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94th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
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26th Legislative Day

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

The regular Session of the 94th General Assembly will please come to order. Will the Members please be at their desk? Will our guests in the galleries please rise? The invocation today will be given by Dr. Baker Siddiquee, the Islamic Society of Greater Springfield. Doctor.

DR. BAKER SIDDIQUEE:

(Prayer and remarks by Dr. Baker Siddiquee)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

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

SENATOR MALONEY:

(Pledge of Allegiance, led by Senator Maloney)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Madam Secretary, Reading and Approval of the Journal.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Journal of Thursday, April 7, 2005.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Hunter.

SENATOR HUNTER:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Senator Hunter moves to approve the Journals just read by the Secretary. There being no objection, so ordered. Madam Secretary, Resolutions, please.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Resolution 141, offered by Senator DeLeo.

Senate Resolution 142, offered by Senator Link and all Members.

And Senate Resolution 143 -- and 144, offered by -- both offered by Senator Haine and all Members.

They're all death resolutions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Resolutions Consent Calendar. Would ask all Members, please come to the Floor. All Members within the sound of my voice please come to the Floor. Ladies and Gentlemen, for your -- announcement. Ladies and Gentlemen, an announcement. The intention of the Chair today is to do 3rd Readings this morning.

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We'll be doing 3rd Readings. We have an announcement to make. Senator Watson will be taking the Chair very shortly, introducing a basketball team. We're going to be going to 3rd Readings. We will close today by a resolution, a death resolution, offered by Senator Reverend Meeks in regards to the Pope's recent death. We will close the Session on that. At this time we bring Senator Watson up.

SENATOR WATSON:

We've -- well, good morning. And I appreciate -- the opportunity to -- to make a presentation this morning. And we've all been obviously very excited about the Fighting Illini. And we have -- this is from a local newspaper in Decatur and the support for the Fighting Illini. And they were very successful and obviously we're very proud of their accomplishments. But there are different divisions in the NCAA. You may not be totally aware of that, but there are different divisions. Obviously, Illinois is in Division I. There's Division II and Division III. And I believe that... Okay. Division III. We have an NCAA champion in Illinois. And it wasn't, unfortunately, the University of Illinois, but it -- but we have it in Decatur, and that's Millikin University. And we have with us today the -- the Millikin University team who is the 2005 NCAA Division III Champion and we have some of the players with us here today. Obviously they are student athletes and have requirements and obligations at the University and -- and many of them are in class and -- and, of course, we're -- we're very supportive of that. But Lori Kerans is their coach. They were twenty-nine and two this year. Lori was the Division -- well, the -- what, Region 7 Coach of the Year. You've taken the -- the Millikin University team to the NCAA, I believe, eleven times in your sixteen years as coach. Obviously very successful. They go somewhat unknown because of the -- the celebrity of the University of Illinois, but we have a -- a champion right here in Illinois in Millikin University in Decatur. I would like Coach Kerans to have the opportunity to say a few words and introduce the -- the players who are with us.

COACH LORI KERANS:

(Remarks and Introductions by Coach Lori Kerans)

SENATOR WATSON:

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Well, Coach Kerans, thank you. And congratulations once again to -- Millikin University. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

WAND-ABC here in Springfield seeking leave to record the proceedings. Seeing no objection, leave is granted. We have Kelly Huff, photographer for the Daily Herald, seeking leave to photograph the proceedings. Seeing no objection, leave is granted. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senator Haine, Chairperson of the Committee on Insurance, reports Senate Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 521, Senate Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 760 and Senate Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1449, all recommended Do Adopted.

Senator Crotty, Chairperson of the Committee on Local Government, reports Senate Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 94, Senate Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 343, Senate Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 489, Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 1355, Senate Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 1444, Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 1445, Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 1503, Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 1505, all recommended Do Adopt.

Senator Sullivan, Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture and Conservation, reports Senate Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 59 do -- recommended Do Adopt.

Senator Lightford, Chairperson of the Committee on Education, reports Senate Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 41, Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 69, Senate Amendment 3 to Senate Bill 162, Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 1734, all Be Adopted.

Senator Clayborne, Chairperson of the Committee on Environment and Energy, reports Senate Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 474, Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 1701, Senate Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 1787 and Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 2040, all Be Adopted.

Senator Sandoval, Chairperson of the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development, reports Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bills {sic} 14 and Senate Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 323, all recommended Do Adopt.

Senator Forby, Chairperson of the Committee on Labor, reports Senate Amendment No. 3 to Senate Bill 1792 recommended Do

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Adopt.

Senator Demuzio, Chairperson of the Committee on Licensed Activities, reports Senate Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 158 and Senate Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 184, all Be Adopted.

Senator Hunter, Chairperson of the Committee on Appropriations III, reports Senate Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 662 Be Adopted.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Messages from the House, please.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

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

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed bills of the following titles, in the passage of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit:

House Bills 48, 325, 405, 655, 1971, 2689, 3033, 3095, 3451, 3724, 183, 399, 448, 923, 1350, 2487, 2690, 2892, 3272, 3648, 3850, 1395, 1585, 2507, 2536, 2697, 2700, 3258, 3504, 3507 and 3593.

Passed the House, April 7, 2005.

A Message from the House by Mr. Mahoney, 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.

I have like Messages on House Joint -- pardon me, that was House Joint Resolution 4. I have House Joint Resolution 11 and House Joint Resolution 19.

All adopted by the House, March 15, 2005.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Madam Secretary. Messages from the Governor, please.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

A Message for the Governor by Joseph B. Handley, Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative Affairs. March 17, 2005.

Mr. President - The Governor directs me to lay before the Senate the following Messages -- Message.

To the Honorable Members of the Senate, 94th

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General Assembly - I have nominated and appointed the following named persons to the offices enumerated below and respectfully ask concurrence in and confirmation of these appointments of your Honorable Body.

Rod Blagojevich, Governor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Ladies and Gentlemen, just a short reminder. The deadline for filing Floor amendments - the deadline for filing Floor amendments - is the close of business day this coming Monday. So if you have some language about Floor amendments that need to be filed, we strongly suggest that you get that done today. The deadline is Monday at the close of business. Senator Althoff, for what purpose do you rise, ma'am?

SENATOR ALTHOFF:

A point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Please state your point.

SENATOR ALTHOFF:

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I have with me today serving as Page, Nicole Beringer from Hannah Beardsley School in Crystal Lake. She's here with her grandmother, who I believe is sitting in the gallery behind us, who is Carol -- Carol Williams, who is from the Village of Lakewood. And the important perspective here for Nicole, her mother served as President of our local chapter of MADD. Can we welcome her to Springfield, please?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Would our guest in the galleries please rise and be recognized? And our guest on the Floor? Welcome to Springfield and thank you for coming. Senator Garrett, for what purpose do you rise, ma'am?

SENATOR GARRETT:

For purpose of personal announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Please state your announcement.

SENATOR GARRETT:

Yes. I'd like to welcome Christopher Casties, from Glenview, who is an eighth grader at North Ridge Prep School in Niles. He's here as a Page, and I would like the Senate to give

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him a warm welcome.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Would our guest please rise and welcome to Springfield. Okay. Ladies and Gentlemen, we will be going to page 46 of your Calendar, Senate Bills 3rd Reading. In the middle of page 46 is Senate Bill 534. Senator Radogno, do you wish to proceed, ma'am? She indicates she wishes to proceed. I believe there's a -- Senator seeks leave to -- of Body to return this bill, Senate Bill 534, to the Order of 2nd Reading for the purpose of an amendment. Hearing no objection, leave is granted. Okay. On the Order of 2nd Reading is Senate Bill 534. Madam Secretary, are there any amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. Floor Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Radogno.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Radogno, to explain the amendment.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

Thank you, Mr. President. The amendment simply adds municipalities to the bill and it -- currently the original bill only referred to counties.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Okay. Senator Radogno moves the adoption of Amendment No. 1 - Floor Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 534. All those in favor will say Aye. All those opposed will say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted. Madam Secretary, are there any further Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

No further amendments reported, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

3rd Reading. Senator Righter, what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Inquiry of the Chair, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Yes, sir. State your inquiry.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

You announced a little bit earlier that the deadline for the filing of Floor amendments would be the end of the business day Monday.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

That's correct.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

What about the possibility of the extension of the 3rd Reading deadline for Senate bills. It's my understanding there is some discussion of possibly extending the deadline on some bills. If that occurs, then will the deadline for the filing of a Floor amendment for that bill also be extended?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

The President's Office is currently in discussion about what bills would be extended and we'll -- I'll let you know as soon as we -- I get a definite answer. Okay. Ladies and Gentlemen, continuing on Senate Bills 3rd Reading, is Senate Bill 542. Senator John Cullerton, on Senate Bill 542, sir. You wish to proceed? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 542.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. This is a noncontroversial bill. It amends the Business Corporation Act by clarifying the Section concerning shareholder examination of corporate records by restating "books and records of accounts" to "financial records". I know of no opposition and ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Okay. The question is, shall Senate Bill 542 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 55 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 542, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Leave of the Body, we'll come back to 551. Leave of the Body, we'll come back to 552. Senator Dillard, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

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SENATOR DILLARD:

Just on a point of personal privilege, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

State your point, sir.

SENATOR DILLARD:

I've been asked by our leadership, as I think each of the Republican spokesmen on all our committees, to - as we fly through this record-thick Calendar on 3rd Reading in the Senate - to every now and then get up and -- we're flying through this Calendar. It's -- it's inches and inches thick. And I think Senator Watson wants our spokesmen to get up just to at least alert our side of the aisle as to where we are on some of these bills. And I think for the flow of the process so that our Members, at least on our side of the aisle, know what we're voting on. You know, I had my light on on Senator Cullerton's bill and it was -- it was an agreed bill and it was fine. But just watch for us, especially the spokesmen of our committees, 'cause I think Senator Watson wants us up every now and then to try to make sure our side of the aisle knows where we are on some of these bills. So, please look for our lights, if you would, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you very much. That's a -- we've certainly made that a practice, Senator Dillard, and we apologize. We did not see your light on this last -- and actually it's a very helpful part of the process when the Minority Spokesperson does get up and we do appreciate that. So... Senator Lauzen, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR LAUZEN:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Please state your point, sir.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Today I'd like to welcome to the Senate a Page for the Day. His name is Mark Gardner from Plainfield. He's a sixteen-year-old sophomore at Benet Academy in Naperville. He's a drummer and his favorite subject in school is science. His parents and younger brother are in the President's Gallery. It's Mark and Sandra Gardner and Mark's younger brother's name is Dylan. And I

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would just ask you to help welcome them to the Senate.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Would our guest please rise? And our guests in the gallery please rise and be recognized? And welcome to Springfield. Okay. Ladies and Gentlemen, returning on Senate Bills 3rd Reading is Senate Bill 555. Senator James Clayborne, do you wish to proceed? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 555.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Clayborne.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Bill 555 just adds marriage -- licensed marriage and family therapists to the Insurance Code who could provide coverage for treatment of mental, emotional or nervous disorders. Just adds them to the Insurance Code along with physicians, licensed clinical psychologists and social workers who can provide the same services.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Is there any discussion? Senator Brady, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR BRADY:

Speak to the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill, sir.

SENATOR BRADY:

Thank you, Mr. President. I compliment the sponsor on his intention here. I want to inform the Members that this -- this did not receive a unanimous vote. Many of us, although very empathetic to the sponsor's intentions, are also concerned about the rising number of uninsured in Illinois. Every time we increase one of these mandates, we increase the cost of insurance, and the direct effect of that is that there are certain employers who can't afford to provide insurance any longer for their employees. And where I compliment the sponsor's

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interest and where I might likely even support this bill if we would have passed the no-frills insurance option for employees. I just want to suggest that. I think it's very important that everyone in this Chamber knows that if we pass this, it will increase the cost of insurance. In fact, unfortunately unavailable to the sponsor as this passed out of committee, a report has just been concluded that has indicated the mental health mandates have increased the cost of the insurance by two percent annually - and that's an annual cost, not a one-time. That's an annual cost, and I can only tell you that the constituents in my district, the people who employ people, the people who pay for that are struggling with that. Some of the reasons that we're seeing Illinois dramatically lose jobs compared to other states are because of the high cost of insurance in this State. And we've got to be cautious. So where I reluctantly stand in opposition to the sponsor's bill, and I ask everyone to consider that -- that this will actually cause more people to be uninsured and therefore request that they vote accordingly.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Clayborne, to close, sir.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

Thank you. Thank you, Senator Bradley {sic}. I understand your concerns and appreciate your concerns. However, all I'm doing is expanding the -- the pool of who can provide services that are already covered under the insurance policy. So I would ask for your favorable vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Okay. The question is, shall Senate Bill 555 pass. Those in favor will vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Kirk, are we okay? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 34 Ayes, 21 Nays, 1 voting Present. Senate Bill 555, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator James Clayborne, on Senate Bill 556, sir. Out of the record. Senator James Clayborne, on Senate Bill 557, sir. Out of the record. Senate Bill 558, sir. Out of the record. Senator Shadid, on 559, sir. Do you wish to proceed? He indicates he

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wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 559.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Shadid.

SENATOR SHADID:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Bill 559, the amendment, this bill removes the requirement that a police officer must personally observe a person's behavior in order to have reasonable grounds to take a person involuntarily into custody and transport them to a mental health facility. This is supported by the Illinois Mental Health Association, Sheriffs' Association, AFSCME and the -- Community Behavioral Healthcare Association. And also, the Illinois Mental Health Association felt that it was unnecessary for the transportation -- transporting officer to fill out the petition at the facility as long as his identification information was included in the petition. I'd be glad to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Is there any discussion? Senator Roskam, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR ROSKAM:

Thank you, Mr. President. Briefly to the bill. Just rise in support of the bill. It passed unanimously out of the Executive Committee and I know Senator Shadid worked considerably to bring this to the Floor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Senator Shadid, to close, sir.

SENATOR SHADID:

I want to thank Senator Roskam for those kind words. You know, it's very pleasant when you get up and the other side of the aisle just keeps telling me how great a job I'm doing. I'll keep that in consideration. Thank you very much, Senator Roskam. I'd appreciate a Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Okay. The question is, shall Senate Bill 559 pass. All those in favor, vote Aye. All those opposed will vote Nay. The

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voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 56 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 559, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Ladies and Gentlemen, continuing on Senate Bills 3rd Reading. We're on the top of page 47 of your Calendars, comes Senate Bill 562. Senator Haine, do you wish to proceed, sir? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 562.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Haine.

SENATOR HAINE:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. This bill, Senate Bill 562, is an initiative of Attorney General Madigan and the law enforcement community of Illinois. It is a major revision of the statutes dealing with methamphetamines, putting them in one place in the statute books similar to the Cannabis Control Act. It also enhances penalties in a -- in a scheme, making the most -- the -- the toughest -- the most serious penalties for manufacturing of methamphetamine; secondly, the distribution of methamphetamine; thirdly, the simple possession. So it creates a statutory scheme. It -- it defines and enhances penalties for the aggravated possession of certain precursor elements. It's a good bill. There is -- there is -- I've been informed by the Attorney General's Office, there may be some additions to this bill in the House. They will tweak it further. I know of no opposition. The law enforcement community is strongly in favor of this bill. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Any discussion? Seeing no discussion, Senator Haine, to close.

SENATOR HAINE:

I -- I -- I respectfully ask for an Aye vote. This is a bill which will help us end the scourge of methamphetamines.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

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Okay. The question is, shall Senate Bill 562 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. All those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 56 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 562, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Viverito, on Senate Bill 565, sir. Out of the record. Senator Wojcik, on Senate Bill 568, ma'am. Senator Kay Wojcik, on 568. Out of the record. Senator Forby, on Senate Bill 580, sir. Do you wish to proceed? On Senate Bill 580? Out of the record. Senator Jacobs, on 582, sir. Do you wish to proceed? Out of the record. Senator Crotty, on 600, ma'am? No. Senator Crotty, on 601. No. 602. No. 603. No. 604. No. 605. No. 606. No. 607. No. 610. No. On the top -- oh! Excuse me. Excuse me. Excuse me. Senator Link, on Senate Bill 610, sir. Do you wish to proceed? He indicates he wishes to proceed. We'd -- we'd like to recall on Senate Bill 610. I'm sorry, Senator Link, that we passed over you. Senator Link will seek leave of the Body to return Senate Bill 610 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 Senate Bill 610. Madam Secretary, are there any amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. Floor Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Link.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Link, to explain the amendment, sir.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Mr. President. And I will accept that apology, too. The amendment just basically is -- adds one line in there -- "on a temporary basis not to exceed thirty months".

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Seeing no discussion, Senator Link moves the adoption of Amendment -- Floor Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 610. All those in favor will say Aye. All those opposed will say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted. Are there any further Floor amendments approved for -- for consideration?

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No further amendments reported, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

3rd Reading. Ladies and Gentlemen, on page 48 of your Calendar, continuing on Senate Bills 3rd Reading, is Senate Bill 611. Senator Link. Do you wish to proceed, sir? Do you wish -- do you wish to proceed on 611, sir? Madam Secretary, he indicates he would like to. Please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 611.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Mr. President. This bill prohibits corporate authorities of a municipality from entering into a jurisdictional boundary lines agreement unless written notice is provided to the owners of all property affected by the proposed agreement. I know of no objections to it.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Senator Wendell Jones, for what purpose you rise, sir?

SENATOR W. JONES:

I'd like to make a comment on the bill, please, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill, sir.

SENATOR W. JONES:

Yes. To the bill. The Local Government Committee passed this out unanimously and we stand in support of this bill. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Is there any further discussion? Any further discussion? Seeing no further discussion, Senator Link, to close, sir. The question is, shall Senate Bill 611 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 56 Ayes, no Nays, no -- 0 voting

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Present. Senate Bill 611, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Munoz, on Senate Bill 612. Out of the record. Senator Cullerton. Senator John Cullerton, on -- on Senate Bill 613, sir. Out of the record. Senator Silverstein, on Senate Bill 614. Out of the record. Senator Forby, on Senate Bill 615. Madam... He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 615.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Bill 615 establishes new guidelines for the use of EDGE Tax Credit. Currently, EDGE -- EDGE grants are available to employers who employ at least twenty-five new employees and who invest at least five million dollars; if the employer has fewer than a hundred employees, then the employer is willing to invest one million dollars in capital investment and employ at least five new members. If Senate Bill 615 is passed, the EDGE credit bill would extend to smaller business: The business is located within a county that has an annual unemployment rate at least one percent higher than the statewide average, they have fewer than a hundred employees, the company used the money for investment at least five hundred thousand dollars in capital improvement, and employ at least two employment {sic} (employees) in the State. According to the December statewide unemployment rate, the IDES, there's twenty-eight counties has unemployment higher than one percent above State average. As you can see, this bill would extend the EDGE credit -- EDGE tax credit to many others statewide that needs an economic shot. If there's any question, I'll please try to answer 'em for you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Senator John Jones, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR J. JONES:

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Thank you, Mr. President. I just rise in support of the bill. The bill came through the Commerce and Economic Development Committee unanimously and I would recommend all the Members on this side of the aisle to support it. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Forby, to close. The question is, shall Senate Bill 615 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 56 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 615, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Demuzio, on Senate Bill 629, ma'am. Do you wish to proceed? Senator -- out of the record. Senator John Sullivan, on Senate Bill 659. Do you wish to proceed, sir? He indicates he does. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 659.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Sullivan.

SENATOR J. SULLIVAN:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Bill 659 creates a Rural Technology Development Zone Act which authorizes the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to implement a pilot program to designate three areas in the State as rural technology development zones. DCEO will identify specific infrastructure investments that will provide incentives for utilities to deploy wireless telecommunications and Internet -- access within each of the three zones. Firms that invest in these projects will be able to -- to claim a tax credit. This bill is an attempt to eliminate the digital divide in -- especially in rural areas of the State. I'd be more than happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Seeing no discussion, the question is, shall Senate Bill 659 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have

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all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 55 Ayes, 0 Nays and 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 659, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Jacobs, on Senate Bill 660. Out of the record. Senator Silverstein, on Senate Bill 661. He indicates he'd like to -- we'll skip. Madam Secretary, 661, out of the record. 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, out of the record. Senator Don Harmon, on Senate Bill 676, sir. Out of the record. Senator Harmon. Senator Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Mr. President. For your information, the next several pages, Bills 676 through Bill -- Senate Bill 759 are vehicle bills that came out of the Revenue Committee. It is not my intention to call any of those bills for 3rd Reading today. If the Body would offer leave to skip those pages, I would have no objection.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you very much, Senator. The Senator requests that from Senate Bill -- 676 on Senate Bills 3rd Reading on page 49, on page 50, on page 51 of the Calendar, on page 52 of the Calendar, continuing on page 53 of the Calendar, down to -- to Senate Bill 759. Leave of the Body, we will start -- regain at Senate Bill 766. Thank you, Senator Harmon. Seeing no objection, leave is granted. On the bottom of page 53, continuing on Senate Bills 3rd Reading, is Senate Bill 766. Senator Link. Out of the record. Senator Demuzio, on Senate Bill 767, ma'am. Out of the record. Senator Demuzio, on 768, ma'am. Do you wish to proceed? No. Out of the record. On 769, ma'am? Madam Secretary, she indicates she'd like to proceed on Senate Bill 769. Please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 769.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Demuzio.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

Yes. Mr. President, Senate Bill 769 amends the Alternative

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Fuel {sic} (Alternate Fuels) Act regarding domestic renewable fuels. It makes several changes with the primary objective of promoting increased usage of twenty percent of higher blends of biodiesel fuel in Illinois. The bill defines biodiesel fuel and would allow the use of twenty percent or higher blends of the fuel for rebates and grants under the Illinois EPA's Alternative Fuels Rebate Program and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunities Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Grant Program.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Senator Dave Sullivan, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR D. SULLIVAN:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. This legislation passed out of the Energy and Environment Committee unanimously. I urge its support.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Demuzio, to close, ma'am.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

Yes. I would ask for a favorable vote. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. The question is, shall Senate Bill 769 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 55 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 769, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Demuzio, on Senate Bill 770, ma'am. Do you wish to proceed? She indicates she wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 770.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Demuzio.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Bill 770 requires insurance to -- insurers to provide coverage for anorexia,

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bulimia and posttraumatic stress syndrome. This particular bill currently requires that these conditions -- that the insurers recognize that these conditions are conditions that should be placed under the definition of serious mental illness. These conditions can also be debilitating, as does depression and other forms of mental illness. And I ask for a favorable roll call.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Senator Brady, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR BRADY:

Speak to the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill, sir.

SENATOR BRADY:

Thank you, Mr. President. With a great deal of respect for the sponsor, I again rise in opposition to this bill. This bill did not receive unanimous support in committee, but that doesn't mean that everyone in committee, nor everyone on this Floor has compassion for those in need of health care and understands that. Again, the problem is that every time we add a mandate to the policies of insurance in the State of Illinois we see a direct correlation in the reduction of those people who go uninsured. People who go uninsured receive less pre-care. They -- they -- they -- they are held at a -- at a different level. As an employer and as other employers throughout this State, they grapple with the rising costs of insurance. I again note that if we were to pass a bill that we -- we attempted to pass at the leadership of Senator Denny Jacobs last year, which would have provided for employers to provide a no-frills policy, we probably would all be supporting this legislation, Senator. But having said that, we did not pass that legislation. This legislation will increase uninsured in Illinois. The poll I -- the study I suggested or cited prior to this indicated that, and for that reason, I would ask everyone to vote against this legislation, not against the sponsor's intent, but against the legislation.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Is there any further discussion? Seeing no further discussion. Senator Demuzio, to close.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

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Yes. I ask for a favorable roll call. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. The question is, shall Senate Bill 770 pass. All those in favor, vote Aye. All those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 35 Ayes, 19 Nays, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 770, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Okay. Ladies and Gentlemen, on Senate Bills 3rd Readings, Senate Bill 772. Senator Sandoval has asked leave of the Body. We will skip 772 and go down to the bottom of page 54 to Senate Bill 789. Senator Martinez. Senator Martinez. Senator Martinez, on Senate Bill 789. Do you wish to proceed, ma'am? She -- Senator... Okay. Once again, the sponsor has indicated -- we will -- continuing on Senate Bills 3rd Reading. Sponsor's -- indicate she'd like to, leave of the Body, come back to this. So, we'll go from 789, past page 55 to page 56, the middle of page 56, to Senate Bill 818. Senate Bill 3rd Reading. Senator Crotty, do you wish to proceed on Senate Bill 818, ma'am? Out of the record. Once again, the sponsor indicates from Senate Bill 818, the bottom of page 56, down through page 57, turning to page... Okay. Buried in one of these shell bill lists is Senate Bill 834. Senator Wendell Jones, sir. On Senate Bill 834, do you wish to proceed? Out of the record. Okay. Continuing again on Senator Crotty at 835, in the middle of page 57. Continuing on shell bills. Turning to page -- on Senate Bills 3rd Reading to -- on page 58 of your Calendar is Senate Bill 849. Senator Collins. Senator Collins, do you wish to proceed, ma'am? She indicates she wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 849.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Collins.

SENATOR COLLINS:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. This bill is at the request of the Department of Human

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Services and the Illinois State Police. It seeks to clarify the law enforcement notifications when the evidence indicated that a possible crime act -- criminal act of abuse has been committed in a community agency or its funded program sites. Prior to this a lot of the community organizations or agencies that might have been under DHS, they were confused about who the agency or which agency they were to report any criminal abuse or crimes, and the Illinois State Police initially dealt with only State agencies. But a lot of the community agencies felt -- or, they were confused and they felt they had to go to the Illinois State Police. But these cases were better handled -- the Illinois State Police felt these cases were better handled by the local law enforcement agencies who then will report it to the Illinois State Police. So this is a streamlining of the process. I would just ask for an affirmative vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Mr. President. This is -- this bill is okay. I commend the sponsor for working on it and our side of the aisle ought to be for it. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Is there any further discussion? Seeing no further discussion, Senator Collins, to close, ma'am.

SENATOR COLLINS:

Well, I just thank Senator Dillard and I -- I ask for an affirmative vote. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Okay. The question is, shall Senate Bill 849 pass. All those in favor, vote Aye. All those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 849, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Lightford, on 852. Ladies and Gentlemen, once again, with leave of the Body, the sponsor has asked that we can skip over page 58, page 59 to top of page 60 is Senate Bills 3rd Reading. We'll continue

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at that point. Thank you, Senator Lightford. Senator Maloney, on Senate Bill 880, sir. Do you wish to proceed? Senator Maloney. Okay. Once again, I -- I believe the sponsor's indicated on the top of -- on the top of page 60 of the Calendar is Senate Bill 880. We will go down to the middle of page 60. Senator Lightford, on Senate Bill 890, ma'am. Do you wish to proceed? Out of the record. Senator John Sullivan, on Senate Bill 892, sir. Do you wish to proceed? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 892.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Sullivan.

SENATOR J. SULLIVAN:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Bill 892 requires the Illinois Finance Authority to maintain at least the same levels of bond funding for all programs that operated under the former Illinois Farm Development Act and the Rural Bond Act.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator Sullivan. Is there any discussion? Seeing no discussion, the question is, shall Senate Bill 892 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. All those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. There's 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 892, having received the constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Jacqui Collins, on Senate Bill 893, ma'am. Ladies and Gentlemen, the sponsor has asked leave of the Body. We will skip over from 893 to the top of page 61 to Senate Bill 901. Senator Carol Ronen. Senator Carol Ronen. Sponsor indicates she'd -- also requests leave from 901 to 910. On the -- middle of page 61 is Senator Haine. Senator Haine, on Senate Bill 910, sir. Do you wish to proceed? Out of the record. Senator Haine, on 912, sir. I believe the sponsor is also requesting leave. Turning to page 62 of your Calendar. In the middle of page 62 is Senator James Clayborne. Senator James Clayborne on Senate Bill 921, sir. Do you wish to proceed?

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922, sir? 923, 924, 925, out of the record. Senator Demuzio, on Senate Bill 926, ma'am. Out of the record. And, once again, the sponsor indicates leave of the Body from 926 to the top of page 63 of your Calendar to Senate Bill -- leaves us at 935. Senator Silverstein has also request leave of the Body. Continuing on page 63 of your Calendar, to the bottom of page 63. On the bottom of page 63 is Senate Bill 949. Senator Sandoval, do you wish to proceed, sir? Out of the record. Ladies and Gentlemen, continuing on Senate Bills 3rd Reading is the top of page 64. Senator Sandoval, on Senate Bill 950. 950. Out of the record. Senator Carol Ronen, on Senate Bill 951. She also asks leave of the Body, all the way down on the bottom of page 64. We will continue to the top of page 65. Senator James Clayborne, on Senate Bill 1028. Gentleman asks leave of the Body to -- continuing on the bottom of page 65. Turning on page 66 of your Calendar is Senate Bills 3rd Reading. We will come to Senate Bill 1053. Senator John Sullivan, on 1053, sir? Out of the record. 1054, sir? Out of the record. 1055. Continuing -- sponsor indicates he'd like leave of the Body to skip over top of page 67 of your Calendar, continuing on the full page of page 67. Turning to page 68. Senate Bills 3rd Reading is Senate Bill 1219. Madam Secretary, Senate Bill 1219. Senator Don Harmon, do you wish to proceed, sir? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1219.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Bill 1219 is an initiative of several mayors in my district. It would amend the Condominium Property Act to give non-home rule governments the same right that home rule governments have to inspect apartment buildings before they are converted into condominiums. I am aware of no overt opposition. The Realtors have expressed some concern and I have pledged to them to continue conversations in the House and they have no objection to me calling the bill today. I ask for

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your Aye votes.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Seeing no discussion, the question is, shall Senate Bill 1219 pass. All those in favor, vote Aye. All those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 56 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1219, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Maloney, on Senate Bill 1220. Senator Maloney, on Senate Bill 1220. Madam Secretary, please read the -- Senator Roskam, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR ROSKAM:

Thank you, Mr. President. Just a point of order. It seems like the computers are frozen up, 'cause they're not flipping to the next bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Because of the enormous amount of shell bills, we're -- we're catching up and it should be -- we'll keep a very close watch on that. Thank you so much. Once again, on Senate Bill 1220 is Senator Maloney. Do you wish to proceed, sir? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate -- Senate Bill 1220.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Maloney.

SENATOR MALONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Bill 1220 would continue our efforts to ensure that the elderly receive needed influenza vaccinations. In -- in 2002, we had these vaccinations available through nursing homes. In 2003, through assisted living facilities, and this continues our efforts to have them done at home. This is supported by AARP, the Illinois Health Care Association, and -- and initially Illinois Home Health Care was opposed, but because of our amending clarified the situation,

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they are now in support of this. I -- I'll be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Senator Roskam, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR ROSKAM:

Thank you, Mr. President. Will the sponsor yield?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield for a question.

SENATOR ROSKAM:

Senator Maloney, were there any opponents in the -- in the committee? Any witness slips in opposition or -- or were there any voices in opposition? We just don't have our system up yet.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Maloney.

SENATOR MALONEY:

No. There -- there was a concern about the position of the Illinois Home Health Care Council and we agreed that we would not move the bill until we got their position on this, and they are now in favor of it.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Is there any further discussion? Seeing no further discussion, Senator Maloney, to close, sir.

SENATOR MALONEY:

I'd appreciate a favorable vote. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Okay. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1220 pass. All those in favor, vote Aye. All those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 56 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1220, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Maloney, on Senate Bill 1221, sir. He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1221.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Maloney.

SENATOR MALONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. This bill would prohibit the possession and use of radar or laser jamming devices in all vehicles. Currently these devices are banned in commercial vehicles. And what motivated me to -- to proceed with this legislation was -- maybe some of the -- of the other Senators have heard this commercial on the radio advertising this product, that says that if -- if you actually get a speeding ticket with -- with the use of this radar jamming device, that this company will pay your ticket. And this kind of flies in the face of law enforcement and, more importantly, in public safety. And so what this -- this -- again these are not to be confused with radar detectors. These are radar jamming devices. It is supported by the Illinois State Police and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Senator Roskam, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR ROSKAM:

Just -- will the sponsor yield?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield for a question, sir.

SENATOR ROSKAM:

Well, it was just pointed out to me that somebody may have been jamming our computer system, but apparently it's been unjammed. So, Senator, just a quick question for you. How is -- how is a radar jammer defined? I mean, is this something that -- that -- that came to you, the -- the actual definition, from like the Federal Communications Commission, or...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Maloney.

SENATOR MALONEY:

No. What the jamming device does, it makes the -- the -- the person in the -- the speeding vehicle undetectable by radar. And -- and so, again, this -- they -- they are currently banned in eight states. And, again, the -- the -- I -- I recently heard the ad again. I called the 800 number, because they said you

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could have a free thirty-day trial. The thirty-day trial involved ninety-nine dollars, so I decided not to try it for thirty days. But -- but it is a -- a rather blatant -- a blatant claim that they will actually pay your ticket. And I have their advertisement here that says they will pay your ticket if you get a ticket when you are using this jamming device. These are currently banned in commercial vehicles and this would extend them to private vehicles as well.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Is there any further discussion? Seeing no further discussion, the question is, shall Senate Bill 1221 pass. All those in favor, vote Aye. All those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 54 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1221, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Roskam, on Senate Bill 1224. Out of the record. Senator Harmon, on 1229, sir. Out of the record. Senator Harmon, on 1230. Out of the record. Senator Harmon, on 1231, sir. Out of the record. Senator Silverstein indicates he'd ask leave of the Body from -- on page 68 of our Calendar, 1236, continuing on the bottom of page 68 to the top of page 69. Senate Bills 3rd Reading. Senator Sandoval, on 1246. Senator Marty Sandoval. Out of the record. Senator Sandoval, on 1247, sir. The Senator indicates -- asks leave of the Body. We will skip from 1247 to the bottom of page -- page 69. Turning your Calendars, on Senate Bill 3rd Reading on the top of page 70. We will go to Senator Forby on Senate Bill 1266. The Senator also asks leave of the Body. We will skip down to the bottom of page 70 and the top of page 71. 1279. Continuing to the bottom of page 71. We will turn our Calendars to page 72 of the Calendars. Senate Bills 3rd Reading. We'll come to the top of page 72. There is Senate Bill 1294. Senator Harmon, do you wish to proceed with that, sir? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1294.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

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3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator -- Senator Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Senate Bill 1294 is an initiative of the Building Owners and Managers Association. As you likely recall, a couple of high-profile fires in high-rise buildings in the City of Chicago resulted in a municipal ordinance requiring the retrofitting of those buildings with sprinkler systems. This bill would amend the Property Tax Code to create a new special service area that building owners can opt into in order to provide financing for that retrofitting over a -- a period of many years. I'm aware of no opposition and I ask for your Aye votes.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Senator Lauzen, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR LAUZEN:

In support of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill, sir.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Thank you, Mr. President. I'd just like to commend the sponsor on his work on this and recommend it to all Members of the Chamber. It received unanimous support in Revenue Committee.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Harmon, to close, sir.

SENATOR HARMON:

Ask for your Aye votes. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1294 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 56 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1294, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Silverstein, on Senate Bill 1297. He requests leave of the Body to skip over the next half dozen bills. Coming to the middle of

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page 72 of your Calendar is Senate Bill 1304. President Jones. These are shell bills for the budget. We will skip -- leave of the Body, we will go to the bottom of page 72. On the top of page 73 of your Calendar is some more budget bills. 1316. We will go to the middle of page 73, leave of the Body. And then we come to Senate Bill 1325. Senator Crotty, on Senate Bill 1325, ma'am. Do you wish to proceed? She indicates she wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1325.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Crotty.

SENATOR CROTTY:

Thank you very much, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. The purpose of Senate Bill 1325 is to help fulfill the State's obligation under the Olmstead decision by enhancing the level of funds for both developmental disability and mental health services and supports in order to maintain and establish an array of residential and supportive services for people with mental health needs and developmental disabilities whenever they're transferred into another facility or a community-based setting. Also, if any appropriation or any portion of an appropriation for any fiscal year pertaining to the funding of any State-operated facility operated by DHS or a mental health facility operated by DHS is decreased due to any of the items described below, which would be residence in most integrated setting possible, rehab and supportive services, that they also be directed toward the supports for that person with the mental health needs or the developmental needs.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you.

SENATOR CROTTY:

This passed out of committee unanimously and I ask for a favorable vote, but I'd entertain any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Senator Righter, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

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SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Mr. President. I simply rise in support of the bill. As the sponsor noted, the bill did pass out of committee unanimously. I appreciate her hard work and urge its passage.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Okay. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1325 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. There are 55 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1325, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Continuing on Senate Bills 3rd Reading on page 73 of your Calendar, is Senate Bill 1327. Senator Harmon. Senator Harmon, on 1327, sir. Out of the record. Senator Harmon, on 1328, sir. Out of the record. Senator Harmon, on 1329, sir. He indicates out of the record. Ladies and Gentlemen, on page 73 of your Calendar is Senate Bill 1339. Senator Garrett. She asks leave of the Body to come back to these bills. We will go to the top of page 74 of your Calendar. And, Senator Haine, on Senate Bill 1354, sir. Do you wish to proceed? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1354.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Haine.

SENATOR HAINE:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, this bill would establish a Military Base Support and Economic Development Committee. Provide for the appointment of same to -- to look at various bases in danger of closing and those that have closed around the State, and bring the State of Illinois affirmatively to the table in trying to help preserve these military assets.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Is there -- Senator John Jones, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR J. JONES:

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Thank you, Mr. President. To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill, sir.

SENATOR J. JONES:

This -- this bill came through Commerce and Economic Development Committee and was voted out of there unanimously, and I stand in strong support of it. And I would request an Aye vote from everyone.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Haine, to close, sir.

SENATOR HAINE:

Thank you. I appreciate the support and ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1354 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay and 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1354, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Harmon. Senator Don Harmon, on 1355, sir. I believe your request is -- Senator Harmon seeks leave of the Body to return Senate Bill 1355 to the Order of 2nd Reading - is that correct, sir - for the purpose of an amendment. Hearing no objection, leave is granted. On the Order of 2nd Reading is Senate Bill 1355. Madam Secretary, are there any -- amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Floor Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Harmon.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Harmon, to explain the amendment, sir.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Mr. President. The amendment becomes the bill. I'd ask the Chamber to adopt it and I'm happy to discuss it on 3rd Reading.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Harmon moves the adoption of Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1355. All those in favor will say Aye. All

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those opposed will say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted. Madam Secretary, are there any further Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

No further amendments reported, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

3rd Reading. Senator Link, on Senate Bill 1435, sir. Out of the record. Senator Lightford, on Senate Bill 1438. Senator Lightford, on -- out of the record. Senator Silverstein, on Senate Bill 1442. Madam Secretary, he indicates he wishes to proceed. Please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1442.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Silverstein.

SENATOR SILVERSTEIN:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Bill 1442 establishes the -- the Feed Illinois Fund in the State treasury and requires the Department of Economic Development {sic} to grant funds to public and private food banks in Illinois.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Is there any discussion? Seeing no discussion, the question is, shall Senate Bill 1442 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 55 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 -- 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1442, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Silverstein, on Senate Bill 1443, sir. Madam Secretary, he indicates he wishes to proceed. Please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1443.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator.

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SENATOR SILVERSTEIN:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Bill 1443 amends the Clerk of the Courts Act by increasing the maximum automation fee, keeping the fee to fifteen dollars. Currently, it's five dollars, but retaining the minimum fee of a dollar. This is an initiative from Dorothy Brown, the Clerk of the Court.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Senator Roskam.

SENATOR ROSKAM:

Thank you, Mr. President. Just briefly to the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill, sir.

SENATOR ROSKAM:

We've been plodding along like obedient sheep pretty much all morning and it's been a delight actually voting Yes and having all these quiet things. Just a heads up for all you who are concerned about being complicit in fee hikes, this is one of them and just watch your switch carefully. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Silverstein, to close, sir.

SENATOR SILVERSTEIN:

Ask for your favorable roll call.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. The question is, shall Senate -- Senate Bill 1443 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 33 Ayes, 20 Nays, 0 {sic} (1) voting Present. Senate Bill 1443, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Silverstein, on 1444. Senator Silverstein seeks leave of the Body to return Senate Bill 1444 for the purposes of an amendment. That's correct, sir? Hearing no objection, leave is granted. Now, on the Order of 2nd Reading is Senate Bill 1444. Madam Secretary, are there any amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. Floor Amendment No. 2, offered by Senator Silverstein.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Silverstein, to explain the amendment, sir.

SENATOR SILVERSTEIN:

Can you take this out of the record right now? I'm sorry, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Out of the record. Senator -- continuing on Senate Bills 3rd Reading is Senate Bill -- Madam Secretary, on Senate Bill 1444, the one we just took out of the record, would -- will remain on 3rd Reading on the Calendar. Return Senate Bill 1444 to 3rd Reading. Continuing on Senate Bills 3rd Reading is Senate Bill 1446. Senator Carol Ronen. Senator Carol Ronen. Out of the record. Senator Clayborne, on Senate Bill 1447, sir. Out of the record. Senator James Clayborne, on 1448, sir. Out of the record. Senator Schoenberg, on 1450, sir. Out of the record. Senator Schoenberg, on 1453, sir. The gentleman indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1453.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Senate Bill 1453 is an initiative of the Procurement Policy Board, that board which we've established to improve upon and to review prospective changes in the State's Purchasing Act. Senate Bill 1453 enables a -- an electronic reverse auction for certain -- for certain goods and services, and the advantage of this reverse auction is that it -- very much like we're accustomed to with eBay, we're able to see lower prices and increased competition. A comparable version of this in Minnesota, for example, saved up to eighteen percent in the reverse auction and averages over a ten-percent savings, and does provide some advantages to vendors as well, because they have better benchmarking information on the competition. I know of no opposition. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

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Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Any -- Senator Dillard. I'm sorry. Senator Righter, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Mr. President. Simply rise in support of the bill. I note that it did pass out of committee unanimously and - - and we would urge its passage as well. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Okay. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1453 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1453, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senate Bills 3rd Reading is Senate Bill 1458. Senator Dave Sullivan, do you wish to proceed, sir? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1458.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Sullivan.

SENATOR D. SULLIVAN:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. This bill is cleanup language to legislation we passed a couple years ago to help those who are involved in foreign adoptions. It simply allows the Department of Public Health to create a file to maintain the records regarding a foreign adoption without putting those records on the face of the birth certificate. It has no -- no opposition. It passed out of committee unanimously. I ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? No -- seeing no discussion, the question is, shall Senate Bill 1458 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the

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record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1458, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senate Bill 1461. Senator Trotter. Out of the record. 1465, sir. Out of the record. Ladies and Gentlemen, continuing on Senate Bills 3rd Reading on the top of page 75. Senator Trotter, on 1466. Out of the record. 1469, sir. Out of the record. Senator Harmon, on 1473, sir. Out of the record. Senator Silverstein, on 1479, sir. He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1479.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Silverstein.

SENATOR SILVERSTEIN:

Thank you, Mr. President. This is several bills we have regarding a -- a -- a situation with ChoicePoint that happened in California. This renames the Personal Information Protection Act. Basically, what it does is, that if you're -- one is collecting information and you believe that there's a breach, you must notify that individual. So, I'll take any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Is there any discussion? Senator Roskam, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR ROSKAM:

Thank you, Mr. President. Just for purposes of legislative intent. Will the sponsor yield for a question?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

He indicates he'll yield for a question, sir.

SENATOR ROSKAM:

Senator Silverstein, for purposes of legislative intent, this would include the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority. Isn't that right?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Silverstein.

SENATOR SILVERSTEIN:

I -- I believe so. If you look at the first paragraph, it

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does -- it -- it does -- it does include them.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Any further discussion? Seeing no further discussion, the question is, shall Senate Bills {sic} 1479 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1479, having received the constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Schoenberg, on Senate Bill 1483, sir. Do you wish to proceed? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1483.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Senate Bill 1483 is an initiative of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. It provides some cleanup to the merger of the Department of Nuclear Safety and -- and IEMA. It also adds some specific language clarifying that an onsite inspection of a radiation facility isn't necessarily required before an order for violation can be issued. So, for example, many times there have been cases where records -- where examination of records have been sufficient to determine that there have been violations. Right now we require a site visit, but this way if there's an administrative problem, they haven't been paying their fees, there's a -- there's a paperwork issue, not necessarily relating to the safety of the site, we would be -- enable the Department to begin initiating action without actually requiring somebody to -- to be -- to make a site visit. This is ultimately a more efficient use of State resources, and in all cases, I want to emphasize that any entities that were issued orders will have indeed the right to appeal. I'd urge for an Aye vote. Know of no opposition.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

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Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Senator Righter, for what purposes do you rise, sir?

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Mr. President. Simply rise in support of the bill. I note that it did pass out of committee unanimously and would urge an Aye vote as well. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1483 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1483, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator del Valle, on Senate Bill 1485, sir. Do you wish to proceed? Madam Secretary, he indicates he wishes to proceed. Please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1485.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator del Valle.

SENATOR DEL VALLE:

Thank you, Mr. President. This bill is more an updating of -- of the statute than -- than anything else. Basically, what it does is, it prohibits an individual who -- who is operating a motor vehicle from being able to watch TV or watch a DVD while they're operating the vehicle. We talk a lot about the use of cell phones while you're driving. Well, the only thing, I think, worse than that is being distracted by watching TV while you're driving. And so, this update -- updates the statute and it's crafted in a way that we still allow for GPS and -- and other equipment that is used in cars and I ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Senator Bomke, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR BOMKE:

Thank you, Mr. President. This came out of committee

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unanimously and I would urge an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, sir. Okay. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1485 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1485, having received the constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Demuzio, on Senate Bill 1489, ma'am? Do you wish to proceed? She indicates she wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1489.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Demuzio.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

Yes, Mr. President. Senate Bill 1489 amends the Elder Abuse and Neglect Act with the Department of Aging. This will allow -- this Act permits qualified volunteers to be utilized for the purpose of improving public awareness and furnishing companion-type services, and AARP has recommended this, a strong proponent. And I would ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Senator Righter, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in support of the bill. The bill did pass out of committee unanimously. I thank the sponsor for her efforts. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1489 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1489, having received the required

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constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Geo-Karis, on 1491. Out of the record. Senator Harmon, on 1493, sir. Out of the record. Senator Demuzio, on 1497, ma'am. Out of the record. Senator Don Trotter, on -- 1503, sir. 1504. 1505. 1506. (15)07. (15)08. Ladies and Gentlemen, continuing on Senate Bills 3rd Reading. On the top of page 76, the sponsor asks leave of the Body to skip over and we'll go to Senate Bill 1620. 1620. Senator Halvorson, do you wish to proceed, ma'am? She indicates she wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1620.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Halvorson.

SENATOR HALVORSON:

Thank you, Mr. President and Members of the Senate. A couple years ago we passed House Bill 1484, which was the nursing -- the State Long Term (Care) Ombudsman bill. And over the couple of years, we found we needed to add a couple things. So, Senate Bill 1620 expands the powers of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman in relations to nursing home residents. This bill will require a nursing home to inform the resident's designated case coordinating unit of the pending discharge from the -- facility and it'll also require the facility to furnish the resident or his or her representative with the case coordinating unit's telephone number.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Is there any discussion? Senator Righter, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Mr. President. I simply rise in support of the bill. I know of no opposition and the bill did pass unanimously out of committee. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1620 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who

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wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1620, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Okay. Ladies and Gentlemen, continuing on Senate Bills 3rd Reading. The middle of page 76 of your Calendar is Senate Bill 1622. Senator Maloney, do you wish to proceed? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1622.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Maloney.

SENATOR MALONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Bill 1622 is an effort of the Cook County Assessor's Office and the Illinois Association of Realtors as a way to provide residential property -- buyers of residential property throughout Illinois information that is useful in determining the real housing costs associated with the property. The -- what this does is, the bill amends the Real Estate Transfer Declaration law by requiring that the declaration include any homestead exemptions, alternative general homestead exemptions. And it basically -- the goal is to let the buyer know that the taxes paid by the seller may have included homestead exemptions that may no longer be applicable to the property. And I know of no opposition. I would be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Senator Althoff, for what purpose do you rise, ma'am?

SENATOR ALTHOFF:

To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill, ma'am.

SENATOR ALTHOFF:

Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to let everyone know that this bill came out of committee unanimously and has our

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support.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Senator Maloney, to close.

SENATOR MALONEY:

Appreciate a favorable vote. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1622 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1622, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Sandoval, on Senate Bill 1623, sir. Out of the record. Senator Viverito, on 1624, sir. Out of the record. Senator Carol Ronen, on 1626, ma'am. Do you wish to proceed? She indicates she wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1626.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Ronen.

SENATOR RONEN:

Thank you, Mr. President. This bill -- this was brought to my attention by the Chicago Public School District. When we amended and recognized advanced practice nurses, we made changes in various portions of State law. We neglected to do so in relation to nurses, advanced practice nurses and physician assistants being able to sign physical exams for schools. They requested that we do this. So, this is just really a technical cleanup change to accommodate that. Be happy...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Seeing no discussion, Senator Carol Ronen, to close.

SENATOR RONEN:

I'd appreciate an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

The question is, shall -- Senate Bill 1626 pass. Those in

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favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1626, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Ronen, on Senate Bill 1627, ma'am. Do you wish to proceed? She indicates she wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1627.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Ronen.

SENATOR RONEN:

Thank you, Mr. President. This bill relates to providing family and medical leave to spouses or family members of people who are in the military. There was -- we've heard really poignant testimony in committee about this, of families who came forward, needed to take time off from their jobs because, on very short notice, their family member would have leave and they could meet them in some part of the country or elsewhere. And they talked very, very, you know, clearly about the kind of hardships that this was putting on their -- their families. So, this -- this bill tries to address that situation by allowing them to take unpaid leave -- up to thirty days of unpaid family military leave - is what we're calling it. We worked very closely with the Illinois Chamber, who does support this effort, and made clear that people would have to exhaust all of the other time that they have - vacation time, sick time - before they were able to take this. But we still believe that this is a -- a very, very important piece of legislation and really the least that we can do for families who are giving so much and so much for our country. So, I would ask a favorable roll call. And I'd be happy to ask any -- answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Senator Pankau, for what purpose do you rise, ma'am?

SENATOR PANKAU:

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Thank you, Mr. President. This came before the Labor Committee and NFIB was opposed to the legislation. Just to make you aware of -- of their opposition, they would have liked to have seen this apply to employers with fifty or more employees, whereas it's written for fifteen and above employees right now. It was stated by the sponsor and other witnesses, however, that the federal does allow for fifteen or more employees. So, with that testimony, the committee did vote it out unanimously, and I would urge your favorable approval.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Senator Roskam, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR ROSKAM:

Thank you, Mr. President. Will the sponsor yield for a question?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

She indicates she'll yield for a question, sir.

SENATOR ROSKAM:

Senator Ronen, one of the -- one of the things that just came into my mind is, is there a limitation somehow on the use of the family leave under your bill for, you know, sort of last minute -- certainly everybody can understand a -- you know, a last-minute leave or a -- a -- you know, last-minute word of -- of coming home. What if it's been scheduled for a long, long time? Or, you know, if someone -- we can all imagine a member of the military, you know, coming into a port city for seven days and they're going to be there in seventy-two hours and -- and you've got to hurry. Everybody would be sympathetic on that. It -- does your bill reflect that at all in how it's drafted? If you could just respond to that. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Ronen.

SENATOR RONEN:

If -- thank you, Senator. What we did -- and this was part of the negotiations with the Illinois Chamber, and it maybe is not as strong, or -- maybe as you would like it, but what it -- it does say, though, that you must give fourteen days' notice if you're going to take more than five days. So, the -- the -- the idea then is, if you're taking less than five days, that that fourteen-day notice would not be required, because as you rightly

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know some things happen very quickly. So, I -- I think -- I think we've -- we've covered that as best we can. But I -- I appreciate the question.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Is there any further discussion? Seeing no further discussion, Senator Ronen, to close, ma'am.

SENATOR RONEN:

Just would ask for a favorable roll call, a way that we can show families how much we appreciate the -- the -- the sacrifices that they're making for our county.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1627 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote -- Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1627, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Dave Sullivan, on Senate Bill 1629, sir. Senator -- this Sullivan's confused once in a while. Senator Dave Sullivan, on 1629. Do you wish to proceed, sir? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1629.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Sullivan.

SENATOR D. SULLIVAN:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Senate Bill 1629 simply allows currency exchanges to join together in purchasing a blanket bond to satisfy their bonding requirements. It passed out of committee unanimously. I ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Is there any discussion? Seeing no discussion, the question is, shall -- sorry. Senator Rutherford, do you have a -- for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR RUTHERFORD:

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To support Senator Sullivan's bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill.

SENATOR RUTHERFORD:

I support Senator Sullivan's bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill.

SENATOR RUTHERFORD:

This bill is a very good bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you.

SENATOR RUTHERFORD:

And I encourage everybody to support Senator Sullivan's bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Senator Dillard. Okay. The question is, shall Senate -- the question is, shall Senate Bill 1629 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1629, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Radogno, on Senate Bill 1637, ma'am. Do you wish to proceed? She indicates she wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1637.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Radogno.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

Thank you, Mr. President. This bill -- amend the Election Code with regard to backdoor referendums. It will prevent challenges to petitions based on the legality of the form that's been used and it applies only to those forms that are provided by the clerk or secretary of a political subdivision. And this is necessary because there have actually been some political subdivisions that have intentionally issued improper forms so

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that they could set up a challenge. And while the courts have found in favor of the -- the folks bringing the referendum, this will prevent them having to go through the expense of a court challenge. I'd be happy to try to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Seeing no discussion, the question is, shall Senate Bill 1637 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote -- Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1637, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Ladies and Gentlemen, continuing on Senate Bills 3rd Reading, on the bottom of page 76 is Senate Bill 1639. Senator Winkel, do you wish to proceed? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1639.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Winkel.

SENATOR WINKEL:

Thank you, Mr. President. Current law already allows for a process for deactivation of high school districts. Senate Bill 1639 simply allows for a deactivation of any elementary school district, which would allow those students to be sent to other districts. Passage of a referendum is needed. That's included in the procedure from the district contemplating deactivation and a contract, an intergovernmental contract, would have to be executed with the receiving district, the district receiving the -- the children. This would have an immediate effective date. It passed the Education Committee unanimously on an eleven to zero vote. Glad to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Any discussion? Seeing no discussion, the question is, shall Senate Bill 1639 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will

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vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1639, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Continuing on Senate Bills 3rd Reading, on the top of page 77 is Senate Bill 1643. Senator Rauschenberger, on 1643, sir. Out of the record. Senator Kirk Dillard, on 1645, sir. Do you wish to proceed? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1645.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Mr. President. I hope Senator Rutherford gives that rousing speech for my bill like he gave for Senator Sullivan's a minute ago. This bill would enable the State Treasurer to utilize moneys in the Technology Development Act, which are surplus funds, and take those moneys and provide grants to Illinois schools for the purchase of computers and technological upgrades. An identical bill passed a year ago like this, but just floundered over in the House. This is supported by the State Treasurer and the Illinois Education Association. I don't know of any opponents and I would urge a favorable roll call, Mr. President. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator Dillard. Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Seeing no discussion, the question is, shall Senate Bill 1645 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1645, having received the constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator John Sullivan, on 1649, sir. Do you wish to proceed? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the

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bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1649.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Sullivan.

SENATOR J. SULLIVAN:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Bill 1649 is a cleanup bill that deletes language providing that a road district treasurer must have the written approval of the county superintendent of highways or the highway board of auditors in order to approve payment on several orders of five thousand dollars or less. The bill also deletes language providing that the county superintendent of highways must approve payments in excess of a thousand dollars by highway commissioner for contracts on township or district roads. I know of no opposition to the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Senator Bomke, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR BOMKE:

Thank you, Mr. President. This legislation came out of Transportation unanimously and I'd urge an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Sullivan, to close. He indicates favorable roll call. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1649 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 56 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1649, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Continuing on Senate Bills 3rd Reading is Senate Bill 1651. Senator Raoul, do you wish to proceed, sir? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1651.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

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3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Senate Bill 1651 amends the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act, the Nursing Home Care Act and the Older Adult Services Act to establish the existing supportive living facilities demonstration project to a supportive living facilities program. I'd ask for a favorable vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Seeing no discussion, the question is, shall Senate Bill 1651 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 56 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1651, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Dillard, on Senate Bill 1658, sir. Do you wish to proceed? The Gentleman indicates he would like to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1658.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Mr. President. This bill cleans up the severability clause of a the Tobacco Product Manufacturing {sic} (Manufacturers') -- Escrow Act, which is the big global settlement of the tobacco case which has provided Illinois and states throughout America with quite a bit of money for our State treasuries. The bill is supported by Attorney General Lisa Madigan and it's even supported by tobacco companies like Philip Morris. It's merely a cleanup of one part of the bill, the severability clause, and I know of no opposition and would move and encourage an Aye vote. Thank you.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Dillard moves -- is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Seeing no discussion, the Gentleman -- the question is, shall Senate Bill 1658 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1658, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Crotty, on Senate Bill 1660, ma'am. Do you wish to proceed? Senator Crotty, on Senate Bill 1660. Do you wish to proceed today? Madam Secretary, she indicates she wishes to proceed. Please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1660.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Crotty.

SENATOR CROTTY:

Well, thank you, Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the -- of the Senate. Senate Bill 1660 allows TRS disabilitants to return to work on a limited basis provided their disability benefit and the salary from the school district does not exceed a hundred percent of the salary in which the benefit is based. The legislation provides a process for individuals to return to teaching when they are afflicted with a medical condition that allows for the performance of periodic part-time work. This was given to me by a constituent who is going through chemotherapy. He is a special education teacher and the district would love to have him back when he's feeling well and so would his students. This has been okayed by the Teacher Retirement System. And I'll answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Brady, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR BRADY:

Ask a question of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

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Sponsor indicates she'll yield for a question, sir.

SENATOR BRADY:

Senator, does this increase the unfunded liability or have any effect on the State pension programs?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Crotty.

SENATOR CROTTY:

No. It does not.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Brady.

SENATOR BRADY:

Thank you. I just -- I -- I know that that's an important issue to this side of the aisle and we -- and I'm sure that side as well, but I know it's important so my Members wanted me to make sure to ask those questions. And your bill passed unanimously out of committee and I support it. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Crotty, to close, ma'am.

SENATOR CROTTY:

I just ask for a favorable vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1660 pass. Those in favor will vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 56 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1660, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Jacobs, on 1666, sir. Do you wish to proceed? Madam Secretary, he indicates he wishes to proceed. Please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1666.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I rise to personally ask for your support and your vote on this important

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bill. Not only is the Purple Heart legislation among the better bills that will ever grace this Body, but it is also my first bill. I know of no known opposition than perhaps in this Chamber and I ask for a favorable vote and your consideration.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Before we take any discussion on this bill, we'll have to invoke the Cronin law, the Dan Cronin law. If you get up to speak, you must be funny. Senator Sullivan. Dave Sullivan.

SENATOR D. SULLIVAN:

Thank you...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

For what purposes do you rise, sir?

SENATOR D. SULLIVAN:

To address the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill, sir.

SENATOR D. SULLIVAN:

Thank you, Mr. President. That's a lot of pressure. I'm not sure I can meet that, but I will try. Question of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield for a question, sir.

SENATOR D. SULLIVAN:

Senator Jacobs, have you discussed this legislation with your predecessor and do you know if he's in -- in favor of this legislation?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

I believe he is, but I'm not sure if his heart's purple at this moment.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Sullivan.

SENATOR D. SULLIVAN:

Is Representative Boland in favor of this legislation? That...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

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That's a question better left to my lesser colleagues in the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Sullivan.

SENATOR D. SULLIVAN:

Senator Jacobs, I might -- I might give you a friendly reminder that this is being recorded, so that your -- our colleagues in the House might hear that -- that quote someday from you. Are any members of your family recipients of the Purple Heart?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

No, but my nephew did do two tours of duty in Afghanistan as an Army ranger and we're very proud of him.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Sullivan.

SENATOR D. SULLIVAN:

Since you wisely chose a very difficult bill for us to be humorous about, I -- I -- I just close with one final question then. There's a rumor going around that what we've been witnessing the last couple months has really just been an extreme makeover of Senator Denny Jacobs. Is that true?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

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

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you. I would like to speak to the bill, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill, sir.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you, Mr. President. The bill, obviously, has great merit and is very worthy of our support here today. However, the attitude of the sponsor in regards to the House members, many of which are currently serving here in the Senate. I mean, you know, I think that, you know, we should remind him that, you know, many of us came over from the House, including the President, I might add, and that in the future he should be very careful about his remarks.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

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Thank you, Senator Burzynski. That's a very good point, and you should be very careful how you refer to the lower Chamber from now on, Senator Jacobs. Senator Jacobs, to close.

SENATOR JACOBS:

I would just simply ask for your favorable consideration. And also I'd like to thank everyone for being just so kind to me. It's been a very gratifying experience.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Before we open up the roll call. Senator Meeks, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR MEEKS:

Senator, you don't get off that easy. Let me just ask one question, just in the interest of time. Will the revenue generated from these license plates go to gaming?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

There will be no revenue derived from these license plates. In fact, we will lose revenue. But I'm hoping that it's a very small amount due to the fact that there's very few Purple Heart veterans.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Meeks.

SENATOR MEEKS:

Therefore, if we're going to lose revenue, will you come back to this Body later and be proposing some type of gaming in order to pick up the revenue that we lose through this bill?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

If it helps my district.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Meeks. Senator Jacobs, to close, sir.

SENATOR JACOBS:

Once again, I ask for your favorable consideration.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1666 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who

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wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 56 Ayes, 1 voting No -- Nay, 1 -- 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1666, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Okay. Ladies and Gentlemen, continuing on Senate Bills 3rd Reading on page 77 of your Calendar. Senator Clayborne, for what purposes do you rise, sir?

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

Thank you, Mr. President. I inadvertently hit the -- the No button when I intended to hit the red button for Yes -- I mean, hit the -- hit the green button for Yes instead of inadvertently hit -- hitting the No -- No button.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Are you new here?

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

No.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

The record...

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

I -- I was concentrating on -- on these other bills.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

The record will so reflect the Senator's intent. Senator Clayborne's intent on Senate Bill 1666 was to vote Yes. Thank you, sir. Senator Roskam, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR ROSKAM:

Just a point of order, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Yes, sir.

SENATOR ROSKAM:

On Senate Bill 1660, Senator Crotty's bill, I was away from my desk and would have intended to vote Aye.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

The record will so indicate that, sir. Okay. Ladies and Gentlemen, continuing on Senate Bills 3rd Reading, in the middle of page 77 of your Calendar is Senate Bill 1671. Senator Hendon. Senator Rickey Hendon, on 1671, sir. Out of the record. Senator Dan Cronin, on 1675, sir. Do you wish to proceed? Out of the record. Senator Cronin, on 1676, sir. Out of the record. Senator Don Harmon, on Senate Bill 1682, sir. Do you wish to

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proceed? Out of the record. Senator Link, on 1691. I believe this is a recall, sir. So, Senator Link seeks leave of the Body to return Senate Bill 1691 to the Order of 2nd Reading for the purposes of an amendment. Hearing no objection, leave is granted. ...Reading. On the Order of 2nd Reading is Senate Bill 1691. Madam Secretary, are there any amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. Floor Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Link.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Link, to explain the amendment, sir.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Mr. President. It's a technical amendment. It allows park police and -- officers and airport police officers who are employed -- full-time basis to either enter a municipality or a participating instrumentally {sic} to participate in the Sheriff's Law Enforcement Personnel option under IMRF. I'll be more than happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Okay. Senator Link moves the adoption of Floor Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1691. All those in favor will say Aye. All those opposed will say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted. Madam Secretary, are there any further Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

No further amendments reported, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

3rd Reading. Continuing on 3rd Reading Senate Bills, on the bottom of page 77 is Senate Bill 1695. Senator Link, do you wish to proceed? Indicates no. Out of the record. Top of page 78 of your Calendar. Senator Link, on 1696, sir. Do you wish to proceed? Madam Secretary, he indicates he wishes to proceed. Please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1696.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Link, on 1696, sir.

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SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Mr. President. This bill requires first-time voters who registered by mail to vote in person, unless they first provide specified types of documents identifying their names and address. This bill permits a registered voter whose name has changed, but who lives in the same precinct, to vote after making an affidavit at the polling place as his or her identity and registration. Also, this bill requires the election authority to treat the affidavit as a request to register under their new name. I know of no -- opposition. I'll be more than happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, sir. Is there any discussion? Senator Wendell Jones, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR W. JONES:

To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill, sir.

SENATOR W. JONES:

Thank you, Mr. President. This passed out of Local Government. I recommend a affirmative vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1696 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1696, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Link, on Senate Bill 1697, sir. Do you wish to proceed? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1697.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Mr. President. This bill allows voters to vote

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by personal appearance during an early voting period. This bill provides that an early voting period begins on the third Saturday preceding the general election {sic} (primary), consolidated primaries, consolidated or general election, and ends on the Friday before the election. This bill provides that -- for permanent and temporary polling places for early voting and stipulates that the election authority must publish a schedule of locations and times for early voting. The bill sets procedures of insurance {sic}, of return, and casting of early ballots and prohibits advertising or campaigning within a hundred feet of the polling place. The bill removes provisions permitting any absentee voting {sic} to vote on election day by canceling or revoking his or her absentee ballot. This bill amends the mandatory Act and requires implementation without reimbursement. I know of no opposition.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Senator Wendell Jones, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR W. JONES:

Mr. President, to the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill, sir.

SENATOR W. JONES:

This bill, too, came through Local Government. We discussed it thoroughly and believe it's a good bill and urge its passage.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Any further discussion? Any further -- Senator Burzynski.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you, Mr. President. Will the sponsor yield for a question?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

He indicates he'll yield for a question, sir.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you. Senator, I -- I do see that the Association of County Clerks and Recorders do support the bill. My question though is, is there anything in the bill that specifies how many polling places have to be set up? Or can the county -- can the county clerk just take early voting in their own office, or -- or

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is that at the county clerk's discretion?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

This will be at the discretion of the -- the county clerks.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Any further discussion? Any further discussion? Senator Lauzen, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Question for the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield for a question, sir.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Senator, thank you very much for your work on this. Just a question. Actually, we -- in -- in our hometown of Aurora, the second largest city in the State of Illinois, we had many complaints about a piece of legislation that we passed about a year ago allowing out-of-county poll watchers to come into an area that's, you know, an hour, hour and a half away from their own homes. What is the need for this piece of legislation? Why is it that we have to do this at this time? After the number of complaints that I got after Tuesday, I'm now, you know, kind of sensitized to anytime I see something like this I'm thinking why is it that we need to change it, especially since we have absentee ballots that people can do. And we usually have -- the election commission is open and so folks can go if they're going to be out of town to vote ahead. What's -- what's the reason for this bill now?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

Well, I -- I guess what we could probably say, Senator Lauzen, is to make people honest again, because I think what -- what happens is most people come up with a excuse that say they're going to be absent on Tuesday, which they're really not -- you know, an excuse. They're not absent. They just get an absentee ballot, because they don't want to go out on Tuesday and wait in line or do something. What we're doing is instituting what a number of states already have in allowing people to just

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early vote a couple weeks ahead of time at a place that's set up by the county clerk or to establish, you know, an election authority in whatever area you're at. It's a procedure that's run well in a lot of states. You could get up to twenty percent of the people voting prior to the election so you don't have long lines in -- on election day. Say that you have a busy day on election day and you don't want to vote on election day, you could come out there and vote. You vote that day. You -- you're running around, but you're actually not going to be absent. So you can vote early and then -- you -- you -- you're fine. So you're not -- you're not lying when you're voting -- voting absentee, like a lot of people are doing right now. So that's really what early voting is and it's really a very clear way of doing it. And I think it's worked very well in other states and I think it'll work very well in the State of Illinois.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Peterson, for what purposes do you rise?

SENATOR PETERSON:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield for a question, sir.

SENATOR PETERSON:

I'd like to kind of summarize what you said to get a little clarification. We already have in-person absentee voting three or four weeks before the election. You have the village hall that's available. You have the township hall that's available. Now, the clerk is going to go out and tell those villages that don't have it that they're going to have to have a polling place. You know, most of the village halls aren't polling places. So they're going to have to say, "You will have absentee voting." And the other part of your bill is that now I can just say I want to vote in advance of the election date and I don't have to give a reason. Is that kind of the summary of the whole bill?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

That basically is it. That's really what it is. If you just want to vote on Saturday preceding -- two weeks preceding

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the election and you just don't want to go on that Tuesday, that's as simple as it is.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON:

Well, in -- you know my district very well, and I'm right on the border, so my constituents are out of the county, because they're in Cook County working, paying the taxes for Cook County government. So, I guess that it won't mean a lot for our area, but hopefully if we can get more voters out to the polls, it's a good idea. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Seeing no further discussion, Senator Link, to close, sir.

SENATOR LINK:

I -- I just hope we could have an affirmative vote to add to a lot of other states. I think this is something we really need in the State of Illinois.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Okay. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1697 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1697, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Link, on Senate Bill 1698, sir. Do you wish to proceed on that? Madam Secretary, he indicates he wishes to proceed. Please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1698.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

WICS-TV requests permission to videotape the proceedings. Seeing no objection, leave is granted. Senator Link, on Senate Bill 1698, sir.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Mr. President. This bill creates the Autism Spectrum (Disorders) -- Reporting Act. It requires that physicians and other qualified professionals report any diagnosis

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of autism disorder, along with any other additional information, to the Department of Public Health. I know of -- the only opposition is the Illinois Department of Public Health. I'll be more than happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Senator Righter, for what purposes you rise, sir?

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Mr. President. Just to speak on behalf of the bill. I want to thank the sponsor for his work. I think this implements a much needed and valuable tracking device for autism disorders and I would urge its passage.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1698 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1698, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Continuing on Senate Bills 3rd Reading, is Senate Bill 1699. Senator Wilhelmi. Do you wish to proceed, sir? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1699.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Wilhelmi.

SENATOR WILHELMI:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Senate Bill 1699 creates the Illinois Steel Development Board as an advisory body to DCEO. The bill requires the board to advise and make recommendations on the research, marketing and promotion of American steel and the Illinois steel industry. The bill specifies the composition of the board, including members appointed by the Governor with Senate confirmation and members appointed by the legislative leaders. I know of no opposition to this bill and I ask for a favorable vote.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Senator John Jones, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR J. JONES:

Thank you, Mr. President. To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill, sir.

SENATOR J. JONES:

This bill came out of Commerce and Economic Development Committee unanimously, and I would encourage each and every one of 'em be a -- a Yes vote. This is Senator Wilhelmi's second bill, so we'll -- we'll spare him what he went through yesterday.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Wilhelmi, to close, sir.

SENATOR WILHELMI:

Thank you, Mr. President. I ask for a favorable vote and appreciate your support.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1699 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The Ayes -- the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1699, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Clayborne, on 1701, sir. Senator Clayborne seeks leave of the Body to return Senate Bill 1701 for the Order of 2nd Reading for the purpose of an amendment. Is that correct, sir? Hearing no objection, leave is granted. Now, on the Order of 2nd Reading is Senate Bill 1701. Madam Secretary, are there many -- any amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Yes. Floor Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Clayborne.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Clayborne, to explain the amendment, sir.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

Thank you, Madam -- I mean, Mr. President. Senate Bill 1701 is an initiative of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. It makes some technical changes in that the bill modifies several

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definitions and repeals the current environmental audit privilege in order to bring the State into compliance with the federally delegated programs. I know of no opposition.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Clayborne moves the adoption of Floor Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1701. All those in favor will say Aye. All those opposed will say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted. Madam Secretary, are there any further Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

No further amendments reported, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

3rd Reading. Senator -- Senator Harmon, on Senate Bill 1703, sir. Senator Harmon, on 1705. Madam Secretary, he indicates he wishes to proceed. Please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1705.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Senate Bill 1705 expands the current residential real-time pricing model in -- in -- in place with the electric utilities to be available to all residential customers. I'm aware of no opposition and I ask for your Aye votes.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Senator Dave Sullivan, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR D. SULLIVAN:

Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, this is a -- a great example of ComEd working together with consumer groups to really make sure that the individual resident can save themselves some -- some money on their own electric bill. I urge its support.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1705 pass. Those in favor will vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The

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voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1705, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Haine, on Senate Bill 1707. Do you wish to proceed, sir? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1707.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Haine.

SENATOR HAINE:

Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, Senate Bill 1070 provides a tax credit...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Excuse me, Senator. Bill, you said 1070.

SENATOR HAINE:

Did I say -- I'm sorry. 1707.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Please proceed.

SENATOR HAINE:

Thank you, Mr. President. This bill, 1707, provides a tax credit for long-term care insurance premiums payable -- or, for policies that are obtained beginning this taxable year through December 31 of 2009. The credit is in an amount equal to twenty-five percent of the premium costs for qualified long-term care insurance and -- but cannot exceed one hundred dollars for each policy. It covers an individual, an individual's spouse, parent or dependant. The Department of -- of -- of Revenue is opposed to the bill, because if everyone eligible in Illinois took advantage of this, it would cost the general revenue of the State thirty-seven million dollars, which I'm sorry to -- to say that, this year. However, the flip side of that is that -- the Illinois -- Illinois -- State of Illinois spends over 1.3 billion dollars per year now on Medicaid long-term care. So if everyone eligible would buy these policies, that amount would decrease considerably more than the thirty-seven million dollars. So, I

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think it's a good investment. This is part of an effort to encourage the purchase of long-term care insurance to save our elderly from bankruptcies and losing all of their assets. I'd ask for a favorable vote. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Senator Lauzen, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR LAUZEN:

To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill, sir.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to commend the Senator - the sponsor of this legislation. It's a very good idea. I'd also like to recognize Senator Bill Peterson, who has sponsored this legislation in the past. It's passed out of this Chamber many times. Unfortunately, hasn't succeeded over in the House. I hope that we can send it over again. I would recommend an Aye vote and then let's work with our Representatives to get this passed into law. Senator Haine's point about -- to invest thirty-seven million dollars to get back a billion is a good deal any day.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Any further discussion? Any further discussion? Senator Garrett, for what purpose do you rise, ma'am?

SENATOR GARRETT:

Will the sponsor yield?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield for a question.

SENATOR GARRETT:

Yeah. Senator Haine, let me just understand this a little bit. We're going to be providing a tax credit for whom? Who will actually receive that tax credit?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Haine.

SENATOR HAINE:

Thank you, Senator. For the -- the individual citizen who buys the policy for themselves and for their spouse or for a dependant or for a mother or a father.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Garrett.

SENATOR GARRETT:

So if the policy is five hundred dollars, the tax credit to the insured would be how much?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Haine.

SENATOR HAINE:

It'd be one hundred dollars. The max.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Garrett.

SENATOR GARRETT:

So tell me why the Department of Revenue would be so opposed to this.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Haine.

SENATOR HAINE:

Senator, that's a good question. They -- they don't -- I guess it's -- I guess that they're in an Ebenezer Scrooge mode at the moment. And they don't look beyond this year and I don't -- I'm not being critical. They're concerned about the initial loss. If everyone in the State took advantage of it, it'd be thirty-seven million dollars, which I accept. And Senator Lauzen's point is well -- well-taken and your point is well-taken. They're not looking beyond that, but that's their -- their duty to do and that's why they're opposed to the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Garrett.

SENATOR GARRETT:

So the Department of Revenue is opposed to it because actually -- will the taxpayers be bearing any of the burden of this tax credit?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Haine.

SENATOR HAINE:

I -- I don't -- I -- I'm not understanding that. I'm lost.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Garrett. Senator Garrett, in the House, there's open mike.

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SENATOR GARRETT:

I know. Thank you. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

In the Senate, we have the button system. Please try and join us. Senator Garrett.

SENATOR GARRETT:

Don't send me back to the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Garrett.

SENATOR GARRETT:

Okay. I -- it's just unclear to me why the Department of Revenue would be so opposed to a bill that apparently does not hurt the taxpayers or the State of Illinois. If this is a tax credit that goes back to the insurance company, they're the ones who are going to be receiving the deduction or paying -- or receiving less money, that's one thing. But are the taxpayers or the State of Illinois in any way affected by this particular tax credit?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Haine.

SENATOR HAINE:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senator, no. The answer to that is no. They receive a tax credit. The -- the budget -- the -- the Department of Revenue, as I understand it, opposes any and every bill that will cost the general revenue funds any money this year. They don't think about the long-term benefit.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Garrett.

SENATOR GARRETT:

If it costs the State money, it's costing taxpayers money.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Haine.

SENATOR HAINE:

Senator, I -- I agree with your point. I -- I can't speak for them. I -- I think it's a good bargain, and the taxpayers benefit, but I -- the Department of Revenue is concerned about the general revenue funds.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Is there any further discussion? Senator Garrett.

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SENATOR GARRETT:

To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill, ma'am.

SENATOR GARRETT:

It -- it appears as if the State of Illinois could conceivably lose millions of dollars. To what extent and how much money is unclear. I would caution everybody to take a close look at this bill. You don't want to provide any industry or individuals with tax credits when it actually hurts the taxpayers across the State of Illinois. So, I don't know enough about the details of this bill. I am going to be voting No. I think we need to find out more of what the negative impact may be to the State of Illinois.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Is there any further discussion? Any further -- Senator John Jones, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR J. JONES:

Thank you, Mr. President. To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

To the bill, sir.

SENATOR J. JONES:

I think in defense of Senator Haine. Senator Garrett, I've been around -- this is my eleventh year. I don't think I've ever seen a bill go through the Department -- through Revenue Committee or any other committee that affected dollars in the State of Illinois Department of Revenue didn't oppose it. You know, I've always objected to that. I don't think that's their job. I think it's our job to pass the legislation and it's our job to pass a budget that funds everything in the State of Illinois. And I don't think it's Department of Revenue's business to be declaring whether it's -- it's a good bill or a bad bill. So, I stand in strong favor of this bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Haine, to close, sir.

SENATOR HAINE:

Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, this is a tax credit, not a subsidy to an industry. It's a tax credit to individual citizens, taxpayers, to purchase long-

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term care insurance, because having that insurance will save their families and themselves a considerable burden in paying for -- nursing home care. Our elderly population is increasing faster than any other cohort, and if we encourage the purchase of these policies, the State of Illinois, the budget, will benefit by hundreds of millions. In addition to that, the citizens will be saved really their -- their fortunes. And I ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Okay. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1707 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 54 Ayes, 1 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1707, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Wilhelmi, on 1714, sir. Out of the record. Senator Bomke, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR BOMKE:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Please state your point, sir.

SENATOR BOMKE:

We have with us today students from Christ the King School, behind the Democrats. Their teacher, Mrs. Schroeder and Miss Valentine.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Will our guests in the galleries please rise and be recognized? And welcome to the Illinois State Senate. Thank you for joining us today. Senator Link, on 1738, sir. Madam Secretary, he indicates he wishes to proceed. Please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1738.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

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Thank you, Mr. President. This bill adds -- adds that certain specially equipped vehicles that -- used solely for the -- for recycling and hauls or operates for subjects to specially equipped limit -- weight limits when not operating on interstate highways. {sic} I know of no opposition to this. Would ask for an affirmative vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Is there any discussion? Senator Bomke, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR BOMKE:

Thank you, Mr. President. This came out of Transportation unanimously and I'd urge an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. The question is, -- I'm sorry. Senator Risinger, do you need... The question is, shall Senate Bill 1738 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 55 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1738, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Link, continuing on -- Senator Risinger, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR RISINGER:

Thank you, Mr. President. I was away from my desk on the vote on Senate Bill 1770 and I'd like the record to record that I would have voted Aye.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

The record will so reflect that, sir. Senator Link, do you wish to proceed on Senate Bill 1740, sir? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary -- Senator Risinger, could you clarify the bill that you were -- missed the vote on, sir?

SENATOR RISINGER:

Thank you. 1707.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

On 1707. The record will clearly reflect that -- your intentions. Senator Link, do you wish to proceed on 1740, sir? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

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SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1740.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Mr. President. This bill amends the Renter's Financial Responsibility and Protection Act and allows a vehicle rental company to void a damage waiver with regard to damage or loss occurring while the renter -- rental vehicle was operated by a driver under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or intoxicating compounds, in violation of the DUI provision in Illinois Vehicle Code. I'll be more than happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Senator Dave Sullivan, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR D. SULLIVAN:

Thank you, Mr. President. A question of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield for a question, sir.

SENATOR D. SULLIVAN:

Thank you. Senator Link, just to clarify, in our discussions between the two of us and -- and staff, that you're going to try to have this bill amended in the House and the House version of this bill amended here to clarify that it's a conviction, not just a violation. Correct?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

That's correct, Senator Sullivan.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. Any further discussion? Seeing no further discussion, the question is, shall Senate Bill 1740 pass. Those in favor, vote Aye. Those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, and 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1740, having received the required

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constitutional majority, is declared passed. Continuing on Senate Bills 3rd Reading is Senate Bill 1741. The order of Link. Senator Link, do you wish to proceed, sir? He indicates he wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1741.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Mr. President. This allows a self-insured leasing company to make the determination when a vehicle it owns is to be salvaged. I know of no opposition. I'll be more than happy to answer any question.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Senator Bomke, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR BOMKE:

Thank you, Mr. President. This came out of Transportation unanimously. Would urge an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you. The -- the question is, shall Senate Bill 1741 pass. All those in favor, vote Aye. All those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1741, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Collins, on Senate Bill 1751, ma'am. Do you wish to proceed? She indicates she wishes to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Bill 1751.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Collins.

SENATOR COLLINS:

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Thank you, Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Senate Bill 1751 amends the Illinois Wage Assignment Act to include the minimum hourly wage provided in the Illinois Minimum Wage Law, currently six-fifty an hour, six dollars and fifty cents per hour, to the provisions regarding the maximum amount of disposable income that may be collected. Under current law, weekly wages of two hundred and thirty-one dollars and seventy-five cents or forty-five times the federal minimum wage of 5.15 per hour are protected from collection by assignees. Under Senate Bill 1751, weekly wages of two ninety-two -- two hundred and ninety-two dollars and fifty cents or forty-five times the State minimum wage of six dollars and fifty cents per hour are protected from collection by assignees. So, the law, as amended, would now read that the assignment law is to -- I'm sorry, the -- assignment law to protect wages up to forty-five times the federal minimum wage or the State minimum wage, whichever is higher, from collection by assignees. And part of the rationale for that is to allow low-income workers to at least have a sufficient amount of money to provide for their families and improve the quality of life. I'm open for any questions and -- I'm open for any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Senator Pankau, for what purpose do you rise, ma'am?

SENATOR PANKAU:

Thank you, Mr. President. This bill -- came before the Labor Committee also. And with all the words that she said, this is a good bill and it basically had to come in place because we have a different minimum wage in the State of Illinois than the national standard is. And so that there -- there were some areas of confusion. This eliminates all the confusion and it's a good bill. I urge you to vote for it.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DELEO)

Thank you. Is there any further discussion? Seeing no further discussion, the question is, shall Senate Bill 1751 pass. All those in favor, vote Aye. All those opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Madam Secretary, please take the record. On that question, there are 57 Ayes, 0 voting Nay, 0

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voting Present. Senate Bill 1751, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Madam Secretary, Messages, please.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

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

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed bills of the following titles, in the passage of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit:

House Bills 120, 864, 870, 2374, 2611, 2613, -- pardon me, 3420, 3515, 3738.

All passed the House, April 7, 2005.

Have a like Message with respect to House Bills -- 1362, 1448, 1469, 1541, 1555, 2411, 2512, 3554, 3678, 3874.

All passed the House, April 8, 2005.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Okay. Consent Calendar. Okay. Just a reminder that we will be going to special death resolution in just a couple seconds. We have a couple cleanup work to do here and we'll be going to the death resolution. I'd ask all Members to please be in their seats, staff to retire to the back of the Chamber, please. At this time, we are now to proceed to the Order of Resolutions Consent Calendar. With leave of the Body, all those resolutions read in today will be added to the Consent Calendar. Madam Secretary, has there been any objections filed to any resolution on the Consent Calendar?

SECRETARY HAWKER:

There have been no objections filed, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the resolutions on the Consent Calendar be adopted. Those in favor will say Aye. All those opposed will say Nay. The motion carries and the resolutions are adopted. Senator Burzynski, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you, Mr. President. For purposes of -- of an announcement, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Please -- please state your announcement, sir.

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SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you. There will be a brief Republican Caucus immediately upon adjournment today. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank -- thank you. There'll be a Republican Caucus immediately upon adjournment in Senator Watson's Office. At this time, Madam Secretary, on Orders of Resolution {sic}.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Joint Resolution 36, offered by Senator Shadid.

(Secretary reads SJR No. 36)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Shadid moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediate consideration and adoption of Senate Joint Resolution 36. Those in favor will say Aye. Those opposed will say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Shadid now moves for the adoption of Senate Joint Resolution No. 36. All those in favor will say Aye. All those opposed will say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. Thank you. Will the Members please be in their seats? Once again, will staff please retire to the gallery -- to the rear of the Chamber? And I -- we ask the Doormen to please secure the doors. Madam Secretary, confirm that the floors and the galleries are cleared. Madam Secretary, Resolutions, please.

SECRETARY HAWKER:

Senate Resolution 145, offered by Senators Emil Jones, Watson and all Members.

(Secretary reads SR No. 145)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senate President Emil Jones and Republican Leader Frank Watson move for the suspension of the Senate rules for immediate consideration and adoption of Senate Resolution 145. All those in favor will say Aye. All those opposed will say Nay. The Ayes have it. The rules are suspended. Senate President Emil Jones, on the Resolution, and -- indicates that Senator Meeks we'll -- we'll do at the close. And we'll go to speakers. Senator Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President. Well, over this last week, millions of people throughout the world have mourned the -- the

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loss of Pope John Paul. And it's -- I think it's been an unbelievable, phenomenal outpouring of respect and probably none that we've ever witnessed, and may not ever be seen again - extraordinary man. And what's remarkable about it, I think, is the -- the mix of religious and governmental leaders that we've seen, and -- and regardless of -- of faith, it just seems that people have a tremendous outpouring of respect for -- for this individual. I think it's just a testament to his character and his leadership, and he reached out -- the Pope reached out to -- to people of all faiths throughout this world and delivered a message of peace. And he's obviously going to be missed by not only the Roman Catholic religion and the faithful, but people throughout this world and we will mourn -- we mourn his passing. and I would like, Mr. President, at this point to defer my future -- or, further time to Senator Ed Petka.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator Watson. Senator Petka, on the resolution.

SENATOR PETKA:

Well, thank you very much, Mr. President and Members of the Senate. The terms that -- such as "great" and "superstar" and -- and other very exalting type of language is overused in contemporary society. Very candidly, there are virtually no words that have ever been invented to describe the greatness of the man who has passed, Karol Wojtyla, the Archbishop of Krakow and Pope John Paul the -- or, the II. In my opinion, we can read about miracles and they're well documented in the Old and New Testament, but sometimes miracles that occur are simply not recognized as such when they are occurring. Permit me to explain. As a very young boy, I -- I was an altar boy, a member of the Catholic faith, and a -- a -- a Polish-American. All of my grandparents were born in Poland. In fact, my mother's mother was born in the -- the Archdiocese and parish of John -- John Paul II. A lot of ethnic pride is involved in the Polish community, and this morning I got up very early and -- and was watching the funeral and I had a smile on my face when Channel 9 flashed over to Five Holy Martyrs Parish and showed that there were thirteen hundred people who were up at three o'clock in the morning to -- to attend the mass -- the funeral mass by proxy.

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As a very young boy, and those of you who are Catholics who were practicing Catholics prior to the -- to Vatican II may remember this, that after every single Sunday mass, we would kneel down and pray for the conversion of Russia and for the end to persecution of the church behind the iron curtain - I see some heads nodding - every single Sunday. I went off to college and when I returned, for some reason, that practice had been discontinued, and it did look like we had a prayer from literally hundreds of millions of people that went unanswered. Little did we know that in October, in fact, October 13th {sic} of 1978, a - - an event that I can only, you know, describe to you as miraculous, -- an event that occurred that changed the history of the world. A Slavic man, a very kind -- kind and very humble servant of the Christian faith in Jesus Christ, was elected Pope. Within a short period of time, he went to Poland and literally emboldened people by making a -- very, very carefully guarded statements that they as human beings were by -- by their very heritage entitled to a certain relationship with a -- with a God that created them, that they had a right to freedom of religion in an -- in a country that religion was officially suppressed by force and by brut rule. Within a short period of time after the visit, the Papal visit to Poland, in June of 1979 a -- an organization began to spring among the Polish trade unions. In the United States it's known as "Solidarity". In my native tongue it would be called "Solidarnosc", or the "Solidarity of the People". And where, in a relatively short period of time, the trade unions throughout Poland began a series of strikes and rebellions against Polish communist leaders. And it got so bad that President Leonid Brezhnev sent a warning to the Polish government that the Soviets were going to come in and by invitation to restore stability to a -- to an unstable government. They were going to invade Poland. This remarkable man of -- of courage, Pope John Paul II, sent a handwritten letter to Leonid Brezhnev and said, as follows, "If you go to Poland, I'm leaving the Papacy. I'm going to go physically to Poland and I will resist you and oppose you." Of course, the Soviets chose not to take on the world and the movement continued to grow. In the late -- or, in 1989, I believe it was, we saw cracks in -- in the evil empire, in the Soviet Union. First it

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was in Poland, when we had free elections in Poland, where members of -- of the outlawed Solidarity Party were elected as leaders of a country, when a year before that they'd actually been in jail. The revolution spread in -- into East Germany, to Hungary, to -- to Czechoslovakia, to Bulgaria, to Romania, and last, but not least, finally to the Soviet Union. And I remember vividly calling my kids before the TV and just saying, "That wall going down, children, is something they will be talking about five hundred years from now. You are witnessing in your time the answer to a prayer of a lot of people." And it reaffirmed in -- in one Catholic the power of prayer. The answer did not come in our time, but it came in the time of the Lord. We -- we were dealing with a remarkable personality, a person who was resolute in his faith, and as many people have remarked, being in the presence of this man was being in the presence of what holiness is all about. There are those who are calling for his canonization and sainthood. For me, it is only going to be a reaffirmation. The man was a saint while he was on earth. There will be -- the process of -- of beatification is simply going to -- to be an acknowledgement of what we already know. The remarkable journey of this -- of this Pope and the journey of faith and as a spiritual leader, in my opinion, will be overshadowed by his leadership as a political leader. He had done wonderful things within the church. Any one of the things that he had -- that were stated in that resolution would call -- would be cause to call a Pope great. Imagine after four hundred and fifty years of -- of a break with the Church of England, the Pope established diplomatic and relations with the -- the Church of England. He was the first Pope in -- in the history of the church to go to a synagogue at least since -- in almost two thousand years. The first church to -- the first Pope to establish diplomatic relations with the State of Israel. The first Pope to -- to establish diplomatic relations with the United States. The first Pope to ever apologize for the inquisition and the -- the use of coercion and force against heretics. A person -- the -- a Pope who apologized to members of the Lutheran faith for the -- for the expulsion of Martin Luther. The recall of this Pope to -- or, the call of this Pope to -- for the canonization of Martin Luther. For those of you who -- who

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lived prior to Vatican II, this is almost heresy, and yet the -- this Pope made the transition very, very comfortable. As a person who was raised in -- in the Catholic tradition and prior to Vatican II, and fully understanding what it meant for a Pope to simply say, "It is okay. It is okay. It is all right. Please let us move on. Let us all get back together." And the words of -- of -- of this man being very powerful words. The revolution that he accomplished was accomplished without the firing of a single shot by any army to undo the evil -- empire. Obviously, I -- if I had another hour and -- and Pope John Paul is truly one of my -- a person that I -- I view as a hero, I -- I could expound and my -- my roommate, Todd Sieben, probably has heard enough already. But, Mr. Speaker -- or, Mr. President, it is so very, very fitting that we have this memorial and resolution in honor of what I believe history will show to not only be a great man, but probably the greatest man in my time and in -- in my generation. And as long as we know that the spirit, the message of this great man continues to live in the hearts and in the minds of -- of people on the planet, we will be headed on the right track. I do not mourn this day. This is a day of celebration. The Pope has gone where he has been called. He has been called back to the Father and truly he is there. All I can say, and in conclusion, Mr. President, is that it has been my privilege, my honor, to see a day and to see a time that a man of -- of my -- a -- an -- or, man who was from the country of my ancestors turned out to be a leader of the world. And I am eternally grateful for that.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank -- thank you, Senator Petka. Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Thank you, Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I, too, share with all of us the -- both the sadness and the celebration for the passing of this great historical figure. And I do believe that as we view history from the biblical era to the modern era and beyond, that Pope John Paul II will indeed be recognized as one of the premier and defining leaders throughout all civilization. Senator Petka, as well as the resolution itself, alluded to some of the remarkable accomplishments that Pope John Paul II had achieved relative to relations between the

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Catholic community and the Jewish community. It would be an understatement to speak of how historic and defining and courageous these actions were. And it's within that context that I'd like to address my remarks to the Body. One can -- it will be for historians to ultimately speculate what experiences early in Pope John Paul II's life determined how he could later step forward in history as a man of vision, very much exercising the same visions, the same level of vision and foresight as the biblical prophets, to form his -- to form his mindset, to form his perspective and to define his experiences in transforming the relationship between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people. Perhaps, and one can only speculate, and I'll leave it to those better versed in history than I, perhaps it was dating back to the 1940s when -- when Pope John Paul II worked in a Nazi slave labor camp and studied secretly for the priesthood in Nazi-occupied Poland and had the opportunity to experience and witness firsthand the atrocities that occurred to the Jewish people through the despicable acts of the Third Reich, as to -- whether that impacted his perspective on how he later in life would transform relations between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people. One can't help but think that these formative experiences that he had as a young man helped provide him with the vision, foresight and the courage to indeed be the first to cross the Tiber River in 1986 to visit the main synagogue in Rome. At that time, he embraced Rome's Chief Rabbi and spoke of the, quote, "irrevocable covenant between God and the Jews" and declared that Jews are Christians' older brothers. That was a turning point in relations between Catholics and between Jews. It literally shifted, in a very dramatic and pronounced way, a mindset which had transcended centuries in relations between these two people. Literally sixteen hundred years of history was turned on an instant with that courageous, dramatic and humble gesture. He built upon that gesture in his decision not only to recognize the Jewish State of Israel, which formed in large measure as the world's response to providing self-determination and a homeland for the Jewish people; he built upon that even further by visiting, in a historic and unprecedented manner, Jerusalem, just several years ago. Going to the holiest site for the Jewish people, the Western Wall, and as is traditional within

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the Jewish faith to insert a prayer on a scrap of paper in one of the crevices of this ancient and holy site for the Jewish people that is the outer wall of the Second Temple which was destroyed in -- the year 70 of the Common Era, praying for the -- reconciliation and for peace among the peoples and -- and requesting forgiveness for the prior history that had occurred between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people. The fact -- the -- the mere indelible image of Pope John Paul II in Jerusalem with the Prime Minister of the Jewish homeland, the democratically-elected Prime Minister, and President, listening to the Jewish National Anthem, HaTikvah, in -- and listening to the words and acknowledging the words of the -- those very powerful verses within the Jewish -- the Israeli National Anthem, L'hiyot am chofshi b'artzenu, to live freely in our homeland, was a -- yet another transforming experience in relations between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people. These are not mere gestures. History will prove that these actions, building block upon building block, set a foundation, not only for better understanding between peoples of different faiths, but for a true and more accurate reflection of the historic and deeply spiritual bond that exists between all peoples. As you may or may not know, in -- in mid January of this year, the Pope entered -- the Pope held an audience with about one hundred Jewish spiritual leaders from the United States and other countries. My mother's brother was fortunate to be selected, who is -- my mother's brother, who is a Rabbi in Westchester County, New York, was fortunate to be asked to be part of that delegation to express their thanks to the Pope for all that he had done and for his efforts in bettering relations between Catholics and between Jews. That profound opportunity will not only be lost upon him and upon those other spiritual leaders who were fortunate enough to express thanks to the -- thanks to the Pope for -- for what he had done to redefine relations between historic brethren of Christian -- of Catholics and Jews, but rather it set the foundation for future relations between -- it set the foundation for future spiritual leaders of all denominations to really exert the courage, exert the vision and exert all those other critical leadership qualities that we ask of leaders in all contexts, whether they be political leaders, whether they be spiritual

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leaders, whether they be leaders in any other setting. I want to add one final note, and -- and that is, we have seen, as the Pope has taken as -- as Pope John Paul II took this long and difficult final journey which ultimately led to his passing, the kind of grace and humility that -- that an individual afflicted with debilitating diseases demonstrated, and in doing so, he -- I believe, that he also helped redefine how individuals throughout the world should view their final days and how -- the impact of palliative care on the final days of an individual afflicted with debilitating illnesses can really be a transforming and enriching experience, not just for the individual, his or herself, but for their loved ones and all who have shared in all the glories of their lives. It's with great sadness, yet with celebration as well, that I, too, join everybody in -- in paying tribute and homage to Pope John Paul II. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Jacqui Collins.

SENATOR COLLINS:

Thank you, Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. As a Catholic I feel compelled to speak of my deep respect and great admiration for the man we knew as Pope John Paul II. I had the opportunity and the honor to meet Pope John Paul II in Rome when my Church, St. Sabina, and my Pastor, Father Michael Phleger, were invited to Rome for a Papal conference, for our choir to perform, and it was a one in a lifetime opportunity to see such a man of grace. And that's what I want to speak on today. My deep respect is rooted in his remarkable ability to unite faith and action, words with deeds; for scripture tells us that faith without works is dead. Pope John Paul II was a drum major for justice, unity, peace and love. And today I celebrate his powerful witness to social justice, both as a scholar and a shepherd. Whether it was apartheid, genocide, anti-Semitism or slavery, he was a strong advocate for the oppressed, the poor, the downtrodden, and the least of these. He was indeed an uncommon man of dignity and decency whose life was a wonderful manifestation of Micah 6:8. In that scripture the Prophet Micah is asked: What is it that is required of us from our creator, our God? And Micah responds: To do justice, to show mercy and to walk humbly before our Lord. So I want to say that Pope John

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Paul II was truly a man of character, courage, commitment and compassion. And -- and today I salute a principled and prayerful life, clearly and honestly examined and lived. And I would like to say, I believe that the greatest sermon preached by Pope John Paul II was the life lived and I'm sure our God and our Lord and Savior is now saying, "Well done, my good, loyal and faithful servant." Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Cronin.

SENATOR CRONIN:

Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you really for the opportunity to take a moment and reflect on -- on this issue. And -- and I -- no doubt John Paul was a different kind of Pope. You know, in -- in 1979 he visited Chicago and I was there. I was a student in college, and after getting past the vendors selling the Pope scopes and the Pope soap on a rope, I got up to a point where I could get a good -- a good picture of this -- this -- this remarkable man that was creating such a frenzy in Chicago. And I looked at him and I'll never forget it; he had a young and vibrant and a -- a contemporary face. And this was a long time ago for -- for me, 1979. As I watch the news reports now from Rome, I'm reminded of that experience in 1979. As the millions of pilgrims flock to celebrate this holy man's life and to mourn his death, it -- it reminds me of it in many ways. The most remarkable feature that comes to mind is the young people, the young people that are part of this celebration, that were part of the celebration in 1979, that are there. And as I was looking through materials just casually, I came across Cardinal George who commented on the young people. He said that, "Holiness is always contemporary." Some people wonder why it is that an old man, feeble, barely able to walk, barely able to talk in the last few weeks is so attractive to young people. Because of his integrity, certainly, and young people respect that, but also because of his holiness, and this is the part that I found so true. It is sin that makes us old. Holiness is always young and the Pope died a young man. Now, there are more than a billion Roman Catholics in the world, about one-seventh of the world's population, roughly equal to all other Christian denominations combined. And I know, as a Catholic, that there's

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no question that -- that -- that all Catholics don't abide to or cling to every feature of the church. But we do know that the church and the Pope as the leader of the church has a significant impact on our lives in the most intimate of circumstance and the most large scale affecting the direction of civilizations. This Pope, indeed, was remarkable. It's unlikely that we'll ever see a Pope, certainly in our lifetime, like it. And generations in the past have never seen someone with that kind of influence, that kind of holiness. So, he was a Pope committed to life. He was true to his word. Committed to life at the earliest stages right through to the life that sat on death row; he was committed to those lives. He was committed to peace, freedom and human rights. But mostly, he was a holy man.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, Senator Cronin. President Jones.

SENATOR E. JONES:

Yeah. Thank you, Mr. President. I'm really pleased and honored that our Governor chose this day as a day of mourning for a great -- a great, great leader. I listened to all my colleagues talk about the Pope and their religion and faith. I believe what made him so great is that he reached out to others of different faith. I recall when he made the trip to Cuba and he met with Castro. Some folks criticized him for that. And the other day when I was at the Lincoln Museum and I read it many times, the second inaugural address of the late President Abraham Lincoln. And he touched on that one quality in that address. He said: All sides believe in one God. And God does not choose between the two. So he leave you here, the people, to wrangle and fight over it. So, too often in life we find ourselves saying, we are right because God's on our side. That's the worst statement to make. For the Pope to go to Israel, for the Pope to meet with Yasser Arafat, for the Pope to meet with all the different people around the world, bringing people together because there's one God. I had the occasion to be in Rome a couple years -- maybe four -- about four years ago. My late wife, devout Catholic, strong in the belief, she wanted to be in St. Peter's Square that Sunday to see the Pope in the window. And I was a little tired of the crowd pushing. I said, "Let me go back here and get me a Diet Coke from one of the vendors." As

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I did that, all of a sudden some motorcycles came along and then a couple of cars. Here came the Pope. The procession slowed down - he was on his way back to the Vatican - it slowed down and he turned to me and he waved. I thought he said, "Hi, Senator." But he waved. So, I -- I recall the days in -- in 1979 when he was in Chicago and the visit there. But the warmth of the individual, his true holiness, is the reason why the young people follow him. He didn't say, "I'm Catholic. I'm not going to have anything to do with the other faiths, the other religions." He did not look at that. He looked at all people as children of God. And I believe that's the reason why he was such a great, great, great leader and the impact that he had on the world will -- will be felt for years to come. I had asked the only person of the cloth to give the closing remarks on this memorial service. And that person is of a different faith, but you know, he respect the Pope. He called me during the times that the Pope was very ill and he said, "Mr. Leader, you know, you always can become a Baptist, you know." But he called me because every person of all faiths respected this great leader. He was truly a great, great, great leader. I -- I yield my closing remarks to my colleague, the Reverend, the Senator Dr. Meeks.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Thank you, President Jones. Senator Meeks, for your closing remarks, sir.

SENATOR MEEKS:

Thank you so much, President Jones. And to echo the sentiments of all of our colleagues and to show you the warm embrace and the big umbrella of John Paul II, our Pope, I, too, had the opportunity to visit Rome and to take my choir and to be able to perform there as an African-American and as a Baptist because of his large umbrella. I think we're here today to look at what made the life of John Paul II so unique. Everybody, from the comments that we've heard in this Chamber and from the comments that we've seen on television, seems to have a deep and abiding affection for this Pope. More heads of States, more dignitaries have paid their respect to John Paul II than I've seen for any other person in the known world. The question, however, that lingers in my mind is, why? What made John Paul II so unique was that he used his position to do good. He used the

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power of the office, the power of the Papacy, to do the right thing. He made over one hundred and one trips worldwide, and everywhere he went, everybody who met him, they knew he was coming for the same reason, and that was to somehow spread goodwill. I think that it would be wise of us to recognize that people who use their power, people who use their position, to do good live beyond their funeral. People who use their position and people who use their power to do good, they seem to reach a higher quality of acceptance. That's why we remember Dr. King. That's why we remember Mother Teresa. That's why we remember Gandhi. That's why we remember Moses. That's why we remember the Apostles. And that's why we remember Jesus Christ. Because these are individuals who lived life and used their position to do good. In closing, I think the lesson for us as Members of this great Body, we can really use our positions to do good also. People respect us. Our mail comes and it says, "The Honorable Senator so-and-so." We walk into places and people stand and salute and shake our hands. My question to us today as we remember the life of this great man, John Paul, how will we use our own position and how will we use our power? Will we use our power to fix speeding tickets for friends? Will we use our power to become next in line at the crowded barber shop? Will we use our power and our position just to get good seats at the basketball game? Will we use our power and our position to have a street named after us? I want to caution us, because when we use our position for ourselves, it seems as if we're never remembered. When we use our power and we use our position just to advance ourselves and our families, it seems as if we're quickly forgotten. However, when we use our position for good, it seems as if our lives have more meaning. We live beyond our funeral. And it is for that reason and that's why we salute this Pope. And so as we remember him and as we applaud him and as we are thankful for him, let's not forget that we, too, have positions of power and we, too, can emulate him by using our position and using our power for the good of mankind. I've been asked at the conclusion of that talk to give a closing prayer. And what I'm going to ask for us to do is -- I listened to all of our colleagues as we talked about the Pope being a man of unity and inclusion, and he embraced everybody. I think, with this

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closing prayer, we should all stand and join hands across the aisle. Let us pray. Our Father and our God, we come because we love You and we come to thank You for the life of a -- a great man. We stand in a microcosm, imitating some things, some lessons of his life. We stand, Democrats and Republicans, male, female, black and white, Protestant and Jewish, upstate, downstate, but we stand today, holding hands, uniting ourselves, thanking You for the memory of Pope John Paul II, to thank You that he was such a uniter and not a divider, thanking You as we remember his life. Teach us that life has meaning. Teach us to advance the cause of other people before we seek to advance the causes of ourselves. As we stand here today holding hands, male, female, black, white, Protestant, Catholic, we appeal to You to continue to watch over our nation, bless our President, bless our leaders and those who will make crucial decisions, and then, God, bless us, as the people in this State look toward this Statehouse for wise decisions and right laws. We pray the prayer that Solomon prayed, that You would give us wisdom in order to guide and direct this State. We thank You for the life of John Paul II and we pray that You would keep us as we depart from one another and depart from this building. We thank You that we depart this time different than we departed at the Easter break. At the Easter break, we departed upset, but today we depart in unity. We honor You and we thank You. And it's in Your name we pray. Amen.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR DeLEO)

Senator Jones and Senator Watson now move for the adoption of Senate Resolution 145. All those in favor of this resolution will please rise. The resolution is adopted. The Illinois Senate stands adjourned until the hour of 12 noon on Monday, April 11th, the year 2005. The Senate stands adjourned.