

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE

47th Legislative Day

5/16/2023

Speaker Mah: "The House will be in order. Members will be in their chairs. We shall be led in prayer today by Chaplain Brady Lanoue from the House.. from the Illinois National Guard. Members and guests are asked to refrain from starting their laptops, turn off all cell phones, and rise for the invocation and Pledge of... Pledge of Allegiance."

Chaplain Lanoue: "Please join me in prayer. Almighty God, we give you thanks for this day, for this opportunity to remember those who have gone in service before us and have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Their memories are worth us bringing to mind and reflecting on, for the sacrifice they've made has made this place possible. We give you thanks for each one of these people that have done... done this for us. And we pray this in your holy name, Amen."

Speaker Mah: "We will be led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Representative Walker."

Walker - et al: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Speaker Mah: "Roll Call for Attendance. Leader Buckner is recognized to report any excused absences on the Democratic side of the aisle."

Buckner: "Madam Speaker, let the record show that Representatives Davis, Jones, and Rita are excused today."

Speaker Mah: "Leader Keicher is recognized to report any excused absences on the Republican side of the aisle."

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Keicher: "Madam Speaker, please let the record reflect that all Republicans are here today to conduct the business of the people."

Speaker Mah: "Have all recorded themselves as... who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. There being 115 Members answering the roll call, a quorum is present. Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "In accordance with the established tradition of the Illinois House of Representatives, it is fitting that we honor our brothers and sisters who have given their lives in service to our country as the guardians of our long-held freedoms by reciting those words so humbly said by our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln: 'Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in the larger sense - we cannot dedicate - we cannot consecrate - we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus so far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here

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dedicated to the great task remaining before us - that from those honored dead we take increased devotion to the cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion - that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom - and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.' Those words from long ago still speak to us, to the sacrifice of the brave men and women who we now honor, of the American Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines from the State of Illinois who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country."

Ladisch Douglass, West, Ness, Williams, A.: "Sings *Amazing Grace*."

Speaker Mah: "There are no names to read for this year, but we honor those who have passed serving our country."

(Playing of *Taps*.)

Speaker Mah: "Thank you, Members. Mr. Clerk, Committee Reports."

Clerk Hollman: "Committee Reports. Representative Gabel, Chairperson from the Committee on Rules reports the following committee action on May 16, 2023: recommends be adopted, referred to the floor is Floor Amendment(s) 3 to Senate Bill 58. The Representative for... the Chairperson for the Committee on Police & Fire reports the following committee action on May 16, 2023: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 2475, House Resolution 247, Floor Amendment(s) 2 to Senate Bill 1754, and Senate Joint Resolution 7. Representative Stava-Murray, Chairperson from the Committee on Public Health reports the following committee action on May 16, 2023: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 285; recommends be adopted is the Motion

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to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 and 2 to House Bill 2039, and House Resolution 251. Representative Ann Williams, Chairperson from the Committee on Energy & Environment reports the following committee action on May 16, 2023: do pass as amended Short Debate is Senate Bill 1555; recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 2174 and the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 2776. Representative Stuart, Chairperson from the Committee on Higher Education reports the following committee action on May 16, 2023: recommends be adopted... recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 301, and the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 1378, Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 1767, and Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 3498. Representative Moylan, Chairperson from the Committee on Transportation: Regulations, Roads & Bridges reports the following committee action on May 16, 2023: recommends be adopted is House Joint Resolutions 23, 28, 33, 34, and House Resolution 252. Representative Harper, Chairperson from the Committee on Agriculture & Conservation reports the following committee action on May 16, 2023: recommends be adopted is House Resolution 268 and Senate Joint Resolution 22. Representative Meyers-Martin, Chairperson from the Committee on Consumer Protection reports the following committee action on May 16, 2023: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 2086 and the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 3236. Representative Evans, Chairperson from the Committee on Labor & Commerce reports the following committee action taken on

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May 16, 2023: recommends be adopted are the Motions to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 2068, Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 3129, with Senate Amendment(s) 2 to House Bill 3129, Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 3351, and Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 3400. Representative Scherer, Chairperson from the Committee on Elementary & Secondary Education: Administration, Licensing & Charter Schools reports the following committee action on May 16, 2023: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 1446; do pass as amended Short Debate is Senate Bill 1352 and Senate Bill 1872; and recommends be adopted are the Motions to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 and 2 to House Bill 3570. Representative Andrade, Chairperson from the Committee on Transportation: Vehicles & Safety reports the following committee action on May 16, 2023: recommends be adopted is House Resolution 255. Representative Moeller, Chairperson from the Committee on Human Services reports the following committee action on May 16, 2023: recommends be adopted are the Motions to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 2 to House Bill 780, Motions to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 2214, and Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 3699, House Resolution 261, and House Resolution 262. Representative Gong-Gershowitz, Chairperson from the Committee on Judiciary - Civil reports the following committee action on May 16, 2023: recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 219, and the Motions to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 2220, and Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 3314. Representative Mussman, Chairperson from the Committee Elementary &

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Secondary Education: School Curriculums & Policies reports the following committee action on May 16, 2023: recommends be adopted is the Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 1633 and House Resolution 256. Representative Jones, Chairperson from the Committee on Insurance reports the following committee action on May 16, 2023: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 764; and recommends be adopted are the Motions to Concur with Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 1565 and Senate Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 2443. Introduction of Resolutions. House Resolution 291, offered by Representative Yednock; and House Resolution 292, offered by Representative Ammons, are referred to the Rules Committee.

Speaker Mah: "Representative Ford, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Ford: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Mah: "Please proceed."

Ford: "Members, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I would like to announce that today is a very special day. It's my friend's birthday. I want to wish Representative Fred Crespo, the tall, dark, handsome Representative, a happy birthday. Happy birthday, Fred."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Collins, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Collins: "Thank you, Madam Chair. I just wanted to introduce this Body, some very young important professionals who are here visiting the Capitol today. They are in my district. The Collins Academy High School. They are right here in the back. Stand up. From the West Side of Chicago, purple and gold.

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Asked a lot of important questions, but welcome to the Capitol."

Speaker Mah: "Welcome to your Capitol. Representative Guerrero-Cuellar, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Guerrero-Cuellar: "Thank you, Madam Chair. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Mah: "Please proceed."

Guerrero-Cuellar: "Thank you. I would like to ask the Body if you can help me welcome, recognize St. Nicholas of Tolentine, who is obviously here to advocate for the scholarship program, but is one of the schools in my district and very happy to support, as well as St. Nicholas Cathedral, which is also here for the same reason. And they... I want to recognize that they have served to support the asylum seekers from Ukraine during the Russian invasion. So, if we can welcome both schools, I would appreciate it."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Rosenthal, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Rosenthal: "Thank you, Madam Chair. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Mah: "Please proceed."

Rosenthal: "Today, I have with me two Pages for the day. The first is Luke Cycholl, who is actually a Page for Senator McClure. But because of the Senate Rules and being in the Howlett Building, there's no place for him to be over there. So, he came to join us on the House Floor, and he's from New Berlin. And second of all, we have Isaac Elliott, who is a student at Chatham Glenwood High School. And I'd just like the chamber to wish both of them welcome to the chamber. Thank you."

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Speaker Mah: "Representative Niemerg, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Niemerg: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. A point of personal privilege."

Speaker Mah: "Please state your point."

Niemerg: "I rise today in support of the Invest in Kids scholarship fund. This scholarship fund is a shared interest of both sides of the aisle, and it's a shared interest because all of us care about the education and well-being of underprivileged children. And that is exactly who this scholarship program benefits. According to recent reports, 9700 students received scholarships for the 2022-2023 school year. Twenty-two thousand students were waitlisted for scholarships when the seventy-five million in donated funds was exhausted. Over \$330 million has been raised in the past 5 years and almost 41 thousand scholarships have been issued. Those scholarships are a direct benefit to some of the neediest families in our state. We should be talking about expanding this program and certainly extending it. This isn't about politics. It's about working families. I encourage all Members of the House to think of the children benefitting from these scholarships and support this very successful program, the Invest in Kids scholarship."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Davidsmeyer, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Davidsmeyer: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Mah: "State your point."

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Daidsmeyer: "Very quick point. I want to wish Kaylee Ezard a happy birthday today. She's on the Senate side, works for Senate Republicans. I believe this is her first birthday while we're in Session. So, just want to wish her a very happy birthday."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Yednock, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Yednock: "Point of... point of personal privilege, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Mah: "Please state your point."

Yednock: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Members of the Body, I have a Page for the day today. His name is Drake Snow. He is the son of Kurt and Jennifer Snow. Many of you know Kurt. He is an AFFI member that's down here quite a bit. Couple of facts about Drake. He's age seven. He's finishing second grade at St. Michael's the Archangel in Streator. He's actually skipping school for this, but don't tell anybody. He likes chess, video games, basketball, and playing his drum set. He told me today he might want to be an operating engineer, which I think is a fine way to make a living. But he also might, since he got his First Communion, was thinking about maybe the priesthood. Unfortunately, for Kurt, he does not want to be a fire person. So, let's give a big round for Drake."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Ladisch Douglass, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Ladisch Douglass: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Mah: "Please state your point."

Ladisch Douglass: "Thank you very much. I am here to introduce my Page for the day, Reese Daugherty (sic-Goodrich). She's an

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eighth grade student from Elmhurst, which is in my home district. And I hope you all give her a warm welcome. Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Williams, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Williams, A.: "A point of personal privilege."

Speaker Mah: "Please proceed."

Williams, A.: "Thank you. I am so very honored to welcome back to the Illinois House Representative Kim du Buclet. Kim.. Kim was here, I think my first term we served together, and we have stayed friends and allies. She is a strong environmental champion. She joins us from the MWRD, and I think she'll be a great asset to her community, once again, here in the House. Welcome, Kim."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Coffey, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Coffey: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Point of personal privilege. I would just..."

Speaker Mah: "Please state your point."

Coffey: "Okay. I would like to say happy birthday to Representative Wayne Rosenthal. He is much older than he looks. So, let's give him all a big round of applause. Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Jacobs, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Jacobs: "A point of personal privilege. Thank you, Chairman."

Speaker Mah: "Please proceed."

Jacobs: "I wanted to remind all Illinoisans where Memorial Day services began. They began right here in Illinois, very

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specifically in Southern Illinois, where I might just happen to be from that district. It's in Murphysboro. John A. Logan, General John A. Logan, from the Union Army began Memorial Day services that many years ago. I believe 1868 or '69. This is just strictly from memory. But I wanted to thank the general for starting it 'cause it's a wonderful, wonderful thing that we do. And thank Illinois for having it and continuing it. We appreciate it. Thank you, Madam Chairman... Chairwoman."

Speaker Mah: "Thank you. Representative Swanson, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Swanson: "Point of personal privilege, Speaker."

Speaker Mah: "Please state your point."

Swanson: "I would like to recognize a special guest we have here in the Speaker's Gallery today, and if I could ask him to stand up. With us today is Director Prince. Director Prince is the director of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs. As a director, he leads a team of 1200 professionals in partnership with numerous local and state organizations, provide services for more than 600 thousand veterans and their families. Director Prince served as a superintendent of the Ohio veterans' homes and has a strong background and has been very... working very hard to get our veterans homes here in Illinois to the standards that we would expect as Members of this House. He leads 850 employees providing skilled nursing at the three separate facilities, including the fifth largest veterans home in the country. Director Prince began his military career in 1986 and went on to serve at 14 different duty stations around the world. His most recent tours include Command Master Chief at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, North

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Carolina. Even as a naval person, this Army guy gets along well with Director Prince, having come from the Navy. Director Prince earned a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership from Chapman University as a graduate of the National Defense University Keystone Leadership Fellowship, Navy Senior Enlisted Academy, and the Navy Command Master Chief. He's a proud Eagle Scout and finisher of the Ironman Hawaii Triathlon World Championship. Ladies and Gentlemen, I'd like for us to give a warm welcome to Director Prince, the director for the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs. Thank you, Sir."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Mason, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Mason: "Point of personal privilege, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Mah: "Please state your point."

Mason: "Thank you. There are happy birthdays all around today, and we would be remiss if we did not also wish a happy birthday to James Hartmann, the House general counsel. Happy Birthday, James."

Speaker Mah: "Representative West, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

West: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Mah: "Please state your point."

West: "I wanted to take this time to yield the floor back to our newly-appointed Representative, Rep. Kim du Buclet, so she can introduce herself to the Body."

Speaker Mah: "Representative du Buclet, please proceed."

du Buclet: "Thank you. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Kim du Buclet. I served in the General Assembly probably 10 years

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ago. I'm happy to be back, and if there's anything I can do to support any of you, please let me know. I'm very happy to be back. Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Proceed to the Order of Third Readings... House Bills on Third Reading. On page 4 of the Calendar, under Third Readings, we have House Bill... Senate Bill 86, offered by Representative Stuart. Out of the record. Senate Bill 734, offered by Representative Slaughter. Out of the record. Senate Bill 1402, offered by Representative LaPointe. Out of the record. Senate Bill 2028, offered by Representative Stuart. Representative Stuart is recognized. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 2028, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Stuart."

Stuart: "Thank you. Senate Bill 2028 is an initiative of a group called Distress Bandanna. They have been going around on their own, going to high schools and informing students going through driver's ed about how to... what to happen if your vehicle is distressed and pulling over to the side and waiting for emergency personnel and everything like that. They would like information on this to be included in *The Rules of the Road* so that it makes it into the curriculum for driver's ed across the state. And I would appreciate an 'aye' vote in support of this."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Mah: "She... she will yield."

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Windhorst: "Thank... thank you. Thank you, Representative for bringing this forward. I note in our analysis that the Municipal League is a supporter and the Secretary of State and ABATE are neutral. Is that accurate?"

Stuart: "Yes."

Windhorst: "All right. Thank you."

Stuart: "Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Stuart to close."

Stuart: "I would appreciate an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Mah: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill... Senate Bill 2028 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Clerk, take the record. On this question, there... 115 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no', 0 voting president... 'present'. And the Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. The Clerk is in receipt of Motions in Writing to waive the posting requirements for several Bills. If there is leave, we will take these in one Motion. Leader Buckner on the Motion."

Buckner: "Madam Speaker, I move that the posting requirements be waived so the following Bills can be heard this week in committee: SB1291 to be heard in Judicial - Civil; SB1956 to be heard in Personnel & Pensions; SB850 to be heard in Revenue; all of the following to be heard in Executive, SB1068, SB2123, SB89, SB1289, SB1298, SB1699, SB2417, SB2412, SB2324, and SB689."

Speaker Mah: "Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Mah: "He indicates he will."

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Windhorst: "Thank you, Leader. How many Bills are we moving to waive the posting requirements on?"

Buckner: "There is 3, 6, 9.. 14 in total."

Windhorst: "And do you know if any of those have as their chief Sponsor a Republican?"

Buckner: "I'm not sure, Representative."

Windhorst: "I believe we were informed that they're all sponsored by your side of the aisle."

Buckner: "Okay."

Windhorst: "What is the reason for requesting this waiver?"

Buckner: "As we know Friday is the scheduled date for us to end Session. And so, to put us in the position to be able to move legislation in this last week."

Windhorst: "Madam Speaker, we request a recorded vote on this Motion."

Speaker Mah: "Leader Buckner has moved to waive the posting requirements. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those vote... all those vote 'aye'; all those opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there is 75 voting 'yes', 40 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And the posting requirements are waived. Moving to Senate Bills on Second Reading. We have Senate Bill 183, Representative Mussman. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 183, a Bill for an Act concerning education. This Bill was read a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #1, offered by Representative Mussman, has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Mussman on the Amendment."

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Mussman: "Thank you, Madam Speaker, Members of the House. This... House Floor Amendment #1 adds a provision at the request of parent groups to state that if the parents cannot be in the initial meeting held between the two schools, as the child is being sent to an alternative school, that they will be invited to participate in a meeting within the next 30 days and that a copy of the student's plan will be given to them ahead of time so that they can be prepared to provide input."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Mussman moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #1. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Hollman: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Mah: "Third Reading. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 183, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Mussman is recognized."

Mussman: "Thank you. Senate Bill 183 is... is the work of Senator Laura Murphy. She's been working on this Bill for quite some time, at the request of one of our constituents, to improve the transition between students leaving their original host school and transferring to an alternative school for many reasons. It makes sure that the parents have more information about these services that the receiving school can provide. It creates a timeline with a date for return to the original host school. It sets up provisions that the student will not return to the host school until there is a written agreement with the student's parents and the school, and just... just

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makes that transition clearer for everyone. And I want to thank her for all the hard work she's put in over this Bill. I'm happy to answer any questions."

Speaker Mah: "Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Mah: "She indicates she will yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Representative. What brought this Bill forward?"

Mussman: "So, we had a constituent, it was a young man at the time, who is now, I'm proud to say, studying law, in... in law school. And he... his family didn't have a very positive experience in transitioning over to an alternative school. There was a lot of confusion about what the school was ultimately going to offer. There was confusion about if or when he was ever going to return to the host school. There wasn't really a clear plan outlined for what kind of steps need to be followed to be allowed to... to return or to create consideration for that. So, ultimately, this creates clarity around that. We had significant input from West40 and a number of other advocates who helped us really put together a plan."

Windhorst: "Are there any known opponents to your Bill?"

Mussman: "Not that I'm aware of."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Mussman to close."

Mussman: "I would appreciate an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Mah: "The question is, 'Shall House... Senate Bill 183 pass?' All those in favor say (sic-vote) 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay'... vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? On this question,

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there are 115 voting in 'favor', 0 'opposed', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Representative Kifowit on Senate Bill 1233. Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 1233, a Bill for an Act concerning education. This Bill was read a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendments 1 and 2 have been approved for consideration by Representative Kifowit. Floor Amendment #1 is offered by Representative Kifowit."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Kifowit on Floor Amendment 1."

Kifowit: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. House Floor Amendment 1 makes some small technical changes. It keeps the overall principle of the Bill. One of the changes is it does not apply to Chicago Public Schools. The second changes the number from 525 full-time licensed teachers to 575 licensed teachers. And the last stipulates that the district shall offer more than one financial institution, rather than at least one. I ask for its adoption."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Kifowit moves for the adoption of House Floor Amendment #1. All those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Hollman: "Floor Amendment... Floor Amendment #2 is offered by Representative Kifowit."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Kifowit on Floor Amendment #2."

Kifowit: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Floor Amendment 2 made just a few changes. It strikes the word 'contribution' and the term 'independent compliance administrator'. This was

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requested by the IT department at TRS to conform with their coding."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Kifowit moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #2. All those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Hollman: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Kifowit on the Bill. Third Reading."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 1233, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Kifowit."

Kifowit: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is an initiative of the American Retirement Association. Currently, we passed, a couple years ago, automatic enrollment in TRS. That has not changed in this Bill. But what this Bill does, it allows that school districts to offer more than one financial institution, rather than just one, to provide choice and more options for their teachers. And I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Reick is recognized."

Reick: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Mah: "She indicates she will yield."

Reick: "Representative Kifowit, we had a conversation about this Bill in the... in committee. Is there anything in this Bill that requires a school district to establish a 457 plan if they do not have one?"

Kifowit: "Currently, right now... past legislation, they established a 457 plan through TRS. So, every school district has a 457 plan established through TRS that they are auto-

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enrolled in. If the individual wishes not to be in that TRS plan, then they will have the option, through this Bill, to allow more than one other option for them to enter into. Smaller school districts do not have to offer.. it's not mandatory. They are optional to offer more than one. Larger school districts, they should offer more than one."

Reick: "Can you explain the reason why we changed the number of students in the school, the enrollment criteria by which these plans will be offered?"

Kifowit: "We... we didn't change the number of students. Which we did was we changed the full-time..."

Reick: "I'm sorry. Teachers. You're right."

Kifowit: "...faculty number. So, what we... we used it as benchmark, this full-time faculty number, to just delineate between mandatory and optional. It was requested by the opposition to have them go neutral. So, this is an agreed Bill. There's no opposition currently on this Bill to raise the teacher number from 525 to 575. Again, this is a benchmark number. Smaller school districts have the option to provide more than one financial institution. Larger school districts are required to allow choice of more than one financial institution."

Reick: "Can you... can you speak to the opposition of the larger administrator that had originally objected to this Bill, please?"

Kifowit: "I... I can't speak for them. All I know is that they slipped in neutral. And so, they are in agreement with this Bill."

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Reick: "Very good. In committee, you'll note that we did come out on partisan leave, but the Amendments did clear this up. And I would urge an 'aye' vote. Thank you very much."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Kifowit to close."

Kifowit: "I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Mah: "On this question, 'Shall Senate Bill 1233 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 114 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no', 1 voting 'present'. And this Bill... Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Representative Huynh on House Bill 1250... Senate Bill 1250. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1250, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Amendment #2 was adopted in committee. Floor Amendment #4 is offered by Representative Huynh."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Huynh is recognized."

Huynh: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Amendment 4 is cleanup language from the Senate. There's no opposition on the Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Huynh moves for the adoption of House Floor Amendment #4. All those in favor say 'aye'; all opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Bolin: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Mah: "Third Reading. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1250, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Huynh."

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Huynh: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Senate Bill 1250 requires all those who apply flame-resistant material to steel structures be certified by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. There's no opposition on this Bill. The Bill overwhelmingly passed the Senate, and it passed committee unanimously.. unanimously as well. I urge an 'aye' vote. Thank you so much for your time."

Speaker Mah: "Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Mah: "He indicates he'll yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, I just want to go through some of the things that the Bill does. It amends the State Fire Marshal Act to create fire-resistant material applicator certification. Is that correct?"

Huynh: "That is correct."

Windhorst: "And that also will require registration?"

Huynh: "It creates a new Act."

Windhorst: "I'm sorry?"

Huynh: "Could I... I missed... I..."

Windhorst: "Yes, please."

Huynh: "Could you repeat the question?"

Windhorst: "I said it also requires registration as well as..."

Huynh: "Yes, that is correct."

Windhorst: "...that certification? And there are fines that are involved for violation. How much is the fine if the Act is violated?"

Huynh: "Yes. The fine is \$250 per day."

Windhorst: "All right. And who's in charge of enforcing that violation?"

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Huynh: "This is the Office of the State Fire Marshal."

Windhorst: "And is there any office that's charged with potentially bringing legal action if necessary?"

Huynh: "Yes, this would be the Attorney General or the state's Attorney General will be able to apply for legal action."

Windhorst: "So, either the Attorney General's Office or our local county state's attorneys will handle that. Is that accurate?"

Huynh: "That is accurate."

Windhorst: "And how often will this registration need to be renewed?"

Huynh: "It is every three years."

Windhorst: "Are there any exemptions to these regulations?"

Huynh: "Yes. There are exemptions for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. That is under a different purview."

Windhorst: "And that... that's being regulated by the Federal Government, so that's why they're exempted?"

Huynh: "That is correct."

Windhorst: "And what will occur with any fees that are collected under this Act?"

Huynh: "It's going to go to the Fire Prevention Fund."

Windhorst: "And what is that fund used for?"

Huynh: "It's used to make sure that we prevent fires from happening, making sure that there are protocols in place to prevent firefighters from, you know, dangerous conditions and scenarios."

Windhorst: "Are there any associated costs with the Bill?"

Huynh: "There are no associated costs to the Bill right now. It's done within... in house within the Office of the State Fire Marshal."

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Windhorst: "And what brought this Bill forward?"

Huynh: "This was brought by the masons, but we also heard from our firefighters as well that, you know, when they run into burning buildings all the time, they want to make sure that these structures have been applied correctly. And so, that's the reason for the Bill, is to make sure that we protect firefighters and we also protect the folks who are living in these buildings as well."

Windhorst: "And back to the cost associated, does the Office of State Fire Marshal believe they can absorb this under their current budget?"

Huynh: "Right now, we're giving the Office of the State Fire Marshal to July 1, 2025 to figure out the rules to implement this program, and we'll give them that time for them to look at in-house operations."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Huynh to close."

Huynh: "This Bill is going to save firefighters' lives. It's going to save the lives of many of the folks in our communities. I urge an 'aye' vote. Thank you for your time."

Speaker Mah: "The question is, 'Shall House.. Senate Bill 1250 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 75 voting 'yes', 40 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And the Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Senate Bill 1630, Representative Kifowit. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

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Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1630, a Bill for an Act concerning public employee benefits. The Bill was read for a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #1 is offered by Representative Kifowit."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Kifowit on Floor Amendment #1."

Kifowit: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. House Floor Amendment 1 is a page and line Amendment that provides, beginning 2024, that the Tier 2 pensionable salaries shall be annually, therefore, increased by the lesser of three percent of the annual amount, including all previous adjustments and the annual unadjusted percentage increases. This is an Amendment that puts the Chicago fire on par with the downstate pension fire system. What we are doing is, again, creating parity between the two systems for Chicago fire and the other downstate system."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Kifowit moves the adoption of Floor Amendment #1. All those in favor vote... say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Bolin: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Mah: "Third Reading. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1630, a Bill for an Act concerning public employee benefits. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Kifowit."

Kifowit: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Senate Bill 1630, as I mentioned with the Amendment, is a parity Bill with Chicago Local 2 and the downstate fire pension system. There's been a lot of information with regard to this Bill, but I want to point out that the actual studies I have do not come close to

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what has been reported in the news. So, I wanted to put that on the record. And again, this is a parity Bill with downstate fire. I ask for your support."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Reick is recognized."

Reick: "Thank you. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Mah: "She indicates she will."

Reick: "Representative, we did have a very robust conversation in committee on this Bill. And I think we owe it to our colleagues here to explain what the circumstances are that gave rise to this Bill and why it is important to... to bring these... these two fire systems into... into conformity with one another. During the... Madam Speaker, could... could we tone it down a little bit in here, please? During the committee hearing, we received an analysis from Segal, brought on by... on behalf of Local 2 of the Chicago Fire Department. Would you... could we... could you explain a little bit more of what went into that... into that analysis, please?"

Kifowit: "Thank you, Minority Spokesperson. I appreciate the question. There has been several information going on in the news and being released. And so, Segal was contracted by Firefighters Local 2 to do an analysis. The analysis... and, Members, I just want to reiterate that the pension system, as Minority Spokesperson said on the record in committee, needs to be addressed. And... excuse me. It needs to be adequately prepared and looked into. So, based on the Segal plan, they looked at the pensionable salary, limited to 106,211, will increase by the lesser of 3 percent or one-half of the change in CPI, but not less than the salary limit of 116 thousand.

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At the end of the day, this report, which is available for anybody here on the House Floor, states that while there is an increase in cost, the increase in cost is not to the effect that has been repeated in the billions. What we are looking at is, the fund's normal cost would increase by 6 million. And what we have here is the... which is really .55 percent, and the actual accrued liability would increase by 23.8 million as well, according to the Segal analysis."

Reick: "Are you looking at the Segal analysis for 1630 or for 1629?"

Kifowit: "This says... actually now, Senate Bill #1630."

Reick: "Okay. What..."

Kifowit: "Page two."

Reick: "Yeah. Page two. I'm looking at that as well. And we are looking at a statutory increase in pensionable salaries, but is this something that is going to raise the benefits for everybody? Or is this intended to bring us up to conformity merely with the downstate police and fire as... as was discussed in the... in the committee?"

Kifowit: "Thank you, Minority Spokesperson. This is parity for Local 2. What this also does... and to give the Members a quick pension overview, is that we have a safe harbor provision that we have to meet in order to not be sued. What this does is this does meet safe harbor as well. So, it does avoid litigation in the future as well. It's parity... Local 2 is then be at parity with the downstate fire pension system."

Reick: "Thank you for that. To the Bill. We had a really good discussion about this, and I think it's a discussion that we, as a Body, need to have overall about the condition of Tier

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2 pensions here in Illinois. And I believe that this Bill that conforms Chicago fire to the downstate fire plans is a good tool with which we could make that... have that discussion. Is it going to cost more money? Yes, it will. It's going to come out of the pockets of the firemen because they're going to increase their contribution toward their own pension. It's also going to have a requirement that certain monies be spent by the City of Chicago, yes. But the fact is, is that if we continue to kick this can down the road, if we continue to kick Tier 2 down the road, we're going to be in a position where we're not going to be able to solve it as plainly as this Bill does. There was opposition... there... I voted for the Bill in committee. There are others on this floor who will vote against it. It's... it's going to be a Christmas tree from the Republican side. But I do believe that this Bill, which I admitted I was not crazy about, I voted for it anyway because this is a good place to start. I think this is a Bill that, with... with some hard negotiations as to how we're going to pay for this and how we're going to move ourselves into conformity with the safe harbor provisions of Tier 2 on all the other pensions in this state, this is a good start. This is a good place to start that discussion. We're dealing with a very high-profile number of... of pensioners here, of people who are first responders. I believe that they could be the bellcow for the way that we decide we're going to fix Tier 2 statewide. Again, I'm not crazy about this Bill. I know that there are going to be people on our side of the aisle who are not going to vote for it, but I think it's a good start. Thank you very much."

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Speaker Mah: "Representative Kifowit to close."

Kifowit: "Thank you. I appreciate the thoughtful debate in committee. I appreciate the remarks of the Minority Spokesperson, and I ask for your 'aye' vote."

Speaker Mah: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 1630 pass?' All those in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. And the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 88 voting 'yes', 24 voting 'no', 2 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Senate Bill 1701, Representative Kelly. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1701, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. The Bill was read for a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #1 is offered by Representative Kelly."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Kelly on the Amendment."

Kelly: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. House Floor Amendment #1 is a page and line Amendment. It's a result of conversations between the Department of Agriculture, Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the Illinois Environmental Council. And I respectfully ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Kelly moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #1. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Bolin: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

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Speaker Mah: "Third Reading. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1701, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Kelly."

Kelly: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Senate Bill 1701 creates the Illinois Healthy Soils and Watersheds Initiative, which is intended to complement and improve current programs and projects, including the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. The initiative shall be administered by the Department of Agriculture, using guidelines created by the same. It expands the allowable uses of the Partners for Conservation Fund and the Partners for Conservation Projects Fund to accomplish the goals of the initiative. Currently, the NLRS is pursued in Illinois through Illinois Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. This program, under the direction of the Department of Natural Resources, and contracts... contracts the land owners for easements on their land in order to decrease erosion and increase native flora and fauna. Agriculture development and surface mining may not be conducted on CREP easements. I would respectfully ask for an 'aye' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Mah: "He indicates he will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. A portion of this Bill is subject to appropriation. Is that correct?"

Kelly: "That's correct."

Windhorst: "Do we have a estimated dollar amount for that?"

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Kelly: "Yeah. The estimated value for the appropriation is 750 thousand, and that is to allow Department of Agriculture to hire additional staff for implementing the program."

Windhorst: "And do we anticipate that'll be included in this year's budget?"

Kelly: "I certainly hope so."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Kelly to close."

Kelly: "I ask for a 'yes' vote."

Speaker Mah: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 1701 do pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 109 voting 'yes', 6 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. On page 8 of the Calendar, Senate Bill 1782, Representative Chung. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1782, a Bill for an Act concerning employment. The Bill has been read a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendments 2 and 3 have been approved for consideration. Floor Amendment #2 is offered by Representative Chung."

Speaker Mah: "Third Reading. Representative... my apologies. Floor Amendment #2, Representative Chung."

Chung: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have... we have House Floor Amendment #2. All that does is change the effective date. Are we also going to be doing House Floor Amendment 3 as well? Okay."

Speaker Mah: "One at a time."

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Chung: "So, that's House Floor Amendment 2. It changes the effective date. Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Chung moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #2. All those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Bolin: "Floor Amendment #3, offered by Representative Chung."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Chung on Floor Amendment #3."

Chung: "Yes. Thank you, again, Madam Chair. House Floor Amendment 3 makes a couple of technical changes, what we worked on with the Department of Labor and also the Governor's legal staff and office there. Just to kind of... because this is brand new legislation, we're kind of working on how we can make this best and how we can make this work best for the minors in our state. So, I move that it be adopted here today, too. And I'll speak to it more on the Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Chung moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #3. All those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Bolin: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Mah: "Third Reading. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1782, a Bill for an Act concerning employment. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Chung."

Chung: "Thank you, again, Madam Chair... Madam Speaker. Senate Bill 1782 is a very exciting Bill. It was an initiative from a high school constituent of mine and Senator Koehler's. What

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this Bill aims to do is to protect minor children who are being filmed and featured prominently by their parents for social media or vlogs. The Bill is modeled after child actor labor laws and protects minors by having their parents or guardians set up a trust fund so that the minor can access these funds when they are older. Senate Bill 1782 can be the first of its kind to become law in our nation. Especially in this new digital age, it's important to have these conversations and our state can be at the forefront to see what we can do to protect minors. And it passed the Senate unanimously, and I ask for your 'aye' vote today. Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Mah: "She indicates she will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, you had mentioned one of the purposes of the Bill was to protect those who are underage involved in vlogging. Would you explain how this Bill would protect their rights?"

Chung: "Sure. Thank you so much for that question, Leader. What we're doing here... what we're... it's been a sort of long process in sort of trying to figure out what we can do best for minors. Right now, what this is doing is it just kind of sets up a trust fund for them so that they... if their parents or guardians are making considerable amount of money off of... off of filming their children, then they can... have to set aside a chunk of the money so that the minor can access these funds when they turn of age."

Windhorst: "And by 'chunk of the money', is there a certain percentage that is dedicated to the fund?"

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Chung: "Yes, it is. It's in the Bill. I don't have it right now, I think. Let's see. Here it's in..."

Windhorst: "Oh, is it?"

Chung: "I believe it's on page... page three of the Bill, Leader."

Windhorst: "And what was that amount? I'm sorry, I didn't... I heard the page number."

Chung: "Oh, it's based on a percentage..."

Windhorst: "Yes."

Chung: "...of what they... of what the parents and guardians are... are accumulating."

Windhorst: "It's 30 percent. Does that sound correct?"

Chung: "Thirty percent? Yes."

Windhorst: "Okay, thank you. I believe there... initially, when the Bill came through committee, there was some opposition. Some Members expressed concern about impeding on the... in the family relationship, the parent-child relationship. Why do you believe that this Bill is appropriate in that setting?"

Chung: "You know, I think, especially that... so, what... like I've kind of said in my introduction, that this is the first Bill of its kind here to be sort of introduced and hopefully passed in any state in our nation. You know, these sorts of conversations are brand new. We're... we're just trying to figure out what we can do to protect minors. This constituent of ours, she's a high school student. She started watching a lot of, like, TikTok and, you know, YouTube content when we were all locked down during COVID. And she thought... she started to think about who was protecting these children. So, we've had a lot of different conversations, what we can do to sort of protect people's rights and... but, at the same time,

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protect the minors. I believe that this Bill is... is sort of an amalgamation of all these conversations. And, of course, you know, it's the first of its kind in the nation. And hopefully, you know, we can see what we can do in the future to protect children."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Chung: "Thank you very much."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Gill. Representative Chung to close."

Chung: "Thank you very much. Like I said, this is a very exciting Bill. We've never... there's been nothing that's been passed here in our... in our nation to this extent, and I'm really excited for... to see what we can do here to be at the forefront of these discussions. So, I ask for your 'aye' vote today. Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 1782 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 98 voting 'yes', 17 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Senate Bill 1803, Representative Swanson. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1803, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. The Bill was read for a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #1 is offered by Representative Swanson."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Swanson on Floor Amendment 1."

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Swanson: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that we adopt Floor Amendment #1. Floor Amendment #1 makes the Bill subject to appropriation and adds that a special fund is established in the State Treasury."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Swanson moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment 1. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay'. In the question of the... in the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Bolin: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Mah: "Third Reading. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1803, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Swanson on Senate Bill 1803."

Swanson: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. You've heard me talk about Lyme disease and other tickborne diseases many times on the floor. Lyme disease and other tickborne illnesses present an urgent public health challenge. Illinois Department of Public Health tick surveillance states 35 percent of the deer ticks are positive for Lyme disease. So, what Senate Bill 1803 does, it creates a Lyme Innovation Act. It is a statewide interagency and multi-pronged approach to combat tickborne diseases in Illinois. This Act bolsters the capacity of the State of Illinois to address the rapid expansion of tickborne diseases, focusing on public awareness, education, outreach. In addition, it expands a current pilot tick and testing program administered and performed by Dr. Holly Tuten of the Illinois Natural History and Survey and Prairie Research Institute with the University of Illinois. It's through her

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work many counties have been identified as, for example, DuPage County, 41 percent of the ticks tested, tested positive for Lyme. We've got Winnebago County at 65 percent of the ticks tested have tested positive for Lyme. And through the pilot tick ID testing program, new species have been identified throughout the State of Illinois. I would ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Mah: "With no further debate, Representative Swanson to close."

Swanson: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Mah: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 1803 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 113 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Representative Jiménez on Senate Bill 1886. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1886, a Bill for an Act concerning criminal law. The Bill was read for a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #1 is offered by Representative Jiménez."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Jiménez on Floor Amendment 1."

Jiménez: "Thank you. These Amendments bring the Illinois Probation and Court Services Association and Illinois Sheriffs' Association to neutral on the Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Jiménez moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment 1. All those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed

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say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Bolin: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Mah: "Third Reading. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1886, a Bill for an Act concerning criminal law. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Jiménez."

Jiménez: "Thank you, Speaker. This Bill addresses testing of people on probation, conditional discharge, and supervision. It provides guidance to judges to increase consistency and fairness while keeping the courts focused on law-abiding behavior and increasing the involvement of doctors and clinicians in decisions about treatment for substance abuse. This Bill ensures that everyone on probation receives an evaluation for alcohol and drug treatment, when judges believe it is necessary, instead of relying on alcohol and cannabis testing alone. This Bill ensures that there is one, a standard for when fees... for fees when the drug testing fees are waived, two, it provides clarity about when someone on probation, conditional discharge, or supervision should be tested for legal substance, and lastly, the Bill ensures that people on probation, conditional discharge, and supervision are able to access prescription medication. I'd also like to thank Representative Vella for his work to address the gap in testing between sentencing and development of a treatment plan and making this Bill better. Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

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Speaker Mah: "She indicates she'll yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Just a few questions. This... these provisions apply after someone is... has been found guilty or is convicted. These are people that are on probation, conditional discharge, or court supervision. Is that correct?"

Jiménez: "Correct."

Windhorst: "All right. And right now, the law is a judge has the complete discretion to order someone not to consume alcohol or cannabis and be subject to random testing for those without any qualifiers. Is that accurate?"

Jiménez: "Correct."

Windhorst: "And this Bill would put some restrictions on the judge's discretion in those circumstances."

Jiménez: "Well, allows them to decide if there is a need to issue treatment, instead of relying on alcohol and cannabis testing alone."

Windhorst: "But that would still limit the judge's discretion from what exists today. We in committee had... a couple times we discussed this Bill, and I think I made clear what my concerns are. My concerns are that we're taking the phrase 'element of the offense', which has a... is a legal term of art and only applies to limited offenses, such as DUI or driving under the influence. But there are times when cannabis or alcohol use is a factor in the offense. And simply, if we said 'factor in the offense', rather than 'element of the offense', we wouldn't need all the additional extra subsections that are included. So, to the Bill."

Speaker Mah: "To the Bill."

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Windhorst: "This is a well-intentioned Bill. I think we're making it unnecessarily complicated. If we would simply say 'factor in the offense', rather than 'element of the offense', it would solve a lot of the objections. With that, I would request a verification. Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Vella."

Vella: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield for a question?"

Speaker Mah: "She indicates she will."

Vella: "Oh, hold on... hold on one..."

Jiménez: "We're taking it out of the record."

Speaker Mah: "Out of the record. Senate Bill 1999, Representative Ann Williams. Out of the record. Senate Bill 1716, Representative Morgan. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1716, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. The Bill was read for a second time previously. Amendment #1 was adopted in committee. No Floor Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Mah: "Third Reading. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1716, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Morgan."

Morgan: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Senate Bill 1716 is an extension of a sunset Bill. This is the Registered Surgical Assistant and Registered Surgical Technologist Title Protection Act. It's a mouthful, but it's an extension Bill from IDFPR. Much like we've done our other extensions, it extends this sunset through 2029. It also updates and

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modernizes a variety of aspects of this Act. I know of no opposition, and I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Mah: "Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Mah: "He indicates he will."

Windhorst: "So, this mainly is a sunset extension. Is that correct?"

Morgan: "That's correct. It's a sunset, but there are a few other Amendments that are reforming and updating the language so that those who are licensed under this Act have the ability to use their e-mail addresses and do things online, as opposed to on paper, and other things similar and identical to the other Acts that we've updated."

Windhorst: "And why was... what was the reason behind bringing those substantive changes forward?"

Morgan: "Again, this is a sunset Bill that, at the moment, if we don't take any action, this Act will entirely sunset in 2024. Much like other professional licenses, if we don't extend this, it really risks the licensure that we have in the State of Illinois. The other reforms that I just referenced are, again, identical to the other reforms we made to other IDFPR Acts."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Morgan to close."

Morgan: "I urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Mah: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 1716 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 115 voting

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'yes', 0 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Leader Buckner, for what reason do you rise?"

Buckner: "Madam Speaker, I would the record to reflect that I intended to be a 'yes' vote on SB1803."

Speaker Mah: "The record shall reflect. Senate Bill 1989, Representative Ann Williams. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill. 1999."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1999, a Bill for an Act concerning children. The Bill was read for a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #1 is offered by Representative Ann Williams."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Williams on the Amendment."

Williams, A.: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Amendment simply brings into line some of the issues that were brought up by a coalition of advocates, adoption attorneys, and DCFS to remove at least partial opposition to the Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Williams moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #1. All those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Bolin: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Mah: "Third Reading. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1999, a Bill for an Act concerning children. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Williams."

Williams, A.: "Thank you so much. This Bill, as I referenced, is a Bill to improve some of the processes related to the

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Abandoned Newborn Protection Act. Of course, that's the legislation that provides that a birth mother can relinquish a baby anonymously within the first few days of his or her life and avoid criminal prosecution for that. There's an extensive Act detailing procedures and processes. What this Bill does is address some of those, including increasing the time from 72 hours to 30 days in which a relinquishing parent can receive information about the infant, where it was relinquished. Two, clarifying a hospital that receives the infant can apply for Medicaid so adopting parents and the hospital don't have to pay for that coverage. And then makes other more technical changes. Happy to answer any questions."

Speaker Mah: "Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Mah: "She indicates she will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. What was the reason for this Bill coming forward?"

Williams, A.: "Well, I was going to mention this a little bit later, but the Abandoned Newborn Infant Act has been around for a while. It's part of a movement among many states to provide for situations to save a baby's life in situations where the birth mother's in obviously a major crisis. This changes here a part of, kind of, an ongoing effort to make sure that this is used in the places where it's appropriate and doesn't end up being a substitution for a traditional adoption."

Windhorst: "Our analysis shows that there was... there's also an effort to bring the Act that passed 20 years ago up to current practices in the court system. Is that accurate to say?"

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Williams, A.: "Yeah, that makes sense. It deals with some of the provisions regarding Medicaid. It also provides that you can use electronic means to get information about the safe haven laws, rather than a paper document, for example."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Williams to close."

Williams, A.: "Thank you so much. The Bill, as we... as you can tell from the limited debate, is pretty straightforward. But I wanted to, with the indulgence of the Body, just take a few minutes to give some thoughts, or just a minute to take... to share some of my thoughts on the Abandoned Newborn Act. So, I'm an adoptee, and I'm happy to share my very interesting story with anyone who cares to listen. But I have strong feelings about safe haven laws. These are laws which allow a woman to drop her baby off at designated locations and be shielded from criminal liability. So, I think it is tempting for some people to embrace the idea of safe haven laws as a means of saving babies as a positive, wonderful thing in the wake of the Dobbs decision. Yes, saving lives is of the paramount importance. But in the wake of Dobbs, some have celebrated this process. You can abandon your baby, no strings attached, as a great solution to continued restriction of reproductive choices. The proliferation of baby boxes in some states, thankfully not Illinois, is a device that's kind of like something you'd see while making a bank deposit. Frankly, this is concerning in this context. Relinquishing a child through this means is far from an ideal option, even though it's important to save lives. As an adoptee, I remain very concerned about the narrative surrounding safe haven laws and

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making it too easy to abandon your baby when you just need supports and services to do a traditional adoption. This process must be used only as a last resort, not an alternative to creating and implementing a traditional adoption plan. Birth mothers, families, and babies are so much better served when they use a traditional, reputable agency and adopt a baby in a traditional sense. Babies grow up, become adults, and need a sense of their identity. They need an opportunity to find out who they are, where they came from, and access to search and reunion services. You don't abandon your baby unless you are in extreme crisis. What about the birth mothers? Under the safe haven laws, where are they? They are not considered. They are left behind. They are experiencing trauma, they need mental health services, substance abuse services, health care, and an opportunity to fully understand and explore their options. Abandoning a baby via abandoned newborn laws don't serve these goals and have lifelong ramifications for all the parties involved. I think we need to remember that, yes, it's important to save lives and we should continue to keep this on the books. However, we should make sure that we do everything we can to avoid putting birth mothers in a situation that they need to abandon their baby without thoroughly understanding the ramifications of what they're doing. Instead, we should provide support, services, and compassion, and if they choose, help them create an adoption plan. Thank you for listening. I appreciate an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Mah: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 1999 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is

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open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 108 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. On page 9 of the Calendar, Senate Bill 2017, Representative Croke. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 2017, a Bill for an Act concerning education. The Bill was read for a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #2 is offered by Representative Croke."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Croke on Floor Amendment 2."

Croke: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Floor Amendment #2 removes educational support personnel employees from the list of individuals not required to work on Saturdays and removes all opposition from the Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Croke moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #2. All those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Bolin: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Mah: "Third Reading. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 2017, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Croke."

Croke: "SB2017 is an initiative of the IEA and clarifies that education support personnel employees may not be required to work on legal school holidays and that no deduction may be made from time or compensation on account of a holiday in which the employee would have otherwise worked. This is, like

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I mentioned, an initiative of the IEA. There was bipartisan support in committee as well as over in the Senate. And I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Ugaste."

Ugaste: "Thank you, Madam Chair. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Mah: "She indicates she will."

Ugaste: "Afternoon, Representative. The... the Bill addresses support personnel, educational support personnel, from having to work on legal holidays. Is that correct?"

Croke: "Yes."

Ugaste: "Okay. Who does that include?"

Croke: "So, the definition of, like, education support personnel, school support professionals, including, but not limited to, clerical services, custodial and maintenance services, food services, health and student services, paraeducators, security services, skilled trade services, technical services, and transportation services."

Ugaste: "Okay. And the removal of them from working legal holidays, that includes election day, now, in Illinois when schools are closed?"

Croke: "So, it depends on the school. So, if the school were... had a... for example, let's say, like, there was a holiday that the school had on their calendar that they didn't take off. They can apply to get a waiver, and based off my... the information I received from IEA, they've never had a situation in which a waiver was denied. So..."

Ugaste: "But it's possible that it could be election day when people are going to be going into school and these schools

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are going to need support personnel of some sort to work, correct?"

Croke: "I mean, if... I guess, I... if the school is off, then this education support personnel would not be required to work."

Ugaste: "Okay."

Croke: "Yeah."

Ugaste: "And this applies to teachers as well?"

Croke: "That's it... that already... my understanding is that already applies. This Bill does not deal with teachers."

Ugaste: "Okay."

Croke: "Yeah."

Ugaste: "And the Amendment, in part, removes Saturdays from the equation?"

Croke: "Yes."

Ugaste: "Okay. And that removed ISIA's opposition to it?"

Croke: "Yes."

Ugaste: "Okay. Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Wilhour."

Wilhour: "Thank you. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Mah: "She indicates she will."

Wilhour: "Representative, is this a matter that can be collective bargained on?"

Croke: "I think that that has been attempted and, unfortunately, has not been able to occur. And therefore, clarification was necessary in this legislation."

Wilhour: "We collective bargain on almost everything in this... in this state. And with the, you know, passage of Amendment 1,

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why... why has there been barriers? Is there legal barriers, or is there just barriers on a local level?"

Croke: "As a non-IEA, Representative, I... I can't speak to their collective bargaining process. So, unfortunately, I... I can't answer that question for you."

Wilhour: "Thank you. To the Bill. In the State of Illinois, these workers can basically bargain over whatever they want to bargain for on a local level. I think that increasingly here in State Government we are encroaching by passing state laws that require everybody to do this stuff. This stuff is best done on the local level. So, I would encourage a 'no' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Croke to close."

Croke: "I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Mah: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 2017 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 89 voting 'yes', 26 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And the Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. On page 9 of the Calendar, Senate Bill 1886, Representative Jiménez. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 1886, a Bill for an Act concerning criminal law. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Jiménez."

Jiménez: "Thank you, Speaker. This Amendment brings the Illinois Probation and Court Services Association and the Illinois Sheriffs' Association to neutral on the Bill. The AOIC also

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remains neutral on the Bill. We are unaware of any opposition following these Amendments. Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Vella."

Vella: "Thank you. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Mah: "She indicates she will."

Vella: "Thank you. So, judges can still order people on probation or conditionally discharged to not use drugs or alcohol any time they think it's appropriate. Is that correct?"

Jiménez: "Yes. That's correct."

Vella: "All this does is make sure that if it's ordered, those people have to be evaluated for addiction issues. That's right?"

Jiménez: "That's right."

Vella: "Okay. And this makes sure that the resources the counties have are used effectively and we focus on the underlying issues that lead to a lot of these crimes. Is that right?"

Jiménez: "That is correct."

Vella: "This will also, I think, limit unnecessary testing, which is usually paid for by probation officers in counties, which would actually save money for the counties. Is that right?"

Jiménez: "That's correct."

Vella: "Thank you. To the Bill. This is a good Bill. It saves money. It gets to the root of crime. I urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Mah: "Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you. To the Bill. We had the debate earlier, explained most of the position that I had on the Bill. Again, I think we've made this unnecessarily complicated. We can continue to give judges the discretion we've given them in the past while still taking into account the legal status of

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alcohol and cannabis in our state. I would encourage a 'no' vote."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Jiménez to close."

Jiménez: "Thank you. Just want to confirm that this keeps courts focused on law-abiding behavior and fully addressing the treatment needs and situations. The judges cannot order testing for legal substance without a reason and are able to instead order treatment. And when treatment finds it necessary, drug and alcohol testing can be ordered. Thank you. I urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Mah: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 1886 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there is 75 voting 'yes', 40 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Representative Faver Dias."

Faver Dias: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Mah: "Please proceed."

Faver Dias: "I would just like to invite everyone to a tour of the Old Capitol Farmer's Market tomorrow morning. It's hosted by the Illinois Environmental Council, Illinois Stewardship Alliance, and Downtown Springfield, Incorporated to tour the farmer's market on opening day and learn about the importance of farmers' markets and local food systems. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at Custom Cup or you can meet us at the Farmer's Market at 8 a.m. at 5th and Adams. Thank you all so much."

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Speaker Mah: "Thank you, Representative Faver Dias. Representative Gong-Gershowitz, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Gong-Gershowitz: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Mah: "Please state your point."

Gong-Gershowitz: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today, in honor of AAPI History Month, to recognize and celebrate the very first Member to ever... Asian American ever to be elected to the Illinois General Assembly, Leader Mah. So, I didn't prepare something. I'm just going to speak from the heart. Here in Asian American History Month, to see you in the well harkens a saying that we sometimes invoke in moments like these and we say that you cannot be what you cannot see. And in my case that has certainly been the case. When I was elected in 2018, Representative Mah was the first and had vowed to not be the last. And she was true to her word. She was one of the first people to support me in my run for the Illinois House, and since then, has continued to build the bench and support others to build this caucus, providing an inspiration to members in our community and ensuring that our voices are heard and have a seat at the table. So, I think there are others that may have a few words to say, but I couldn't let this month and this week pass without honoring the first who has been, you know, committed to making sure that the first isn't the last. Congratulations, Leader Mah."

Speaker Mah: "Thank you. I'm speechless. Representative Rashid, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Rashid: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Mah: "Please state your point."

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Rashid: "I also rise to honor and recognize our Majority Conference Chair, Leader Mah. I just want to thank you for being an invaluable source of knowledge and wisdom every time I have reached out to you for advice. We first worked together more than 10 years ago, and I'm so grateful for your leadership and for your friendship. Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Thank you. Representative Huynh, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Huynh: "Madam Speaker, a point of personal privilege."

Speaker Mah: "Please proceed."

Huynh: "I rise to recognize Leader Theresa Mah as the first Asian American elected to the General Assembly. And during Asian American and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Month, we think about those who have come before us, the folks who have fought for us to have opportunity. And I think for me, in my experience, Leader Mah has been a strong advocate for me and has been a tremendous mentor and has helped me so much and has helped the Asian American Caucus so much over these last several months and over the last couple years as well. And I want to say, you know, you... you believed in me since day one. You know, I am so honored to have your support. You were the only person to endorse me and help me. And so, I... and support my campaign. And so, I want to also say that, you know, it means a lot to be here. And certainly, I appreciate your support. So, rise to thank you for all of your work. And in Asian American culture as well, one of the things that we do when we really care and we display acts of kindness is to make sure that folks have enough to eat. And every time when you see me, when I'm not eating, you would also provide me

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with food, every single time. So, I really appreciate that as well. And so, if you see Leader Mah giving you food, that means she really cares about you because she wants you to eat during the day. I... so, again, thank you so much for your time, and thank you so much for your mentorship."

Speaker Mah: "Thank you. Representative Chung, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Chung: "Point of personal privilege, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Mah: "Please state your point."

Chung: "I rise along with... alongside a lot of my other colleagues who have already spoken to... to how important you are to so many of us here in this chamber. I... I recall back to how I, just sort of this, you know, misfit violist in Bloomington, how I reached out to you back in 2017 to ask you if I should run for McLean County Board, and you met me at a Starbucks in... in Normal. And to think that that sort of... sort of led this chain reaction to me being here today, to... to a lot of our other colleagues that you helped us to get here to where we are today. And it just... it's invaluable. It means so much to me. It means so much to so many other Asians around our state, my daughters included, to see people who look like us in... in these sort of places of power and letting us, you know, letting our voices be heard. So, thank you so much for everything, and I echo many of the comments that my colleagues have already made. Thank you so much."

Speaker Mah: "Thank you. Representative Yang Rohr, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Yang Rohr: "Point of personal privilege, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Mah: "Please state your point."

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Yang Rohr: "I rise with my colleagues to honor the first Asian American Representative of the General Assembly, the first Asian American Leader of our caucus. There are so many different forms and characteristics of leadership, so many different characters in leaders, as we all see in this room today. But one of the most important, one of the hardest to get is that willingness, that ability to trailblaze. And I think we can all agree that there are very few trailblazers as important as Leader Mah. Not only did she pave the path for herself, but because of her actions, she paved the way and blazed the trail for so many of us here. It's... it's not only the work that she did for so many faces that you see here today, but so many that are in Illinois, so many that have been inspired by Leader Mah's work. And for that, for AAPI Heritage Month, let's give her a round of applause to honor her."

Speaker Mah: "Thank you. Representative Olickal, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Olickal: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Mah: "Please state your point."

Olickal: "I also wanted to echo the sentiments shared by my colleagues in this chamber. Leader Mah, you... when you were first elected in 2016, you had an incredible burden of representing a large and diverse community as the sole Asian American Member in this chamber. And when you... and you've done it valiantly, but also, you had the ability to help others walk into this chamber. And you really treated it as a responsibility and have been instrumental in the growth of this caucus. And I'm just really honored to be here with you."

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I look forward to the future of our caucus and everything that we're going to accomplish in this chamber for not only the Asian American community, but families across the State of Illinois. So, thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Thank you. Representative Syed, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Syed: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Mah: "Please state your point."

Syed: "When Leader Mah was first elected, I was a senior in high school. You have made it possible for young Asian Americans to see themselves reflected in government. You have given us a seat at the table. And not only have you given us a seat at that table, but you've expanded the table so that there are nine of us in the General Assembly. Thank you so much for being a true leader, for being a symbol of representation, and for truly caring about the community that we serve. Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Thank you. Representative Ammons, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Ammons: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Mah: "Please state your point."

Ammons: "Thank you. It is my pleasure to state this point, Madam Speaker. We have served together as cochairs of the Progressive Caucus for a number of years, but we also live together in the same place. And I've come to know you as a person and as a serious Legislator. You care about expanding the table and making space for others. But you care about others, and that's why we care about you. And so, today, we honor you for AAPI and we thank you for broadening and

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breaking the glass ceiling that had not been broken. Many of us have done and had to do exactly the same thing. As African American women, I am the first to represent my district, and I know how difficult it can be. I congratulate you for being steadfast, being committed to your principles, and to stand for not just the Asian American community, but for all of our communities who need a voice. Thank you so much for your service."

Speaker Mah: "Thank you. Representative Cabello, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Cabello: "Thank you, Madam Chair. Would you have the record reflect that I should have been a 'no' vote on SB2017? And echo all the comments for you today."

Speaker Mah: "The record shall reflect. Representative Jiménez, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Jimenez: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Mah: "Please state your point."

Jiménez: "Thank you. I wanted to echo some of my colleagues in thanking you for your service. As I've told you once before, you were the first State Representative I met. And just seeing your ethical demeanor, your grit, your collaborative nature, your interest in... in mentoring other people and to bringing people up with you, was always an inspiration to me. And so, I want to thank you for your service and for your leadership. Thank you, Leader Mah."

Speaker Mah: "Thank you. I'm very moved by all of this. Thank you."

Speaker Manley: "Manley in the Chair. Mr. Clerk, Rules Report."

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Clerk Hollman: "Committee Reports. Representative Gabel, Chairperson from the Committee on Rules reports the following committee action taken on May 16, 2023: recommends be adopted, referred to the floor is Floor Amendment(s) 3 to House Bill 219."

Speaker Mah: "Leader Mah in the Chair. Proceeding to the order of House... Senate Bills on Third Reading. On page 9 of the Calendar, we have Senate Bill 2192, Representative Davis, to be presented by Representative Smith. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 2192, a Bill for an Act concerning finance. The Bill was read for a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #1 is offered by Representative Smith."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Smith on Floor Amendment 1."

Smith: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. House Floor Amendment 1 is a small change in the original Bill where we changed the agency who have to do the reporting. The original Bill demanded that the chief procurement officer supply the data in the reports, and this just changes that to the procurement agency."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Smith moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 2192. All those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Bolin: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Mah: "Third Reading. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 2192, a Bill for an Act concerning finance. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

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Speaker Mah: "Representative Smith on Senate Bill 2192."

Smith: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Senate Bill 2192 is our good friend and colleague, Representative Will Davis' Bill. I am doing it in his absence. So, of course, I urge your support before I even tell you what it does. 2192 requires the chief procurement agency of various state agencies to supply a report to contractors that have failed several bids in a row. So, if they have bid on a particular project with these state agencies and failed to secure that bid at least four times, then this Bill asks that agency to just supply a report as to why those bids were not... or why they failed, so that they don't continue to bid on contracts and continue to fail on those bids. They can right whatever wrong they did in the original bid and hopefully secure a bid in the future. I urge your support."

Speaker Mah: "Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Mah: "He indicates he will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Leader, this is... the Amendment moved it from chief procurement officer to the agency is going to provide that explanation..."

Smith: "Yes."

Windhorst: "...to the unsuccessful bidder who's attempted four bids. Is that accurate?"

Smith: "That is."

Windhorst: "And the purpose behind the Bill is to create additional transparency in government contracting?"

Smith: "Absolutely."

Windhorst: "All right. Thank you."

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Smith: "Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Leader Smith to close."

Smith: "Vote 'yes'."

Speaker Mah: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 2192 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed say 'nay'... vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 109 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Proceeding to the Order of Senate Bills on Third Reading. On page 5 of the Calendar, we have Senate Bill 724, Representative LaPointe. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 724, a Bill for an Act concerning health. The Bill was read for a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendments 4 and 5 have been approved for consideration. Floor Amendment #4 is offered by Representative LaPointe."

Speaker Mah: "Representative LaPointe on Floor Amendment #4."

LaPointe: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Floor Amendment 4 takes into account feedback from stakeholders, in particular the Illinois Collaboration on Youth, and gets agreement for the Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Representative LaPointe moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #4. All those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'nay'. And in the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

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Clerk Bolin: "Floor Amendment #5 is offered by Representative LaPointe."

Speaker Mah: "Representative LaPointe on Floor Amendment #5."

LaPointe: "Floor Amendment 5 fixes a typo in the previous Amendment and adds the word 'host homes' back into the Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Third Reading. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk. Apologies. Representative LaPointe moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #5. All those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Bolin: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Mah: "Third Reading. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "Senate Bill 724, a Bill for an Act concerning health. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Representative LaPointe on the Bill."

LaPointe: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. SB724 is the first Bill to come out of the Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative, which was launched in March 2022 by Governor Pritzker and team leaders from various child-serving state agencies. And the goal of the initiative is to redesign the delivery of behavioral health services for kids and adolescents in Illinois. The team behind this, as I said, represents all six of our child-serving state agencies in Illinois. And the team in the initiative took a hard, systematic look at what our current barriers to efficient and effective care for our kids, as related to behavioral health, took that hard, systemic look and made initial recommendations. And that's what this first Bill is. To be

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very clear, we have a long way to go for a full mental health system in Illinois where our kids can get effective and efficient access. But this is a start. And the Bill does six things that I'm going to go over briefly. Number one, it creates a centralized intake portal which is housed at DHS to triage cases, manage information, and provide parents and guardians who are accessing state support the information that they need. And we had data... some data privacy concerns that were addressed with the ACLU. Second, the Bill establishes a children's behavioral health transformation officer in Illinois, which is something we have never had. Third, it requires a process for all licensed residential providers to submit daily data if they get state money for children's mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities. And the point there is to have a real-time picture of actual capacity that takes into account staffing so we know what we're dealing with. Fourth, the Bill revises the duties of our Community and Residential Services Authority to operate as a parent and guardian navigator assistance program. Fifth, requires ISBE to build out a plan for annual mental health screenings for our K-12 students by first conducting a landscape scan so we know which school districts are doing what today. And then, finally, related to our Comprehensive Community-Based Youth Services program, expands the duration and availability of emergency shelter placements for kids that are at risk for coming into the foster care system. Very proud to have had a robust discussion in the Mental Health Committee of this Bill... about this Bill

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and proud that it came out of committee on leave. Happy to answer any questions, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Haas."

Haas: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Does the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Mah: "She indicates she will."

Haas: "Thank you. You had mentioned that we had a lot of very robust discussions about this Bill in... in committee, and I do appreciate that. This is, like you said, a very huge project that's going to impact pretty much every aspect of children's behavior health, whether it's child welfare, mental health, crisis services, pretty much every area that we touch in children's behavior health. So, some of the things that it's going to create that may help with that transformation is a chief behavior health transformation officer that's specific for children and adolescent services, correct?"

LaPointe: "Correct."

Haas: "And also, it will be developing a team type of approach, a behavior health services team that will have individuals identified from each code department that will streamline... you talked about the portal for referrals that will streamline, particularly those that are the most acute in need of behavior health services so that we're not encountering situations where youth are in DCFS offices, or hospitalized beyond medical necessity, or sitting in hospital emergency departments for extended periods of time, correct?"

LaPointe: "That is exactly right. And I'm happy to say that... that work of the team triaging cases is happening today, but it's not codified in statute yet. And it's designed to do the exact things that you mentioned, to make... part of it is making sure

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kids don't have to go into care to get the support they actually need."

Haas: "And... and part of this project, transformation project, too, is to hold all of those code departments accountable with making sure that these children and youth are... have access to those forms of treatment in a timely manner as well?"

LaPointe: "That is exactly right. To hold all the six child-serving agencies accountable to working collaboratively so none of our kids fall through the cracks."

Haas: "Okay. This transformation project doesn't require and this Bill doesn't require any additional appropriation. Is that correct?"

LaPointe: "The... that is a good question. Not specifically written into the language of the Bill. However, when the Governor introduced his budget back in February, there's about \$22 million that have been introduced that are tied to our ability to fully execute the six components of the Bill that I went over."

Haas: "Okay. And I certainly want to thank you for my apprehension with this, working with this Bill, because as a very... my outside career has been dedicated to this type of work. And I have a lot of apprehension with some of these departments working together and ensuring that their commitment is going to be there. And I still have some of that apprehension, to be perfectly honest. But this is the most aggressive work that I've seen with the code departments working together in the recent history of my work in community mental health. I hope to see it progress forward. There is a lot more work

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that will be done with this transformation project. And with...
with that being said, I would urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Reick."

Reick: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Mah: "She indicates she will."

Reick: "Representative, I echo my colleague's enthusiasm for what this is supposed to be doing. I think it is a step forward, especially in the area of child welfare. And I had the opportunity this morning to talk to some folks from DHS, and they explained the Bill in somewhat great detail to me. My concern is one of what has become too often... something that we see around here is the establishment of silos between agencies that keep them from actually doing the kind of work that it appears this Bill tries to accomplish, which is working across agency lines to accomplish a common goal. What... what guardrails or what guideposts have been put into place in this Bill that would discourage the establishment or the further use of these kinds of silos that can only inhibit the kind of cooperation that this Bill is going to require? I'd like to know if there's going to be a reporting requirement back to the House. What kind of accountability are they going to have to satisfy the requirements of this Bill so that we know it's actually doing what the Bill says they're supposed to do?"

LaPointe: "That's a really good question, and I appreciate your work on the child welfare issues. So, the Bill puts into statute... it basically forces the agencies to work together and to come together on a... on a weekly basis and to develop this portal together and to create a navigation system for

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parents and guardians together. So, sometimes state agencies collaborate. All too often, like you said, there are silos, but this Bill puts it in statute that says you will come together to do these things. To your question on if there is some sort of annual report as a part of this Bill to the General Assembly, not in this Bill there's not. And I'm okay with that 'cause we get a lot of reports that, frankly, we don't read all of them. What we do have is a blueprint for transformation that this Bill came out of. This, more or less, lays out what some of the issues and barriers have been. And then in October, we are going to have a fuller implementation plan related to all these issues."

Reick: "Thank you for that. To the Bill. I... I support the concept. I'm certainly going to support the Bill, but I would also like to see in your further work there be some involvement by some Members of the Legislature. We don't have to form a task force or anything like that. But I would like to see the Legislature have some kind of input with regard to this whole process so that we know exactly what is going to be the process by which these agencies begin to work together. Otherwise, I do... I do encourage an 'aye' vote on this Bill. Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Representative LaPointe to close."

LaPointe: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. To the last speaker's point, appreciate what you raised. And what I would say, as... in terms of our work on the Mental Health & Addiction Committee and the Child Welfare Committee, we have the power to bring these state leaders in front of us together to make sure we're on track for implementation. So, that's something that I commit

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to, and the idea of joint hearings sounds great to me. In terms of this Bill, in particular I just want to highlight two things that are really important to me in this Bill. Number one, we do not have enough children's residential mental health beds in this state. And every single one of us has parents in our district that have to send their kids who have very acute behavioral health issues out of state. We know that because parents have shared that with us on the records in... on the record in hearings. But we don't have a mechanism to know exactly how many beds we need on any given day, and after this Bill, we will. The other thing I want to say is that our parents and guardians do not know how to navigate the mental health system for their kids, or for themselves, frankly. We get lots of calls. And last December, in my district we did a mental health resource fair. And we had a mental health professional giving a presentation, and when it came time for Q&A, parents' hands shot up. And after some of their questions were answered, I looked across the room at a woman who had asked how does she, a mother... she needed to know how does she find a psychologist for her kid. And I looked across the room, and the speaker, who is an LCSW, had her hands on the mom's shoulders, and the mom was crying, and the speaker said, 'This is exactly why you came to this event, to learn how to navigate the children's mental health system.' And I thought to myself, how dare we have a system where parents have to come to a mental health resource fair that their State Rep. is putting on to learn how to navigate the mental health system to get their child the help that she so desperately needed. This Bill's not going to solve

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everything, but it's a big step in the right direction to have an effective and efficient mental health care system in the State of Illinois for our kids and adults. Thank you for listening, and I hope you vote 'yes'."

Speaker Mah: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 724 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 112 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. On page 2 of the Calendar, House Bill 219, Leader Hoffman. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 219, a Bill for an Act concerning civil law. The Bill was read for a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendments 1 and 3 have been approved for consideration. Floor Amendment #1 is offered by Representative Hoffman."

Speaker Mah: "Leader Hoffman."

Hoffman: "Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Floor Amendment #1 essentially becomes the Bill. And then Floor Amendment #3 would be a technical change to the Bill. I would ask that we debate this on Third Reading."

Speaker Mah: "Leader Hoffman moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment 1. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Bolin: "Floor Amendment #3 is offered by Representative Hoffman."

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Speaker Mah: "Leader Hoffman."

Hoffman: "Thank you, Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Floor Amendment #3 actually clarifies and makes sure that it's crystal clear that actions for healing art malpractice, actions against the state or even a local government, actions against the state or local government employees will not be.. will remain exempt from paying wrongful death damages, even if there is punitive damages, even if there is a death. I ask for its adoption."

Speaker Mah: "Leader Hoffman moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #3. All those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Bolin: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Mah: "Third Reading. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 219, a Bill for an Act concerning civil law. Third Reading of this Senate Bill... Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Mah: "Leader Hoffman."

Hoffman: "Yes. Thank you, Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. What this Bill would do is it would provide for punitive damages in wrongful death cases and equal justice for victims' families. Unfortunately, under current law, victims of particular personal injury cases that are very serious may seek punitive damages against defendants whose behavior is reprehensible and cause the injury. The purpose of this Act is to make sure that if you... if because of the actions of another that are particularly reprehensible, that are intentional, that a victim were to pass away or die, that

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that victim's family would have the same rights as if the victim were... have... would have simply had physical... physical injuries and would allow those families to also receive punitive damages. As I indicated in Floor Amendment #3, we mirrored the current statutory language, in that we indicated that actions for healing art malpractice, actions against the state or units of local governments, and actions against the state or local government employees will be exempt from the... issuing of punitive damages, even in the case of a death. So, by making this statutory exceptions, we are mirroring what currently is in the law if you simply receive a physical injury. Why is this important? Because if you do not do this and if we keep current law as it is, you actually would be better off if you cause a serious injury if you are drunk... drunken driver and you cause a serious injury to another, that if that person were to die, because you would not have punitive damages, as opposed to live, where you would have to potentially pay punitive damages. There have only been 18 cases of punitive damages that have been over \$10 thousand in the last 10 years, and this type of legislation is in 34 other states. I believe it's... it's a victims' rights legislation, and I believe it's important that punitive damages for bad actors be available in wrongful death cases. I ask for a favorable roll call."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Ugaste."

Ugaste: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Mah: "He indicates he will."

Ugaste: "Representative Hoffman, there's a bit of conversation about this during committee earlier and I just want to flesh

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some of that out on the floor so that everyone's aware of it. How long is the exemption from wrongful death actions has... how long have punitive damages been exempt from wrongful death cases?"

Hoffman: "I believe that initially, in the 1850s, when the Wrongful Death Act first passed and became available. Those type of cases."

Ugaste: "Okay. And this is something we're addressing today at the end of Session based upon a need to get this done now?"

Hoffman: "Well, if you are family and you have had an intentional act cause you to die and your kids are not able to receive adequate compensation, including... including punitive damages, which will hopefully curtail that intentional and wrongful behavior, then I think it should have been done a long time ago."

Ugaste: "Okay. Fair enough."

Hoffman: "And it can't be too soon."

Ugaste: "The... the intention... or the reason for punitive damages, as you... I believe you just expressed, is a type of punishment or deterrent. Is that accurate?"

Hoffman: "That is the intention."

Ugaste: "Okay. And oftentimes, if business is involved, it's to send a message to the business. Is that correct?"

Hoffman: "Well, I... I hopeful not... hopefully not only to send a message, but stop the harmful behavior."

Ugaste: "Deter further behavior that way. Is that correct?"

Hoffman: "Yes."

Ugaste: "Oftentimes, though, in a business situation, there may be a situation where maybe there are a couple bad actors

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within the business or just a bad actor, and yet, there are a lot of people relying on that company for their welfare and their employment."

Hoffman: "Well, I would just... I will just say this, that the issue of punitive damages is on a case-by-case basis. And whether you're going to get punitive damages on a wrongful death case will be on a case-by-case basis. And in order to receive punitive damages, certain things have to happen. And I understand... I'll get to your question... Representative, I'll get to your question, but I want to just, kind of, for the Body, lay out all the things that have to occur..."

Ugaste: "Sure."

Hoffman: "...prior to punitive damages being awarded. First of all, the punitive damages and the fact that they have to be pled and you have to show certain behavior that is direct, that is... is reckless, that is fraudulent or intentional, and you would plead that in your case. Then, ultimately, you have to prove that those acts actually occurred in the case. And you go to the judge, who then asks... you ask that judge, who has to prove, then sending that, based on the facts, to the jury. The jury then will look at the facts, determine whether they need to do something that would deter this action in the future, and then they will make a determination as to award of punitive damages. So, we're not just talking about one or two people. We're talking about... in a lot of times, we're talking about system-wide problems with regard to that business, such as the Sterigenics case, where they were emitting carcinogens into the air and that... there were cancer survivors. There were punitive damages in that case. The jury

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made the decision, and I think that they made a fair one. Now, we could say, oh, my goodness, there are people who work at Sterigenics that they should not lose their jobs. So, it should allow that that... that carcinogens to continue to emit to the air because some jobs are at stake, while people in that area are getting sick and getting cancer. I can't stand by and allow that to happen."

Ugaste: "All I was getting at is that there may be repercussions on others with punitive damages that have no cap built in. Is that fair to say?"

Hoffman: "Well, I would say there's huge repercussions on the family who was left behind when a person dies as a result of some intentional act."

Ugaste: "I... I'm not arguing that point with you at all, Leader. I... I understand the point, and I'm not arguing that point. My point is solely that the punitive... well, let me ask you this. The punitive damage Bill you have, are there any caps in place in this Bill?"

Hoffman: "There are not, and it has been ruled over and over in Illinois that caps are unconstitutional in Illinois."

Ugaste: "In and of themselves, there's no space for caps?"

Hoffman: "The Supreme Court in Illinois has ruled that they're unconstitutional."

Ugaste: "Okay."

Hoffman: "Can I... I'll make... I will give you one thing. What has been ruled by... by the state is in the State Farm case, it says that the punitive damages can't be... if they are in excess of 10 times the compensatory damages, they would presume to violate due process. So, the court, through common law, has

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put a sort of cap on the amount of punitive damages that can be awarded."

Ugaste: "Okay. So, the courts are indicating that they will... they will cap punitive damages but have told us that if we do it here in the Legislature it's unconstitutional? That's... is that my understanding?"

Hoffman: "The court gave some... the court gave some general guidance indicating if they're over 10 times the compensatory damages that there would be a presumption of violating due process. Now, that presumption can always be... you can always rebut that presumption."

Ugaste: "Okay. And then the final thing I just wanted to ask about is, you said the state and local government are exempt from this Bill."

Hoffman: "Currently, under State Law, we indicate that if... if there is an intentional act that is committed by state governments or units of local governments or their employees, we currently indicate that, even in the case of nondeath where there is simply physical harm, that they would be exempt from punitive damages. That's current law. All we're doing here is we're... we are taking and... taking the statutory codification of the exemptions and the types of acts, or the types of individuals who are exempt, and we are saying it's going to be the same for this punitive damages for wrongful death."

Ugaste: "Okay. Thank you. To the Bill."

Speaker Mah: "To the Bill."

Ugaste: "Ladies and Gentlemen, the Bill before us, as the Leader mentioned, is meant to send a message and deter bad behavior. As I was raising, though... and I think the fact that the

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Supreme Court apparently has told us that caps cannot even be put on this by us is something we should pay close attention to. Because there are other individuals in businesses and in other places that rely on those businesses for their ability to work. And while the Leader mentioned the fact that 10 percent seems to be a cap right now that the court will put on such awards, that's not permanent. Courts change their minds all the time. It goes year-by-year, day-by-day. And if you get a runaway jury in a court that looks at it and just isn't giving any regard, we could end up shutting down a business because of one or two bad actors. And I'm not defending the bad actors at all. I'm just saying there's other people to consider here. And we always talk about what happens when people don't have good-paying jobs and lose jobs and, all of a sudden, you know, they're faced with desperate situations and they're having a hard time feeding their family and they no longer have access to health care and what that does to their own life expectancy and that of their families. If this Bill is proper for... for some, it should be proper, you know, against the state as well. If business should live by it, if individuals should live by it, I don't know why the state doesn't have to live by it. We're here on the last week of Session. This Bill just came forward this morning. We're arguing it this afternoon. It'll go to the Senate, and I'm sure it's going to get through both chambers within this week. Yet, it's a big Bill, and it could have possible consequences. And if we're going to do this... well, if the Supreme Court has currently told us that caps are unconstitutional, well, there's something we can do about that here in this House and

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in the Senate. It may be put the caps on that will allow for punitive damages when they're appropriate, yet not destroy a business or an individual or someone else and everyone else who's reliant on the person who did the bad act. So, I... I believe there's a better way to do this, and I do not believe we need to rush this through at this time. While it has waited quite some time, it's been 170 years. So, let's do it and do it right. Vote 'no'."

Speaker Mah: "Leader McCombie."

McCombie: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. To the Bill."

Speaker Mah: "To the Bill."

McCombie: "Thank you. So, we've heard that this Bill is going to deter the action in the future. It's going to stop future behavior. We have to prove reckless, intentional, fraudulent. It's said to be a victims' rights Bill, but we're going to exempt state employees, DCFS workers, and their families from this. Previous speaker stated that it should be like this for all, and I agree. Again, what are we doing here? If we don't want to punish people for crimes, we don't want people to go to jail, then let's get one hell of a fine system if this is what we can pass here. Can't do that, though."

Speaker Mah: "Representative Tarver."

Tarver: "Thank you, Madam Chair. Jay C. Hoffman, how are you, man? I want to talk about a couple different things here. So, just for legislative intent, I want to just read from 35.01, which is the Illinois Pattern Jury Instructions. So, in order to even determine punitive damages, there're three questions the court requires. Are you aware of those questions?"

Hoffman: "I am, Curtis J. Tarver, II."

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Tarver: "That's right. So, one of them is, how reprehensible? And that's a very specific word. What's the defendant's conduct? And then it says, 'On this subject you should consider the following: the facts and circumstances of the defendant's conduct; the financial vulnerability of the plaintiff; the duration of the misconduct; the frequency of the defendant's misconduct; the harm, whether it was physical as opposed to economic; and whether the defendant tried to conceal that misconduct.' Then once you get to that point, you go to the next question, which is, 'What actual and potential harm the defendant's conduct caused the plaintiff in this case?' You will pass that to, 'What amount of money is necessary to punish the defendant and discourage the defendant and others from future wrongful conduct [in light of the defendant's financial condition]?' So, I want to make a couple quick points on this. One, clearly the conduct has to be reprehensible, right? And when we talk about caps and things along those lines, a clear factor for the jury of your peers, right, is to determine the amount necessary to essentially provide specific and general deterrence. But it's based on and in light of the defendant's financial condition. So, when we talk about caps, there's not a need for some arbitrary number when the jury, which is a constitutional right to have a jury, has the ability to look at those financial hardships. So, for legislative intent, let me just go on a little bit farther because I don't want to stop at the Illinois Supreme Court. The U.S. Supreme Court has actually weighed on this. Are you aware of that, Jay C. Hoffman?"

Hoffman: "Yes, I am."

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Tarver: "Okay, great. So, the U.S. Supreme Court has noted, 'while any punitive damages imposed should reflect the enormity of the tortfeasor's defense,' i.e., the defendant, right? The second guidepost is the disparity between the actual or potential harm suffered and the punitive award to remind the reviewing court that the award should not be 'grossly out of proportion to the severity of the offense.' Again, while that's not numeric, it is a general formula that would cap the amount that would survive judicial discretion of what you could provide as far as punitive damages. And then, lastly, I will say, going back to the Illinois Supreme Court... and again, this all comes from the Illinois Pattern Jury Instructions. So, this is what Illinois courts provide to juries before they make a determination. Okay? The Illinois Supreme Court recently reduced punitive damage award to a ratio of 11 to 1 from an Appellate Court decision that was 75 to 1 for Local 150, right? And I'm not saying for them in a sense that they did it as a favor, but the point is the jury said 75 to 1. The Illinois Supreme Court said 11 to 1 was sufficient because they were taking into account the financial condition of that company. So, again, when we talk about caps and what we can do as a Legislature, I want to be very, very clear that the court has already provided for those in a constitutional manner. So, the discretion is there for the court, as opposed to the Legislature picking an arbitrary number. Were you aware of that, Jay C. Hoffman?"

Hoffman: "Yes, I was."

Tarver: "Okay. So, I just wanted to make sure we had that in the record for legislative intent. And then, lastly, I'll just

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say this, and I said this in committee earlier, I find it incredibly offensive when all these businesses who get tremendous incentives of taxpayers' money to stand up their businesses, scale them, and, you know, and so on, and then turn around and say, when we do something very, very egregious, the very taxpayer, based on whether or not they live or die, should not be able to hold us accountable. I think that's offensive. I hope that people have listened to, at a minimum, what the courts have already said, not just Illinois, but the U.S. Supreme Court, and I really urge you to go ahead and vote 'yes'. Because this is good for individuals who want to make sure, or at least try to ensure, that reprehensible conduct that is frequent and that is attempted to be concealed does not go on in Illinois. So, thank you for bringing this Bill forward. I'm happy to be a cosponsor. I urge an 'aye' vote."

Hoffman: "Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Representative McLaughlin."

McLaughlin: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Leader Hoffman, will you yield for a question?"

Speaker Mah: "He indicates he will."

McLaughlin: "Pretty basic. I'm not an attorney, thank God. Pro-business or anti-business legislation do you think this will be reviewed as by businesses determining to locate in Illinois or not?"

Hoffman: "I can't speak for business. I can tell you this is a pro-victims' families piece of legislation."

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McLaughlin: "Okay. And do you believe that this will bring our friends in labor into punitive damage settlements based upon the way that this is currently drafted?"

Hoffman: "Well, I think that... I don't think they're prohibited from being assessed punitive damages. This only deals with wrongful death. So, if you're an entity and you intentionally, recklessly cause the death of another, then if you did that, the court or the jury of your peers can then recommend and give punitive damages."

McLaughlin: "Okay. And my other question, which makes me incredibly nervous. The proponents are all trial lawyers, would that be correct here? It's not a long list. It's the trial lawyers and the State Bar Association. Is that correct?"

Hoffman: "I would say that way more are proponents than that, including the families of people who have been mowed down by the conduct of intoxicated drivers."

McLaughlin: "Representative, you'll have no argument on our side by any of the victims. I want to get to the specifics."

Hoffman: "Well, to say... to say that they aren't proponents, that they aren't proponents of this legislation so that the families that are left behind receive not only just compensation..."

McLaughlin: "Madam Speaker, to the Bill."

Hoffman: "...but try to ensure... but try to ensure that those victims..."

Speaker Mah: "To the Bill."

McLaughlin: "Thank you. So, I'd like to go through the list of opponents... the list because I think it's incredibly important. American Property Casualty Insurance Association;

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Association of Aggregate Producers; the Chemical Industry Council; Chicagoland Chamber; Illinois Chamber; Chiefs of Police; the Health Care Council; the Insurance Association; the IMA; the IML; IRMA, our retail manufacturer.. Retail Merchants Association; Illinois Trucking Association; small little company called Johnson & Johnson; Liberty Mutual; Life & Health Insurance Council; Midwest Truckers; National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies; and the National Federation of Independent Businesses; and our good friends in the Teamsters, the UPS. So, to the Bill. I think it's pretty evident here that what we've got are a bunch of trial lawyers looking to pass legislation to fill their pockets against businesses in Illinois. My distinguished colleague mentioned on a case-by-case basis. Well, now more than ever businesses are determining whether to stay in Illinois on a case-by-case basis. Our good friends at Caterpillar; Citadel; Tyson; and my high school friend, Jim Liautaud from Jimmy John's, who now resides in Florida. People, this is such antibusiness legislation that we might as well put a for sale sign all over Illinois businesses. We are here to attract businesses to Illinois, not to penalize them. I can't support this legislation. The business community can't support this legislation. And all of the insured here, if you own a business, you will never domicile in Illinois because you won't be able to get insurance. This is a terrible antibusiness Bill, it will cost us thousands of jobs in the future. And for that reason, I believe my friends in the Democratic aisle should think very carefully before they vote against private labor on this Bill. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

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Speaker Mah: "Representative DeLuca."

DeLuca: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield for a question?"

Speaker Mah: "He indicates he will."

DeLuca: "Thanks. Leader Hoffman, specific to the transportation industry is what my question is in regards to. Whether it's trucking or trains or airlines, they conduct scheduled maintenance. So, the question that I'm asking is, they identify that a piece of the equipment is not operating and it needs to be repaired. So, it goes on the scheduled maintenance list, but the equipment can still operate. So, from the time it's identified as in need of repair, before the scheduled maintenance takes place, there's a catastrophic event which causes death. So, would they be found as being irresponsible? Or would they be viewed as being responsible under this legislation?"

Hoffman: "Yeah. So... and it really is a factual determination. First of all, the... whether they get compensated, the injured person who presumably died, whether that family would get compensated is a... is a question of negligence. Okay? So, that's compensatory damages that you would receive if you are negligent. Now, the whole issue of punitive damages is a step further. And I believe Representative Tarver very well, he went into what all has to be shown in order to prove punitive damages. First, you must show the defendant's conduct was reprehensible. That includes the consideration of duration and frequency of the conduct and whether they attempted to correct or conceal that conduct. So, under your fact scenario, it doesn't sound like they did. So, I don't believe that the

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first prong would even be met. But if it were, then you must... the actual and potential harm inflicted upon the victim by that company, you must determine what is the actual or potential harm for future and then the amount of money that is necessary to punish that defendant. So, he has to create an intentional act. It has to be reprehensible. It has to be shown that they knew about it and tried to... could have tried to conceal it. If all those factors are relevant or prevalent or are there, then, potentially there could be potential punitive damages under your scenario. Under what you just indicated, I would say it's highly doubtful, especially since there have been only 18 cases of punitive damages that have been awarded in the State of Illinois in the last 10 years over \$10 thousand. So, it's very difficult to get, and there are factors that must be proven before you can get it."

DeLuca: "Appreciate your answer very much. Thank you."

Speaker Mah: "Leader Hoffman to close."

Hoffman: "Yes, I'll... I'll try and be brief, but I want to complete a thought. First of all, let me just thank Representative La Shawn Ford who brought this to us several years ago, and it took us this long to get done for the victims of a terrible... victims' family of a terrible, terrible death, as well as Speaker Welch for championing this cause, and Chairwoman Gong-Gershowitz of... and Representative Tarver, as well as Vice Chair Ann Williams. So, this is something that when you talk about who supports it, sure, people who represent injured victims, people who represent injured people, people who represent injured folks that were wronged, whether... someone had the audacity to bring up Johnson & Johnson as opposing

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this. Well, of course they oppose it. Why wouldn't you oppose it when you have, for years, been providing talcum powder that had caused women to get ovarian cancer and die. I'd oppose it too. I'd oppose it too. So, doesn't surprise me they're... they're against the Bill. What surprises me is that we can't be honest with ourselves and say that if they are conducting these types of behaviors that their behavior has to stop. Has to stop. And that injured people deserve just compensation and compensation to get that behavior to stop. I want to just read from the Illinois Supreme Court from a 1983 case. Here's what they said. 'In urging that we rule for the plaintiffs and ask that we consider the often-repeated adage that it's cheaper to kill your victim than to leave him maimed, and the possibility that the defendants faced with punitive damages claims may attempt to delay the proceedings until the plaintiff, who... who would then die. Persuasive as these arguments sound, we believe they are better addressed by the General Assembly than by this court.' So, today, we're addressing that. I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Mah: "The question is 'Shall House Bill 219 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 75 voting 'yes', 40 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Mr. Clerk, Agreed Resolutions."

Clerk Bolin: "Agreed Resolutions. House Resolution 290, offered by Representative West. And House Resolution 293, offered by Representative Rashid."

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Speaker Mah: "Leader Buckner moves for the adoption of Agreed Resolutions. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Resolutions are adopted. And now, allowing perfunctory time for the Clerk, Leader Buckner moves that the House shall stand adjourned until Wednesday, May 17, at the hour of 11 a.m. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the... and the House stands adjourned."

Clerk Hollman: "House Perfunctory Session will come to order. Introduction and First Reading of House Bills. House Bill 4090, offered by Representative Ness, a Bill for an Act concerning civil law. House Bill 4091, offered by Representative Hoffman, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 4092, offered by Representative Wilhour, a Bill for an Act concerning conservation. House Bill 4093, offered by Representative Ann Williams, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 4094, offered by Representative Miller, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 4095, offered by Representative Weber, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. First Reading of these House Bills. Second Reading of Senate Bills. Senate Bill 285, a Bill for an Act concerning criminal law. Senate Bill 764, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Senate Bill 1352, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Senate Bill 1446, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Senate Bill 1555, a Bill for an Act concerning safety. Senate Bill 1872, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Second Reading of these Senate Bills. They'll be held on the Order of Second

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Reading. There being no further business, the House
Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."