? Thank you. Supplemental Calendar No. 3. Senate Bill 1129. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HARRY:

First Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill 1129.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

The Chair recognizes Senator Rauschenberger. Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I apologize that we're acting so late in the day. The matter of -- of completing drafting, after working for three hard weeks on alternatives that we might have chosen, leads to this late hour. The staffs have worked nonstop for two days - both Republican and Democratic staffs - and have worked hard. I certainly want to express my appreciation to them. The budget before you is 99.6 percent the introduced budget that the Governor of the State of Illinois gave us back at budget introduction. After trying on a lot of different scenarios, we're here today with a scenario where we have the opportunity to add two hundred and fifty-three million new dollars to education, a hundred million new infrastructure dollars to -- to the State of Illinois, and I urge that -- that we take a hard look.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Further discussion? Further discussion? Senator Dudycz.

SENATOR DUDYCH:

Mr. President, I move the previous question.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Previous question has been moved. We recognize four lights: Senator Welch, Senator Collins, Senator Berman -- I beg your pardon, it was Senator del Valle and Senator Trotter. Two lights came on after the motion and those -- those will be our speakers. I believe Senator del Valle -- Senator del Valle, your light was on first, sir Senator DeLeo, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR DeLEO:

Thank you, Mr. President. There is -- not for -- for the purpose of delaying the process, I think Senator Berman's finger was on the switch when -- when Senator Dudycz -- he was walking back to the Floor. We'd ask if you'd consider one or two people's lights that came on late?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Thank you. You're quite correct. Senator Berman's close. He was real close, so we will recognize him as -- as a...

SENATOR DeLEO:

Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

...as a -- as a speaker. Senator del Valle, I believe your -- your light was first, sir. Senator del Valle.

SENATOR DEL VALLE:

Thank you, Mr. President. I don't have a budget. Was it distributed? I haven't seen the budget. Has the bill been distributed?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

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The budget is on -- to the best of my knowledge, the budget's in the LIS system and on the computers. We go through the exercise every year of printing lots and lots and lots of paper, which is basically appropriation language. In an effort to try to avoid that we've -- it's provided for you electronically.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator del Valle.

SENATOR DEL VALLE:

Mr. President, according to our rules, the budget is supposed to be distributed on our desks. Am I wrong?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Well, as you know, we've got the computers and that's what we've been using most. We haven't had analysis and bills distributed. It's on your computer, sir. Senator del Valle.

SENATOR DEL VALLE:

I can't find it on the computer. It -- it's in here?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

I'm sorry. I have the same problem.

SENATOR DEL VALLE:

...in the computer?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

I have the same problem. But I understand from the computer whiz of this -- at least from our side of the aisle, that, yes, indeed, there's -- the information's there, sir. Senator Trotter, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. I rise to just -- questions of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Certainly. The sponsor will yield.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much. I'd just like to begin with a couple

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comments. Just for the Body as a whole, we started this process roughly three months ago, and we did start out with the -- the notion that we'd be working together, and for the most part, we have done that. Seemingly, something has happened in the last week and -- and as a -- a good person and one of our old baseball greats used to say, "it's deja vu all over again", 'cause, seemingly, we're caught in the same spot that we were last year. We're at: -- Where is the budget? We don't get a budget. All day we've been on hold, waiting for the staff that has been working with us in the past few weeks to give us a budget. We haven't even been able to get reports in a timely manner from that side of the aisle. And -- and that's -- and that's unfair. It's not only unfair to this caucus who does have responsibility to our constituents to -- to know what's going on down here. They vote for us to come down here and be knowledgeable about what is going to be happening and how it's going to impact on their lives. By us not getting the budget until, I think it was, eighteen minutes after eleven, we have done a disservice to a good portion of our constituents down here. It is very unfortunate, because as pointed out by the Senator Rauschenberger, I do believe that ninety-nine percent of this budget is the Governor's budget, and that is unfortunate to the -- only to the point to whereas if we would have voted for an education bill last year, we would be doing much more for our children, we would be doing much more to the benefit for all the people of this State, because an educated community is certainly one in which it would be a productive one. So, but be that as it may, being that -- the numbers that we got, Senator Rauschenberger, in our two-minute meeting we just had in Appropriations, some of the numbers that you ran down that we had initially from the Governor's Office didn't seem to reconcile with yours, and -- and also from the Bureau of the Budget. So if you could at this point just again give us those numbers from the

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Bureau of the Budget about this revenue growth, that nine hundred million dollars that you talked about last night. Can you run us through that?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

Thank you, Senator Trotter. I do apologize for the fact that when we do wait too long to make substantive decisions, we have not done justice to our communication process in the last week. I sincerely apologize. I think, as a Chairman, I need to get better at my job. If I can start you basically with the fact that the Governor's introduced budget starts at about six hundred and eighty-some million dollars when he first introduces it. Very soon afterwards, Ec and Fisc revises the estimate about forty-eight million dollars, takes us to about seven hundred and thirty - depends on rounding. Over the last week or so, as we've worked with the Bureau of the Budget, they have decided that -- that they would be able to recognize, easily, the changes in revenues that -- that are predicted and actually have been received during the months of April and May. And they have revised their estimates up two hundred million additional. We're in the neighborhood of -- of nine hundred and eighteen to nine hundred and thirty million dollars, depending upon whose estimate you want to use today. That has not be rationalized into FY'98. Looks like not only do we have a conservative budget at that level, but one that we can live within.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Further discussion? Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Senator Rauschenberger, you have said in -- in your budget, or in the budget that we're being -- looking at this evening, that there's a hundred million dollars that will be put on top of the

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-- the school formula for elementary and secondary education. Why just a hundred million, if you have this nine-hundred-million-dollar growth?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

Senator Trotter, that's a policy decision that was reached in -- in agreement with the House Majority and the Governor's Office. It's maybe not the best allocation, but that's the allocation that was decided on.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

I guess more importantly maybe I should ask, why was it just the two caucuses meeting and making these policy decisions that's going to impact upon all of our constituencies, and not the Senate?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

Again, Senator Trotter, in this process it's important that -- that you move it along, and the decision was made that the Majority caucuses would try to liaison with their partisan caucuses at the other Chambers.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

In this proposed -- budget, will there be any dollars for COLA increases for the human service providers?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

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Last year we provided three-percent COLAs across the board. Unfortunately, this year there are no COLAs in the budget.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

In -- in this proposed budget, will there be any dollars for school construction, which we've been trying to get for the past ten years here in this General Assembly?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

Senator Trotter, in this budget there is no school construction money. However, we have a bond bill that we hope to run, depending upon how our timing works and how the Chamber works tonight. We hope to advance a bond bill that will deal with school construction.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Trotter, for the last time.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much. I guess, for the last time, I'm a little disappointed in how this whole scenario has evolved at this point in time. I understand we're running the clock down and we certainly do not want to not pass this budget. I think there are some good things in this budget, but -- but for all practical purposes, the way we've done it tonight, the system sucks.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Further discussion? Senator Berman.

SENATOR BERMAN:

Thank you, Mr. President. Questions of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield, for two minutes.

SENATOR BERMAN:

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Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I understand that - correct me if I'm wrong - General State Aid increases by fifty-two and a half million dollars?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

Yes, Senator Berman. Fifty-two and a half million dollars.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Berman.

SENATOR BERMAN:

Now, according to my figures then, that eight hundred and thirty-one million dollars of new revenue is the base and fifty-two and a half million dollars is the increase of General State Aid...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR BERMAN:

...so that would be six percent.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Excuse me. Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

Senator Berman, that's correct, and that was, I think, exactly the Governor's introduced level.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Berman.

SENATOR BERMAN:

And block grants for this -- I'm sorry. The flat grants, fifty-two million dollars this year?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

Fifty-six million dollars, Senator Berman.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Berman.

SENATOR BERMAN:

And hold harmless is how much?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

54.9 million if you take last year's and this year's together, to bring that hold harmless to the same level.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Further discussion? Senator Welch. I'm sorry, but we were out of time. Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

I have a question of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield, Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Senator Rauschenberger, how much money is going to go into the School Aid Formula under this bill?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

52.5 million.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

...that -- wasn't that the Governor's original request and nothing was added to it? Is that correct?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

I stand corrected. That was the State Board's allocation,

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yes. But that was the State Board's allocation at introduction.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

So the answer was, yes, it was fifty-two and a half million dollars and nothing was added to it, even though last night we were constantly reminded there's nine hundred million dollars in new revenue growth. Not one dollar made it into the School Aid Formula. Is that correct?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

Fifty-two and a half million dollars made it into the School Aid Formula.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Which is what the Governor proposed several months ago. So there's no additional increase to that. How much money is going to go to this new department, for Department of Human Services? Is it an increase over the budget, if you broke them down, for the other agencies that were aggregated to create this department? Are we saving money by creating this new superagency, or is it costing us more money?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

The -- the GRF allocation for the new Department of Human Services is 3.3 billion dollars. It's a slight growth over the combined previous agencies'. In the first year of operations, in the -- the consolidation, when we have nearly a million people at stake, we thought it was important to make sure the Governor had

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what he requested.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Senator Welch, this is for the last question. Thank you.

SENATOR WELCH:

Well, then let me make a statement. Here, again, for -- we have no additional money for the School Aid Formula, but we found more money for welfare. Now, that's a great message to send out and go home with. As Pate Philip always says: Merry Christmas.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Further discussion? Senator Carroll.

SENATOR CARROLL:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I wish we could do like the Bulls and take a two-minute time-out and stop the clock for awhile, but I guess we can't.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

I appreciate your understanding.

SENATOR CARROLL:

Thank you. And it's hard for me to say hello in two minutes. Let me just say that this is the worst process I have ever seen in twenty-seven years, and I think anybody who's been down here would say the same. I feel embarrassed for our -- our Chairman. I think the meeting was a -- a farce. There was no one available to explain any numbers, nor was anybody able to go through any numbers. I doubt to say that even he is sure - and I feel sorry for him about this - that he is sure what's in this budget. I'm sure there is no one else of the fifty-eight Members who has the foggiest idea. And if you look at the education budget, for example, and one of the things that truly concerns me about it, as we now know the numbers, since we hadn't seen the bill, Chicago has a zero increase from that which the Governor suggested. Suburban Cook gets sixteen million, six million for DuPage, four hundred thousand for Kane, six -- four million in Lake -- I'm

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sorry, six million in Lake and McHenry and Will, and sixty million downstate. Then you go into the flat grants, which give the wealthiest districts the same amount of money as these "bottoms up" we're worried about, and that's money that doesn't go to Chicago. Same thing with hold harmless. And then you go to -- to tuition credit and textbooks, none of which helps the schoolchildren, at least in my area, and you say this is a good allocation. This is ridiculous. Now I understand, at least, why they didn't want any hearing on it at all.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Further discussion? Senator Jones. Is Senator Jones on the Floor? Senator Jones. If you would, sir, we'll give you two minutes. Thank you.

SENATOR JONES:

Well, gee, I've been diminished even more. Well, thank you, Mr. President. We recognize, Senator Rauschenberger, that you and your Members of your caucus have -- didn't have all the facts, even though you were in the room during the negotiating, and I do recognize that many of them will have to continue the practice of voting in the blind. We don't like to vote in the blind. I have been in constant contact with the House and the Bureau of the Budget as relate to this budget. As has been forestated, we just received this huge document less than a half hour ago. And to intelligently analyze what's in it, it's not fair to us, it's not fair to our constituents. And I understand the dilemma that we face and -- and the dilemma that we face to be replace blind trust in -- in the process. Even though we have all these laptop computers and everything to go with it, we still do not have anything that we can really intelligently vote on. And it's unfortunate. It's getting late. I don't want to be here in overtime Session just to delay it so that it -- it would require more votes to pass the budget. I -- I like to vote intelligently

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on issues. And I'm quite certain the Members on your side like to vote intelligently. I intend to vote for the bill, because I trust that ninety-nine percent of it is correct. But it's the wrong way to do business. And I hope in the future that we -- we would not continue this particular practice.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator Rauschenberger.

SENATOR RAUSCHENBERGER:

Senator Jones, you're absolutely right. I will do my -- I'm going to speak quickly 'cause we have very little time. I will absolutely do my very best to make sure we do a better job with the process next time. I would like you to know there's some very good things in this budget. There's a hundred million new dollars for child care to help people make the transition to work and to provide for working people in the State of Illinois. There's ten million dollars to deal with the issue of immigration, which is a factor the federal government's shoved -- has sent -- sent down to us. I do appreciate your trust, and I realize this is difficult circumstances. I'd appreciate a favorable roll call.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR WATSON)

The question is, shall the Senate adopt the CCR on Senate Bill 1129. Those in favor, vote Aye. Opposed, vote No. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 49 voting Yes, 9 voting No, no voting Present. The Senate does adopt the CCR on Senate Bill 1129, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed.

(MIDNIGHT)

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