

STATE OF ILLINOIS
96th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

87th Legislative Day

2/24/2010

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PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Regular Session of the 96th General Assembly will please come to order. Will the Members please be at their desks? Will the guests in the galleries please rise? And the invocation today will be given by Major Charlie Smith.

MAJOR CHARLES SMITH:

(Prayer by Major Charles Smith)

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

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

SENATOR JACOBS:

(Pledge of Allegiance, led by Senator Jacobs)

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Madam Secretary, Reading and Approval of the Journal.

SECRETARY ROCK:

Senate Journals of May 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 17th and 18th, 2009.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Senator Hunter.

SENATOR HUNTER:

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

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Senator Hunter moves to approve the Journals just read by the Secretary. There being no objection, so ordered. Madam Secretary, Reading and Approval of the Journal.

SECRETARY ROCK:

Senate Journal of Tuesday, February 23rd, 2010.

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PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Senator Hunter.

SENATOR HUNTER:

Mr. President, I move to postpone the reading and approval of the Journal just read by the Secretary, pending the arrival of the -- of the printed transcript.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Senator Hunter moves to postpone the reading and approval of the Journal, pending arrival of the printed transcripts. There being no objection, so ordered. Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY ROCK:

Senate Resolution 664, offered by Senator Bond and all Members.

It's a death resolution, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Madam Secretary, Resolutions Consent Calendar.

SECRETARY ROCK:

Senate Resolution 665, offered by Senator Kotowski.

And Senate Resolution 666, offered by Senator Forby. They are substantive.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Madam Secretary, House Bills 1st Reading.

SECRETARY ROCK:

House Bill 4649, offered by Senator Haine.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

House Bill 4879, offered by Senator Wilhelmi.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

1st Reading of these House bills.

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PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Senator Sullivan, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR SULLIVAN:

Thank you, Mr. President. I have an announcement.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Please make your announcement.

SENATOR SULLIVAN:

Senator Koehler will not be joining us here in the Senate this week. He had a death in the family. His wife, Nora's father recently passed away, so he's out of State. Just wanted to let everybody to know that.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Senator Muñoz, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR MUÑOZ:

Purpose of announcement, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

State your announcement, please.

SENATOR MUÑOZ:

Requesting a caucus immediately in the President's Office.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Senator Muñoz has announced that there'll be a Democratic Caucus to meet immediately in my office. Senator Jones, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR J. JONES:

Thank you, Mr. President. The Republicans would caucus in Leader Radogno's -- the same time the Democrats. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Senator Risinger, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR RISINGER:

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Point of personal privilege, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

State your point.

SENATOR RISINGER:

Mr. President, I have a Page for the Day. Her name is Erin Makransky. She's from Logan Junior High School in Princeton. And her mother, Tracy, is in the balcony. I'd like for the Senate to give her -- them a warm welcome, please.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Welcome to the Senate. ...Risinger.

SENATOR RISINGER:

Thank you, Mr. President. We have several members of the Salvation Army in the balcony. We'd like to recognize them today. And in particular, we have Major Charles Smith from Peoria. I'd like for the Senate to give them all a warm welcome also. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CULLERTON:

Welcome to -- welcome to the Senate. The Senate will stand at ease for each caucus to meet immediately. Actually, we -- we would recess until the caucuses have completed their business. So, caucus immediately. The Senate will recess to the call of the Chair.

(SENATE STANDS IN RECESS/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR SCHOENBERG)

Senate will come to order. The Senate will now stand at ease for a few minutes to -- to allow the Committee on Assignments to meet. If the members of the Committee on

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Assignments would please come to the President's Anteroom immediately. All members of the Committee on Assignments please come to the Senate President's Anteroom immediately. Senate will now stand at ease.

(SENATE STANDS AT EASE/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR SCHOENBERG)

Senate will come to order. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY ROCK:

Senator Clayborne, Chairman of the Committee on Assignments, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Refer to the Agriculture and Conservation Committee - Senate Bill 3060, Senate Bill 3072, Senate Bill 3073, Senate Bill 3107, Senate Bill 3496, Senate Bill 3603 and Senate Bill 3604; refer to the Appropriations I Committee - Senate Bill 2519, Senate Bill 2539 {sic}, Senate Bill 2546, Senate Bill 2796, Senate Bill 3058, Senate Bill 3207, Senate Bill 3217, Senate Bill 3271, Senate Bill 3311, Senate Bill 3504, Senate Bill 3530, Senate Bill 3583, Senate Bill 3602, Senate Bill 3715, Senate Bill 3821 and Senate Bill 3826; refer to the Commerce Committee - Senate Bill 3146 {sic}, Senate Bill 3165, Senate Bill 3182, Senate Bill 3422, Senate Bill 3458, Senate Bill 3474, Senate Bill 3619, Senate Bill 3638, Senate Bill 3654, Senate Bill 3655, Senate Bill 3657, Senate Bill 3658, Senate Bill 3659, Senate Bill 3660, Senate Bill 3661, Senate Bill 3662, Senate Bill -- 3683, Senate Bill 3702, Senate Bill 3710 and Senate Bill 3711; refer to the Consumer Protection Committee --

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just as a clarification, referred to the Commerce Committee - Senate Bill 3147; refer to the Consumer Protection Committee - Senate Bill 2969, Senate Bill 3097, Senate Bill 3109, Senate Bill 3231, Senate Bill 3309, Senate Bill 3318, Senate Bill 3506, Senate Bill 3509, Senate Bill 3548, Senate Bill 3584, Senate Bill 3633, Senate Bill 3643, Senate Bill 3750 and Senate Bill 3827; refer to the Criminal Law Committee - Senate Bill 1840, Senate Bill 2993 {sic}, Senate Bill 3085, Senate Bill 3093, Senate Bill 3169, Senate Bill 3173, Senate Bill 3176, Senate Bill 3198, Senate Bill 3269, Senate Bill 3295, Senate Bill 3304, Senate Bill 3305, Senate Bill 3313, Senate Bill 3317, Senate Bill 3359, Senate Bill 3389, Senate Bill 3390, Senate Bill 3391, Senate Bill 3406, Senate Bill 3407, Senate Bill 3421, Senate Bill 3425, Senate Bill 3455, Senate Bill 3467, Senate Bill 3491, Senate Bill 3503, Senate Bill 3508, Senate Bill 3513, Senate Bill 3533, Senate Bill 3539, Senate Bill 3540, Senate Bill 3546, Senate Bill 3569, Senate Bill -- excuse me, Senate Bill 3605, Senate Bill 3615, Senate Bill 3616, Senate Bill 3628, Senate Bill 3632, Senate Bill 3645, Senate Bill 3670, Senate Bill 3709, Senate Bill 3734, Senate Bill 3768, Senate Bill 3795, Senate Bill 3796 and Senate Bill 3800; refer to the Education Committee - Senate Bill 2594, Senate Bill 2929, Senate Bill 3086, Senate Bill 3111, Senate Bill 3117, Senate Bill 3241, Senate Bill 3266, Senate Bill 3332, Senate Bill 3375, Senate Bill 3376, Senate Bill 3460, Senate Bill 3471, Senate Bill 3472, Senate Bill 3483, Senate Bill 3489, Senate Bill 3507, Senate Bill 3515, Senate Bill 3544, Senate Bill 3547, Senate Bill 3556, Senate Bill 3567, Senate Bill 3608, Senate Bill 3609, Senate Bill 3610, Senate Bill 3635, Senate Bill 3653, Senate Bill 3681, Senate Bill 3706

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and Senate Bill 3737; refer to the Elections Committee - Senate Bill 2503, Senate Bill 3012, Senate Bill 3108, Senate Bill 3178, Senate Bill 3579, Senate Bill 3621 and Senate Bill 3742; refer to the Energy Committee - Senate Bill 3343, Senate Bill 3388, Senate Bill 3426, Senate Bill 3464, Senate Bill 3627, Senate Bill 3686, Senate Bill 3691, Senate Bill 3693 and Senate Bill 3788; refer to the Environment Committee - Senate Bill 2490, Senate Bill 3227, Senate Bill 3320, Senate Bill 3344, Senate Bill 3347 and Senate Bill 3721; refer to the Executive Committee - Senate Bill 1635, Senate Bill 2448, Senate Bill 2457, Senate Bill 2458, Senate Bill 2461, Senate Bill 2463, Senate Bill 2468, Senate Bill 2550, Senate Bill 3043, Senate Bill 3044, Senate Bill 3063, Senate Bill 3077, Senate Bill 3118, Senate Bill 3130, Senate Bill 3132, Senate Bill 3136, Senate Bill 3162, Senate Bill 3183, Senate Bill 3186, Senate Bill 3187, Senate Bill 3199, Senate Bill 3205, Senate Bill 3280, Senate Bill 3338, Senate Bill 3355, Senate Bill 3356, Senate Bill 3380, Senate Bill 3383, Senate Bill 3393, Senate Bill 3397, Senate Bill 3398, Senate Bill 3411, Senate Bill 3413, Senate Bill 3417, Senate Bill 3454, Senate Bill 3456, Senate Bill 3459, Senate Bill 3482, Senate Bill 3512, Senate Bill 3522, Senate Bill 3526, Senate Bill 3541, Senate Bill 3561, Senate Bill 3581, Senate Bill 3588, Senate Bill 3614, Senate Bill 3622, Senate Bill 3668, Senate Bill 3671, Senate Bill 3707, Senate Bill 3735, Senate Bill 3764, Senate Bill 3775, Senate Bill 3776, Senate Bill 3778 and Senate Bill 3812; refer to the Financial Institutions Committee - Senate Bill 2996, Senate Bill 3068, Senate Bill 3286, Senate Bill 3287, Senate Bill 3457, Senate Bill 3656, Senate Bill 3738, Senate Bill 3739, Senate Bill 3781 and Senate Bill 3811; refer to the

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Gaming Committee - Senate Bill 3011, Senate Bill 3371, Senate Bill 3384, Senate Bill 3542 and Senate Bill 3574; refer to the Higher Education Committee - Senate Bill 2966, Senate Bill 3148, Senate Bill 3222, Senate Bill 3242, Senate Bill 3573, Senate Bill 3630, Senate Bill 3650, Senate Bill 3699, Senate Bill 3700, Senate Bill 3704, Senate Bill 3705, Senate Bill 3713, Senate Bill 3725; refer to the Human Services Committee - Senate Bill 2988, Senate Bill 3088, Senate Bill 3129, Senate Bill 3143, Senate Bill 3158, Senate Bill 3197, Senate Bill 3267, Senate Bill 3290, Senate Bill 3291, Senate Bill 3302, Senate Bill 3333, Senate Bill 3402, Senate Bill 3420, Senate Bill 3452, Senate Bill 3461, Senate Bill 3465, Senate Bill 3479, Senate Bill 3532, Senate Bill 3543, Senate Bill 3551, Senate Bill 3590, Senate Bill 3743 and Senate Bill 3762; refer to the Insurance Committee - Senate Bill 2965, Senate Bill 2967, Senate Bill 2968, Senate Bill 3004, Senate Bill 3034, Senate Bill 3188, Senate Bill 3210, Senate Bill 3339 {sic}, Senate Bill 3378, Senate Bill 3381, Senate Bill 3382, Senate Bill 3419, Senate Bill 3499, Senate Bill 3545, Senate Bill 3565 and Senate Bill 3767; refer to the Judiciary Committee - Senate Bill 2985, Senate Bill 3067, Senate Bill 3096, Senate Bill 3175, Senate Bill 3180, Senate Bill 3211, Senate Bill 3272, Senate Bill 3322, Senate Bill 3372, Senate Bill 3374, Senate Bill 3386, Senate Bill 3387, Senate Bill 3447, Senate Bill 3497, Senate Bill 3498, Senate Bill 3518, Senate Bill 3519, Senate Bill 3527, Senate Bill 3536, Senate Bill 3550, Senate Bill 3562, Senate Bill 3613, Senate Bill 3617, Senate Bill 3625, Senate Bill 3631, Senate Bill 3648, Senate Bill 3747, Senate Bill 3782, Senate Bill 3783, Senate Bill 3785, Senate Bill 3786 and Senate Bill 3810; just as a clarification, the

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Insurance Committee - Senate Bill 3239; refer to the Labor Committee - Senate Bill 3079, Senate Bill 3184, Senate Bill 3185, Senate Bill 3274, Senate Bill 3335, Senate Bill 3414 {sic}, Senate Bill 3490, Senate Bill 3494, Senate Bill 3566, Senate Bill 3568, Senate Bill 3571, Senate Bill 3640, Senate Bill 3644, Senate Bill 3766, Senate Bill 3813, Senate Bill 3829, Senate Bill 3830 and Senate Bill 3832; clarification, referred to the Labor Committee - Senate Bill 3415; refer to the Licensed Activities Committee - Senate Bill 2567, Senate Bill 2977, Senate Bill 3018, Senate Bill 3061, Senate Bill 3094, Senate Bill 3119, Senate Bill 3289, Senate Bill 3385, Senate Bill 3418 and Senate Bill 3712; refer to the Local Government Committee - Senate Bill 2482, Senate Bill 2797, Senate Bill 2970, Senate Bill 3010, Senate Bill 3134, Senate Bill 3214, Senate Bill 3251, Senate Bill 3282, Senate Bill 3294, Senate Bill 3323, Senate Bill 3336, Senate Bill 3349, Senate Bill 3430, Senate Bill 3462, Senate Bill 3478, Senate Bill 3505, Senate Bill 3564, Senate Bill 3585, Senate Bill 3692, Senate Bill 3696 and Senate Bill 3722; refer to the Pensions and Investments Committee - Senate Bill 2460, Senate Bill 2554, Senate Bill 3080, Senate Bill 3081, Senate Bill 3082, Senate Bill 3083, Senate Bill 3189, Senate Bill 3190, Senate Bill -- 3191, Senate Bill 3308, Senate Bill 3310, Senate Bill 3404, Senate Bill 3405, Senate Bill 3408, Senate Bill 3409, Senate Bill 3412, Senate Bill 3434, Senate Bill 3435, Senate Bill 3436, Senate Bill 3501, Senate Bill 3533 {sic}, Senate Bill 3535, Senate Bill 3537, Senate Bill 3538, Senate Bill 3663 and Senate Bill 3726; just to clarify, refer to the Pensions and Investments Committee - Senate Bill 3534; refer to the Public Health Committee - Senate Bill 3047, Senate Bill

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3054, Senate Bill 3144, Senate Bill 3174, Senate Bill 3193, Senate Bill 3292, Senate Bill 3314, Senate Bill 3400, Senate Bill 3448, Senate Bill 3466, Senate Bill 3473, Senate Bill 3475, Senate Bill 3477, Senate Bill 3510, Senate Bill 3525, Senate Bill 3563, Senate Bill 3591, Senate Bill 3637, Senate Bill 3773, Senate Bill 3780, Senate Bill 3815 and Senate Bill 3822; refer to the Revenue Committee - Senate Bill 1630, Senate Bill 1826, Senate Bill 2065, Senate Bill 2992, Senate Bill 2997, Senate Bill 2998, Senate Bill 3089, Senate Bill 3095, Senate Bill 3106, Senate Bill 3133, Senate Bill 3139, Senate Bill 3145, Senate Bill 3163, -- Senate Bill 3195, Senate Bill 3257, Senate Bill 3265, Senate Bill 3334, Senate Bill 3340, Senate Bill 3345, Senate Bill 3351, Senate Bill 3353, Senate Bill 3369, Senate Bill 3370, Senate Bill 3401, Senate Bill 3443, Senate Bill 3446, Senate Bill 3514, Senate Bill 3521, Senate Bill 3528, Senate Bill 3529, Senate Bill 3531, Senate Bill 3552, Senate Bill -- excuse me, Senate Bill 3620, Senate Bill 3646, Senate Bill 3664, Senate Bill 3666, Senate Bill 3672, Senate Bill 3694, Senate Bill 3744, Senate Bill 3745, Senate Bill 3746, Senate Bill 3772 and Senate Bill 3787; refer to the State Government and Veterans Affairs Committee - Senate Bill 2459, Senate Bill -- 3016, Senate Bill 3037, Senate Bill 3069, Senate Bill 3128, Senate Bill 3156, Senate Bill 3206, Senate Bill 3215, Senate Bill 3281, Senate Bill 3288, Senate Bill 3342, Senate Bill 3399, Senate Bill 3429, Senate Bill 3433, Senate Bill 3495, Senate Bill 3576, Senate Bill 3577, Senate Bill 3587, Senate Bill 3589, Senate Bill 3708, Senate Bill 3719, Senate Bill 3720, Senate Bill 3729, Senate Bill 3733, Senate Bill 3817 and Senate Bill 3818; refer to the Telecommunications and Information Technology Committee -

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Senate Bill 3074; refer to the Transportation Committee - Senate Bill 2979, Senate Bill 2993, Senate Bill 3023, Senate Bill 3024, Senate Bill 3041, Senate Bill 3066, Senate Bill 3091, Senate Bill 3141, Senate Bill 3167, Senate Bill 3263, Senate Bill 3284, Senate Bill 3312, Senate Bill 3414, Senate Bill 3523, Senate Bill 3524, Senate Bill 3558, Senate Bill 3559, Senate Bill 3560, Senate Bill 3629, Senate Bill 3669, Senate Bill 3682, Senate Bill 3716 and Senate Bill 3763; re-referred from the Human Services Committee to the Public Health Committee - Senate Bill 3021 and Committee Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 3021; re-referred from the Insurance Committee to the Executive Committee - Senate Bill 2493; just as a clarification, referred to the Transportation Committee - Senate Bill 3524; re-referred from the Executive Subcommittee on Legislative Tuition Waivers to the Committee on Assignments - Senate Bill 365; and Be Approved for Consideration - Senate Bill 365, Senate Bill 720, Senate Bill 730 and Senate Bill 918.

Senator James F. Clayborne, Chairman.

Senator Clayborne, Chairman of the Committee on Assignments, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Refer to the Appropriations II Committee - Floor Amendment 1 and Floor Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 1219, Floor Amendment 1 and Floor Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 1224, Floor Amendment 1 and Floor Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 1227, Floor Amendment 1 and Floor Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 1235, Floor Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 1237, Floor Amendment 1 and Floor Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 1248, Floor Amendment 1 and Floor Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 1251, Floor Amendment 1 and Floor Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 1253; refer to the Executive

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Committee - Floor Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 355; refer to the Executive Subcommittee on Legislative Tuition Waivers - Floor Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 365; refer to the Financial Institutions Committee - Floor Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 2581; refer to the Licensed Activities Committee - Committee Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 2799; refer to the Pension and -- excuse me, Pensions and Investments Committee - Committee Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 2525 and Committee Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 2984; refer to the Revenue Committee - Floor Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 2505; refer to the State Government and Veterans Affairs Committee - Committee Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 3249.

Signed by Senator James F. Clayborne, Chairman.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR SCHOENBERG)

Senator Link, for what purpose do you seek recognition, sir?

SENATOR LINK:

Point of personal privilege, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR SCHOENBERG)

Please state your point.

SENATOR LINK:

Today I'm privileged to have two young gentlemen who are with the Boys & Girls Club. And they are Sebastian Rodriguez and Stefan McCall, who are both from my hometown of North Chicago, and they are here representing the Lake County Boys & Girls Club. And I would like to give 'em a warm Senate welcome.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR SCHOENBERG)

Let's give our guests from the Boys & Girls Club a warm Senate greeting. We have some announcements for some Floor amendments. Floor Amendment No. 1 to House -- to Senate Bill,

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pardon me, 365 will be heard in the Senate Executive Subcommittee on Legislative Tuition Waivers at 1:50 p.m. in Room 400. Floor Amendment No. 1 to 365 will be heard in the full Senate Executive Committee at 2 p.m. in Room 212. Floor Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 355 will be heard in the Senate Executive Committee at 2 p.m. in 212. Floor Amendments 1 and Floor -- and 2 to Senate Bill 2505 and Floor Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 2376 will be heard in the Senate Revenue Committee at 2 p.m. in Room 400. And then, finally, Floor Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 2602 will be heard in the Senate Licensed Activities Committee at 2 p.m. in Room 409. Senator Kotowski, for what purpose do you seek recognition, sir?

SENATOR KOTOWSKI:

Thank you, Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Gives me great pleasure to introduce my Page for the Day. Her name is Asher Horcher. She is a freshman at Buffalo Grove High School. She lives in Wheeling. She wants to - in the future - either be a senator, or a doctor, or a lawyer, 'cause she likes to argue. She is a -- her family owns one of the -- oldest farm - in fact, the only farm, right now - in Wheeling. It's about a hundred and sixty years old. And she's very involved in her community and she's very excited to be here. So, if you would please, please, join me in giving her a great Springfield welcome, to Asher Horcher.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR SCHOENBERG)

Welcome, Asher. Senator Althoff, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR ALTHOFF:

Point of personal privilege.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR SCHOENBERG)

Please state your point.

SENATOR ALTHOFF:

Thank you, Mr. President. I, too, have a wonderful young man with me today. His name is Kyle Appelquist. He is from Mahomet. He is actually a constituent of Senator Righter, only he elected to spend his day with the cuter, finer, better Senator Althoff. He is an eighth grader. He loves history. In fact, he cites both of his history teachers as the impetus behind his interest in politics. And he is a long-distance runner. So might we welcome Kyle to Springfield?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR SCHOENBERG)

Welcome, Kyle. Let's give him a warm Senate greeting. That's quite a string of adjectives, Senator Althoff. The Senate will now stand in recess to the call of the Chair. Wish to inform the Members that after committee meetings, the Senate will convene to receive committee reports and for substantive Floor action. The Senate now stands in recess.

(SENATE STANDS IN RECESS/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

The Senate will come to order. The Senate will come -- come to order. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY ROCK:

Senator Raoul, Chairperson of the Committee on Pensions and Investments, reports Senate Bill 2456 Do Pass.

Senator Silverstein, Chairperson of the Committee on Executive, reports Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 355 and

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Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 365 recommended Do Adopt.

Senator Meeks, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Revenue, reports Senate Bills 2950, 3151 and 3152 Do Pass.

Senator Martinez, Chairperson of the Committee on Licensed Activities, reports Senate Bill 2799 Do Pass, as Amended.

Senator Demuzio, Chairperson of the Committee of State Government and Veterans Affairs, reports Senate Bill 2548 Do Pass; and Senate Resolution 609 Be Adopted.

Senator Haine, Chairperson of the Committee on Insurance, reports Senate Bill 2819 Do Pass; and Senate Bill 2544 Do Pass, as Amended.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Will all Members under the sound of my voice please come to the Senate Floor? We're about to take substantial Senate action. Will all administrative assistants, as capable and able as you are, please locate your Senator and send them to the Senate Floor? We have substantial Senate business we would like to conclude in a timely manner, so you can get to your dinner occasions for this evening. Will all Senators under the sound of my voice please come to the Senate Floor? Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY ROCK:

Senator Crotty, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Local Government, reports Senate Bill 3001 Do Pass; and Senate Bills 2637 and 2794 Do Pass, as Amended; and Senate Resolution 605 Be Adopted.

Senator Garrett, Chairperson of the Committee on Environment, reports Senate Bill 3070 Do Pass; and Senate Bill 2549 Do Pass, as Amended.

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Senator Noland, Chairperson of the Committee on Criminal Law, reports Senate Bills 2983, 3028, 3029, 3030 Do Pass; and Senate Bills 2513, 2590, 2824, 2951 Do Pass, as Amended.

I have a committee report correction. The following correction was made to the report from the Senate Transportation Committee, which on February 23rd, 2010, reported Senate Bill 3228 Do Pass and should have reported Senate Bill 3228 as having been Postponed by the Committee.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Will all the Members under the sound of my voice please come to the Senate Floor? All committees should be over at -- at this moment. We have a few more committees later tonight, so you'd like to get in here as soon as you possibly can so we can handle this business and then you can get to your evening dinners. Madam Secretary, Messages from the House.

SECRETARY ROCK:

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 a bill of the following title, in the passage of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit:

House Bill 3762.

We have received like Messages on House Bills 4647, 4654, 4704, 4710, 4758, 4798, 4807 and 4860. All passed the House, February 24th, 2010. Mark Mahoney, Clerk of the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

This is Senator Hendon in the Chair. I am the current Presiding Officer, and you know when I'm in the Chair, it means

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it's time for us to move some legislation. So would all Senators under the sound of my voice, both Democrat and Republican, please come to the Senate Floor? We need all Senators on the Senate Floor immediately so we can handle proper Senate business in a timely fashion, so that those of you who have dinner occasions can go to those functions. Will all Senators under the sound of my voice please come to the Senate Floor before I lose my proper etiquette here and begin to flash back to the old Senator Hendon? All Senators under the sound of my voice please come to the Senate Floor immediately. The Supplemental Calendar is being distributed right now. The Supplemental Calendar is being distributed. So we need you to get these Supplemental Calendars so we can begin. We're going to begin immediately. So will all Senators under the sound of my voice please come to the Senate Floor? We're about to go to substantial Senate action immediately. I am very pleased at the number of Senators who have responded to my call, and if we'd just get a few more, we will begin. We're going to begin without you as soon as the Supplemental Calendar has been completely distributed, which it is being doing {sic} right now. If you would like to vote on the upstanding legislation, you need to be on the Senate Floor at this very moment. Will all administrative assistants please reach out to your Senator and tell them that they need to be on the Senate Floor and right now would be a wonderful time? The Supplemental Calendar has been distributed, so we need all Members on the Senate Floor, especially those who have bills that are about to be called. We need you on the Senate Floor right now. The Supplemental Calendar has been distributed and we're about to go to the two

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bills that we're going to be calling tonight, so I need the sponsors of that particular legislation on the Senate Floor immediately so that we can -- go -- proceed forward. Senator Maloney, for what purpose do you seek recognition, sir?

SENATOR MALONEY:

For the purpose of an announcement, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Make your announcement, my friend.

SENATOR MALONEY:

On Friday, February 26th, at the University of Illinois at Chicago, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Student Assistant {sic} (Assistance) Commission and the -- Illinois Community College Board is sponsoring a college affordability summit. It will be held -- with some very distinguished speakers. We are going to look at the whole concept of college affordability in the State of Illinois and its implication for the students. I would invite any Senator, and if they need further details, please contact my office. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Thank you, Senator. While we're waiting for the sponsors to arrive, I do want to announce that the House/Senate softball game has been scheduled for -- month - not this month - early April. And since I did not win my run for Lieutenant Governor, I will be around to play in several of the games going forward. So this won't be my last game - I was certainly hoping it would be. But -- so get in shape. Senator Lightford and many of us - - others, Senator Steans, have joined the Y so we can get in shape for the Senate softball game, which is coming up. Senator

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Jones needs to get in shape for whatever, including the softball game. But he needs to get in shape just for walking. Emil Jones, III. You know, John Jones is in perfect health. Senator Raoul, for what purpose do you seek recognition, sir?

SENATOR RAOUL:

A point of personal privilege, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

State your point, sir.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I have with me today a constituent of mine, Cleopatra Watson, who just happened to stop by my office and introduce herself. She was down here with the National Association of Social Workers and she introduced herself as a former recipient of a legislative scholarship from my office. And she is a graduate student. She's a graduate of Eastern Illinois University, in Senator Righter's district, and she's currently studying social work at University of Illinois-Chicago. And she is a success story and an example of why we need to continue with the legislative scholarships.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Wonderful! Welcome to the Illinois Senate, young lady. A recipient of a State Senator's legislative scholarship and a success story. Welcome. We're now going to substantial Senate business. Senate Bill 355. Correct? 355. Senator Demuzio. Senator Demuzio, do you seek -- like to proceed? Senator Demuzio seeks... I'm faster than the board. Senator Demuzio seeks leave... The sponsor of 355 is Senator Demuzio and not Senator Cullerton. Senator Demuzio is now the current... Senator

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-- Senator Demuzio seeks leave of the Body to return Senate Bill 355 to the Order of 2nd Reading for purpose of amendment. Leave granted? Leave is granted. Now on the Order of 2nd Reading is Senate Bill 355. Madam Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ROCK:

Floor Amendment 1, offered by Senator Demuzio.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Demuzio.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President and Members of the Senate. I do want to make note that 355 becomes the bill -- the amendment becomes the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

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

SECRETARY ROCK:

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading is Senate Bill 355. Madam Secretary, read the bill.

SECRETARY ROCK:

Senate Bill 355.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Chair would appreciate succinct descriptions of your bill

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and discussion and questions, if any. Senator Demuzio.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

Thank you, Mr. President and Members of the Senate. Senate Bill 355, as amended by Floor Amendment 1, moves the general primary election from the first Tuesday in February to the third Tuesday in March, beginning with the 2012 election. Also, I might mention that this particular bill -- for over forty years -- voters know that the primary date for the third Tuesday in March is the one that most of us all recall. Going back over forty years is the -- the date. Nevertheless, back in 2007, the General Assembly moved that primary date back to early February because we had, as the only state, a very unique situation, that for the first time in over half a century neither political party had an incumbent President or Vice President running. Also, many states moved their primary date so that we could be players and be a part of that primary and that's why we moved -- the date back to -- to the first -- February so that we, as the State of Illinois, could show our support for our President. The primary date passed both Chambers with overwhelming bipartisan support, and in 2008, we had a record turnout. However, that high point with -- was met with a -- dismal turnout numbers for this past election. And as was noted in committee today as we talked about this bill, there are several factors that we can contribute that to. The fact that February 2nd, you're going back. There's about a forty day -- day lag; it takes you right into the -- Christmas Eve, going up to January the 15th, for voter registration. We also notice that there's a weather -- the -- the weather is a factor and the fact that many individuals did not have -- during that particular

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short period of time, get to know the candidates, nor the candidates get to know the particular state, if they're running statewide and had the opportunity. So, therefore, Senate Bill 355 really attempts to address the concerns of our constituents as we look at our election officials by moving the primary date back to our longstanding late March date, which was -- has been in effect, as I said, for over forty years. So, again, I -- I indicated in committee today that I am open to discussing other primary dates as other bills come forth. But I really think that we should get the ball rolling today and look at passing Senate Bill 355 now. And as the House Bill comes over, I would be agreeable to opening up the discussion. Again, I ask for your support. I feel that this is something that you, as elected officials, have a primary concern in as we look at the upcoming elections. I'm open to any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Is there -- is there any discussion? Again, the Chair would appreciate succinct questions and discussions on this issue. Senator Risinger.

SENATOR RISINGER:

Thank you, Mr. President. To the bill: I'm going to support this bill because I think that we certainly do have the primary way too early. For a long time, I've advocated that we needed to shorten the election cycle. And by shortening the election cycle, you actually shorten the amount of money that's put into the -- the campaigns. I wish it was back in June or -- or even earlier, because I think that if somebody's going to challenge us as incumbents - and I think we ought to allow that - they ought to be able to walk door to door in the - at least,

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in our areas - in the sunshine and not have to do that in the snow and the rain and the bad weather. And so, while this is -- is better than it is now, and I'm going to support that, I certainly wish that it was farther into the summer, where the actual election cycle would be shorter and we could talk to people in the sunshine when we go door to door to talk to 'em. Thank you, Senator.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Pankau.

SENATOR PANKAU:

Thank you, Mr. President. A comment on this bill. I support the bill and would urge everyone else to also. I've just come off an election in which I had a petition challenge against one of the other people in the race, and from the last day of filing, which was November 4th, without any -- with everybody expediting everything, there was a -- a local election board challenge, there was a circuit court challenge, and then we took it up to the appellate court. The appellate court could not rule on it until the day after the primary election because there are certain timelines involved in all of this. So, if you do have a challenge, there is not enough time where our primary is right now to go through the whole process of petition challenges. So, I urge, for that point alone, to move that primary back and give more time so that the whole process can be gone through.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Demuzio.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

I just want to comment on the comments that were made here

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from both Senators. We are going to try - I believe there's a bill pending - to try to address Senator Pankau's concerns. And to Senator Risinger, I -- I appreciate your comments. Again, I think that as we look at -- this is a first step in trying to make sure that we address the concerns of our constituents about that -- the fact that they are aware of that third Tuesday in March. And we did bring up the -- June, July. There have been bills addressing five different months and -- but this is a start and I appreciate your comments.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Righter. Leader Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

She indicates she will. Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you. Senator Demuzio, in 2007, did you vote to move the primary up to the first Tuesday in February?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Demuzio.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

Believe I -- I believe all of us did.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Well, no, not all of us did. I think there were probably close to ten members - most on this side of the aisle - who chose not to move the process for one person. But, tell me, why did you feel it was appropriate in 2008 to have the primary on

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the first Tuesday of February?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Demuzio.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

Sorry, I -- could he -- could the -- could Senator repeat his question?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Righter, would you repeat the question, please, sir? Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Senator, given the concerns that you've laid out for us about turnout and weather and issues like that, why did you think it was appropriate then to move the primary up to the first Tuesday in February?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Demuzio.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

Yes, thank you, Senator. As you recall, and you're absolutely right, there were basically 48 Yeses, and I believe that at that point, you did -- you -- you voted No on the bill. And as I indicated in my opening remarks, that was the first time that we have ever had an individual from our Illinois State Senate to be on the national ballot - to be on the ballot for President. You also had individuals, yourself -- some of your colleagues voted for it. And, again, we moved the date up to February 2nd to show that Illinois supported their -- their favorite son coming out of the Illinois State Senate for President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

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Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

To the bill, please, Mr. President. Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Senator Demuzio, I'm going to support your bill and I appreciate forty-eight Members of this Body voted for it then. And the fact that we're now back complaining about the weather and all those kinds of things now, demonstrates that wasn't a good idea. I appreciate that we elected someone out this Body to be President of the United States, and I guess we can debate whether or not that made any real difference to him, to have the primary in February, as opposed to March. But even if it did, I mean, I think it's a little -- it's a little embarrassing for us to stand up -- at least some of us to stand up and say it's appropriate to move a public process for one political candidate. I mean, that's what you're saying - is that, you know what, it's okay to move the process for one person. I don't care if it's a Republican or a Democrat. That's not what -- this process exists. We're supposed to design this process in the best interest of the citizens we serve. I support the bill and I hope we don't make this mistake again. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Thank you, Senator Righter. Thank you for being succinct. This is final action. Senator Demuzio, to close.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

Thank you very much and I certainly appreciate all the comments that have been made. I appreciate the fact that Senator Righter is going on, as -- as a sponsor of this bill. And I certainly appreciate all of the time and effort that has

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been put into looking into how we can best serve our constituencies back home when it comes to the election process. With that, I ask for a favorable vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

The question is, shall Senate Bill 355 pass. All those in favor, vote Aye. Opposed, vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 54 voting Aye, None voting Nay, None voting Present. Senate Bill 355, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Supplemental Calendar No. 1 is Senate Bill 365. President Cullerton. President Cullerton, do you wish to proceed, sir? He indicates he does. President Cullerton seeks leave of the Body to return Senate Bill 365 to the Order of 2nd Reading for the purpose of amendment. Hearing no objection, leave is granted. Now on the Order of 2nd Reading is Senate Bill 365. Madam Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ROCK:

Floor Amendment 1, offered by President Cullerton.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

President Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. The Floor Amendment No. 1, I move that we adopt it and I can explain the bill on 3rd Reading.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the amendment

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is adopted. Have there been any further Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ROCK:

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading is Senate Bill 365. Madam Secretary, read the bill.

SECRETARY ROCK:

Senate Bill 365.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. This bill deals with the legislative waivers that Members of the General Assembly grant. It would prohibit a Member of the General Assembly from awarding a waiver to a person if that person or an immediate family member has contributed a campaign contribution to the Member's political committee within the previous five years after the effective date of the Act. It also would require a Member to terminate a person's waiver if he or she resides at a location outside the -- the Member's district and would prohibit a Member from awarding a waiver if the student has not yet been accepted to a university so that the student cannot use the waiver to garner any favoritism in admission. It would also allow a Member of the General Assembly to forfeit awarding such waivers in any given year. This is a change from the current practice where the -- the waivers, if not used, are

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still accumulated. This way you could forfeit the waivers and indicate that they will not be used. It also would require the person receiving the waiver to disclose whether he or she or their immediate family has contributed to the political committee of the Member awarding the waiver, and if it's false or misleading, then the person would lose their waiver and reimburse the university for any tuition waiver. Be happy to answer any questions and I would urge that we all support this..

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Is there any discussion? Senator Risinger.

SENATOR RISINGER:

Thank you. Will the sponsor yield for a question?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

He indicates he will yield. Senator Risinger.

SENATOR RISINGER:

Senator, if -- if I would award a scholarship to a -- an individual that graduates from Bradley, for example, but is going on to medical school at Southern, and they're married and their residence becomes down at Southern, are you saying that they can't have that scholarship?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Yes, I think that's correct. They'd be out of the district. If their -- if their legal residence remains in your district, then they would still be entitled to the scholarship. And I believe that that's the current law.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Risinger. No, sir?

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SENATOR RISINGER:

No questions. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator John Jones.

SENATOR J. JONES:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

He indicates he will yield. Senator John Jones.

SENATOR J. JONES:

Senator Cullerton, in committee, it was brought up that we needed to review all the waivers that we're doing at our universities because of the -- of the cost of 'em and like. And I -- I believe you semi-committed, anyway, to doing that. And I would hope - only thing I'm doing is making a statement - I would hope that we would do that in the near future because these things are getting out of hand and are -- it's costing our universities a ton of money. I know some Members, as -- as Senator Hendon said, that, you know, some of these awarded -- you know, we hope that we've all awarded 'em to worthy people - and -- and for the most part, we have, I think. But it's just costing these universities. And we're not reimbursing the universities for these waivers and so other family members that have children going to college is making up that cost. And so I would hope that we would -- we'd look at all the waivers.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Mike Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

Question of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

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He indicates he will yield. Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

Senator, how does this affect athletic scholarships, those waivers that we give to athletes? Or does this just affect kids who are working hard and trying to get into school? So my question, I think, in the end is, we reward kids for being great basketball players, but if you're a C student, maybe not the best student in the world, we don't want to reward you. Is that -- is that what we're trying to say?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Senator, this bill deals with the General Assembly and their legislative waivers and it retains those legislative waivers, but -- but it's meant to address perceived abuses of the -- of the process - like giving a scholarship to somebody who lives outside your district; giving a scholarship to somebody and then they give you a big campaign contribution, and that's something we wanted to address; or using the scholarship to get somebody in who otherwise wouldn't get in. So those are -- those are the things that we're trying to address with this particular bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

I have noticed that there has been some abuses and I'm aware of at least a couple of Reps, maybe a Senator or two, who've taken large amounts of money from a parent and then turned around and given scholarships. Now, I don't know if

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that's an abuse or not, because the voters in -- in my -- in -- in the case that I'm familiar with in my district - my Rep gave -- took sixteen thousand dollars and then gave a scholarship - the voters knew that; they voted for him anyway. I mean, I just think that maybe we're chasing windmills. I know Senator Brady may have something to comment on this issue as that he has -- has been -- had this kind of problem himself. And so, I don't know if Senator Brady might want to comment on how he feels about that particular situation.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Well, Senator Jacobs, the Chair would appreciate succinct questions and answers and we don't want to prolong this issue. President Cullerton, you did not want to respond to that, did you? I didn't think so. Leader Radogno.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to comment on the bill in general. I think some of the -- the changes being proposed are decent changes, but they are wholly inadequate. And as many Members know, Senator Frerichs, myself, and Senator Brady have all had bills to eliminate the General Assembly scholarship. I definitely think that's the direction that we should be going. The abuses, I believe probably most Members try to -- to do this in a fair and evenhanded way. There clearly have been documented abuses; that doesn't help our perception with the public. So, I think, right now, the best way to go is eliminate them altogether. But, secondly, I want to address the fiscal issue. Here we are hearing from many people the only thing the State can do is raise taxes, and yet these scholarships are a cost to the State. The Columbia

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College -- University {sic} journalism program did a study and found that over six years, eight -- eight thousand scholarships were issued that cost fifty million dollars. And these are not all poor kids who wouldn't have an opportunity to go to school. In 2008, sixty-seven medical students at U of I in Chicago were on legislative scholarships. That's a cost of 2.2 million dollars. Now, that is not going to bail us out of our financial problems, but I have a very difficult time going to my constituents and saying we're continuing these kinds of practices and we refuse to do away with them and tighten that up, just send us more money. This is precisely the kind of thing that we need to be doing to demonstrate to the people in this State that we are good stewards of the tax dollars they're already sending us. So, while I will support these minor changes, which I think are basically PR and really won't accomplish much, we need to look at eliminating all the General Assembly scholarships and evaluating all the other tuition waivers that are out there.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Thank you, Leader Radogno. Usually we go to the Leader last, but there were two other lights that I missed by mistake and these will be the last two speakers, Senator Raoul and then Senator Lightford, and then President Cullerton to close. Senator Raoul. Briefly, sir.

SENATOR RAOUL:

To the bill: I'd like to commend the sponsor for the bill. This -- this is not PR. This is clearly eliminating quid pro quo and -- with regards to giving legislative scholarships. With regards to the notion that legislative scholarships should

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be eliminated altogether, well, I have right here, sitting in my seat right now, an example as to why legislative scholarships should not be eliminated altogether. There are people who would otherwise be looked over by -- and I thought the Senator in committee brought -- brought up a good point - to the extent that we're going to review these waivers, let's review them comprehensively, instead of isolating legislative scholarships. One of the things that I've done with regards to my committee that reviews these things, I say let's have an essay so the applicants can explain challenges that they overcame that would otherwise put -- have them in a different situation. And Miss Watson, who's sitting here -- in my seat right now, introduced - I didn't know her - she introduced herself to me today, just happened to be here. She's somebody who's lending herself back to public service. She's going to school right now as a graduate student for social work at UIC. And so, it's a success story. And we in government are about investing in our citizens and I think that's what happened in Miss Watson's case and many other cases of legislative scholarships given by the Members in this Chamber on both sides of the aisle, whom I trust.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Lightford. Leader Lightford.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you, Mr. President. To the bill: As the Chairman of the subcommittee who listened to the testimony from Senator Frerichs and Senator Radogno, Senator Brady did not attend the subcommittee hearing to provide testimony. But one of the things that I do want to bring up, Senator John Jones brought up a point about waivers being looked at across the board; that

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wasn't even a suggestion until it was noted by President Cullerton that there's veteran waivers, there's waivers that faculty give for their family members. And we learned today that only ten percent -- waivers are part of General Assembly scholarships. Only ten percent of the total school waiver is averaged at ten percent coming from the General Assembly scholarship. So when we hear those numbers that Leader Radogno throw out, we're up in arms, believing we're the ones to cause all these financial burdens, which we found out today was not the case. So I'm hoping that President Cullerton will open up the door for opportunity to take a look at all the waivers when you're considering getting rid of such a valuable piece, not only to my constituency, but I'm sure to many other Members here. And what I love about this amendment, as a Member you can opt out. Leader Radogno, even though you don't agree with it, you passed out all your scholarships last year. You have students in school right now on General Assembly scholarships. So if you're a legislator who speaks against the bill, you're not interested in sharing this provision with your constituency, opt out - don't accept the scholarship. But don't stand on the Senate Floor and speak against it and then turn around and issue eight scholarships out to your constituencies. That's one point I was hoping to make. And then I, finally, wanted to bring up the point that these parents still have to pay room and board. They're not at SIU free. They're not totally at U of I, Northern, any of our institutions, for free. Their parents still have to come out of their pockets, some kind of way, to pay for their room and board. So what we're doing is helping them get there. We're giving them an opportunity to have an

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education higher than their high school education. And we want to produce quality constituents out of our districts. I see nothing wrong with this amendment, I think that our General Assembly scholarships is a plus for our constituency, and if any of you decide that you don't want 'em, I'd be happy to receive them in the 4th Senate District.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Thank you, Senator. Catie Sheehan from WICS-TV here in Springfield, one excellent location, seeks leave to videotape. Leave is granted? Leave is granted. Leader Radogno.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

Thank you, Mr. President. Since the -- my name was cited, I did want to clarify: the figures that I mentioned are legislative scholarships only. That is the cost to the State of legislative scholarships, not all the tuition waivers. I will also take this opportunity, though, another point that was made is that those legislators that don't want to give them out have the option not to do that. That is true, but to the extent that anybody gives them out, it cost shifts on to those families that have to write those tuition checks, whether they are undergraduates or graduate students. So just having people decline giving them out does not solve the problem. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Radogno, I will always recognize you whether your name was spoken in debate or not, as long as I'm in the Chair. President Cullerton, to close.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Yes, thank you very much, Mr. President. A very good discussion. To address some of the points raised: Yes, I think

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it's a very good idea for us to take up maybe a task force or committee to address all of the legislative -- all of the tuition waivers. I was -- actually I didn't know the statistic, but in committee someone said that the legislative waivers are only ten percent of the total. So if that's the case, if we're going to talk about abolishing all of them or some of them, we should do it all at the same time and look at all of them kind of globally. So I think we should do that. I'll be happy to do that. I don't know how much money goes to veterans or how much money goes to the university employees - there's -- they have legislative waivers - or how much goes to the athletic department. So, I think it's something we should definitely do. But I would say that this is -- this is in response to allegations, specific allegations, that there were abuses. So, if it's just PR, that means those allegations weren't true. I don't know that they were true or not. I think it's clear that we should -- make it clear that -- since there's a perception that if you get a campaign contribution and somebody gets a scholarship, that there's some kind of a connection. So we should, going forward, say you can't do that anymore. That's very important. And as far as the legislator -- allowing the legislator to forfeit awarding such waivers, that's an affirmative act that you can take to start saving money for the universities by not giving these scholarships out. And if you think that's important, go ahead and start doing it. But, I -- I think that's -- that's a good way to respond to those folks who say they think they should abolish it. So, I think it's a - a good reform. I appreciate an Aye vote and appreciate your debate.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

The question is, shall Senate Bill 365 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. And the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 54 voting Aye, none voting Nay, none voting Present. Senate Bill 365, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. There being no further business to come before the Senate -- I'm sorry. My great, distinguished, favorite Republican, Senator Millner, for what purpose do you seek recognition? Senator Millner.

SENATOR MILLNER:

Thank -- thank you, Mr. President. Thank you very much. I rise to request to table Senate Bill 3078.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senate Bill 3078 is tabled. Your request is in order. Now, there being no further business to come before the Senate. The Senate stands adjourned -- has been adjourned until the hour of 11 a.m. on the 25th day of February, 2010. The Senate stands adjourned.