

STATE OF ILLINOIS
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE

273rd Legislative Day

5/27/2008

Speaker Hannig: "The hour of 3:00 having arrived, the House will be in order. The Members will be in their seats. Members and guests are asked to refrain from starting their laptops, turn off all cell phones and pagers, and rise for the invocation and for the Pledge of Allegiance. We shall be led in prayer today by Father Anthony Pizzo, who is the pastor of Saint Rita's of Cascia Parish in Chicago. Father Pizzo is the guest of Representative Golar."

Father Pizzo: "Good afternoon. It's a pleasure to be here with you. We pray. Lord, provident God, we Your servants stand before You and one another ready to listen, to speak, to question, to resolve, and to serve. Remove any obstacle that impedes the way towards justice and peace, these gifts that we all long for deep within the recesses of our hearts. Help us to be transparent, to take the risks that may transform us, elected and appointed leaders, into servants in the name of what is good and just in Your sight. Grant us wisdom, Your gift which perfects our speculative reason in matters of judgment about truth. Grant us understanding, common sense, the gift whereby self-evident principles are known. Grant us knowledge, which perfects our practical reason in matters of judgment. Grant us counsel, right judgment, which allows us to respond prudently. Grant us fortitude, courage that establishes firmness of mind maintaining the basic principles of respecting life and facing the challenges that can discourage us from moving forward and taking a stand against anything that threatens the well-being of every citizen and noncitizen of this great state: man,

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woman, child, resident, immigrant, and visitor. Remove the fear and the discouragement that can paralyze us from acting practically and responding generously for the good of all. Grant us piety, the gift that inspires us to recognize that there is something greater than ourselves. The gift that moves us toward worship in our respective faith traditions, as well as to respect one another's faith. It is the gift that motivates us to seek eternal truths, which inspire us to act in a neighborly, practical, and just way toward one another. Grant us the gift of wonder and awe in Your presence, the very gift that recognizes that the world is bigger than we and that we share this world with one another. In this individual and collective discovery, we find that goodness is more powerful than evil. We discover that love conquers fear. We discover that hope destroys despair. We discover that we cannot have peace without our commitment to justice. We discover You in our service toward the people of Illinois. In every corner of this great state may we find more opportunities to serve those we represent that they in turn may be so inclined to serve one another. We pray this in the name of all that is good and just, Amen."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Stephens, will you lead us in the Pledge."

Stephens - 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."

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Speaker Hannig: "Roll Call for Attendance. Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record reflect the following are excused absences today Representatives: Bradley, both John and Rich, Davis, but only Will, Feigenholtz, Froehlich, Osterman, Patterson, Riley, Scully, Washington, and Yarbrough."

Speaker Hannig: "And Representative Bost."

Bost: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let the record reflect that Representatives Black and Watson are excused today on the Republican side of the aisle."

Speaker Hannig: "Mr. Clerk, take the record. There are 102 Members answering the Roll Call, a quorum is present. Mr. Clerk, would you read the Rules Report."

Clerk Mahoney: "Representative Barbara Flynn Currie, Chairperson from the Committee on Rules, to which the following legislative measures and/or Joint Action Motion were referred, action taken on May 27, 2008, reported the same back with the following recommendation/s: 'approved for floor consideration', recommends be adopted is Amendment #2 to House Bill 2916, Amendment #2 to House Bill 4320, Amendment #2 to House Bill 4385, Amendment #1 to House Bill 4443, Amendment #1 to House Bill 4728, Amendment #4 to House Bill 4927, Amendment #2 to House Bill 5668; 'approved for consideration' House Joint Resolution 88, Amendment #1 has been 'recommends be adopted'. Referred to the Order of House Bills-Second Reading is House Bill 2075, House Bill 2760, and House Bill 3200; 'recommends be adopted' is Amendment #5 to Senate Bill 62, Amendment #3 to

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Senate Bill 1879, Amendment #2 to Senate Bill 1929, Amendment #2 to Senate Bill 2015, Amendment #1 to Senate Bill 2031, Amendment #2 to Senate Bill 2135, Amendment #2 to Senate Bill 2401, Amendment #1 to Senate Bill 2476, and Amendment #1 to Senate Bill 2877. On the Order of Concurrence referred to the.. 'recommends be adopted' is a Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment #1 to House Bill 1449, a Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment #1 to House Bill 3446, a Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment #1 to House Bill 3477, a Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment #1 to House Bill 4203, a Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment #1 to House Bill 5082, and a Motion to Concur with Senate Amendment #1 to House Bill 5368. Referred to the House Committee on Rules is House Resolution 1343, offered by Representative Winters and House Joint Resolution 135, offered by Representative Jerry Mitchell."

Speaker Hannig: "On the Order of House Bills-Second Reading, Representative Reboletti, you have House Bill 2916. Read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Mahoney: "House Bill 2916, a Bill for an Act concerning local government has been read a second time, previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendments 1 and 2, offered by Representative Reboletti, have both been approved for consideration."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Reboletti on Amendment #1."

Reboletti: "These Amendments are clarifying the House Bill to indicate that municipalities and counties can have landlord licensing. It will be permissive and explains how they can define those terms. I'd ask for their adoption."

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Speaker Hannig: "The Gentleman moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #1. All in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. The Amendment is adopted. And now, Mr. Clerk, are there other Amendments?"

Clerk Mahoney: "Floor Amendment #2 has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Reboletti."

Reboletti: "It's the same for this Amendment. It just clarifies the initial Amendment which became the Bill. I move for its adoption."

Speaker Hannig: "All in favor of the Amendment say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. The Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments."

Clerk Mahoney: "No further Amendments. No Motions filed."

Speaker Hannig: "Third Reading. Representative Turner. Okay. Representative Pihos, you have House Bill 4320 and I'm advised the Amendment is available. So, Mr. Clerk, would you return this to the Order of Second Reading and would you read the Bill, please."

Clerk Mahoney: "House Bill 4320 has been read a second time, previously. Amendment #1 was adopted in committee. Floor Amendment #2, offered by Representative Pihos, has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Pihos on the Amendment."

Pihos: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House. What this Amendment does is it very narrowly defines the definition of 'computer scrubware... scrub software'... to 'provide that computer scrub software means any third-party added software, designed to delete information from the

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computer unit, the hard drive, or other software, which would eliminate and prevent discovery of browser activity, included but not limited to Internet history, address bar or bars, cache or caches, and/or cookies, and which would over-write files in a way so as to make previous computer activity, including but not limited to Web site access, more difficult to discover.' I'd be happy to answer any questions."

Speaker Hannig: "Is there any discussion? Then all in favor of the Lady's Amendment say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. The Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments?"

Clerk Mahoney: "No further Amendments. No Motions filed."

Speaker Hannig: "Third Reading. Representative Turner, you have House Bill 4385. Out of the record. Representative Flowers on House Bill 4443. Representative Flowers, do you wish us to read this? Do you wish us to read this on Second? I'm advised the Amendment's out of Rules. So, Mr. Clerk, read the Bill."

Clerk Mahoney: "House Bill 4443, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations has been read a second time, previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #1, offered by Representative Flowers, has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Flowers."

Flowers: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. House Amendment #1 would merely add another million dollars (\$1,000,000)... fifteen (15)... would add another million dollars (\$1,000,000) to the existing Bill...

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five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to the existing Bill. The original Bill was a million (1,000,000) and now I'm adding another five hundred (500,000) to the existing Bill. And I would urge for the adoption."

Speaker Hannig: "Is there any discussion? Then all in favor of the Amendment say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. The Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments?"

Clerk Mahoney: "No further Amendments. No Motions filed."

Speaker Hannig: "Third Reading. Representative Chapa LaVia, you have House Bill 4728. Representative Chapa LaVia. Out of the record. We're going to move to Third Readings. And Representative Moffitt, you have House Bill 5845. Do you wish us to read that Bill? So, Mr. Clerk, read the Bill."

Clerk Mahoney: "House Bill 5845, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. Third Reading of this Bill."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Moffitt."

Moffitt: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. House Bill 5845 is really a trailer Bill to last year's House Bill 1923 that established a twenty dollar (\$20) surcharge for serious traffic convictions. This language is from the office of the State Fire Marshal and would provide revenue for the things that we did last year to increase funding for that zero percent fire truck loan, the zero percent ambulance loan, and then a grant program. But this was the Bill that we said at the time we passed 1923 there would be additional language coming. So this is language from the State Fire Marshal and it's to complete the things... it's a trailer Bill for what we did last year. Be happy to entertain any questions."

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Speaker Hannig: "Is there any discussion? Then the question is, 'Shall this Bill pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Representative Coulson and Dunn, do you wish to be recorded? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 102 voting 'yes' and 0 voting 'no'. And this Bill, having received a Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Representative Currie, do you wish us to proceed with House Resolution 1185? Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker and Members of the House. Lupus is a terrible disease, a chronic ailment that can also prove fatal to people. It makes living with lupus not an easy proposition. And I think it's important for the citizens of Illinois to understand the depredations of this difficult, chronic ailment. And this Resolution would name the month of May, Lupus Awareness Month in the State of Illinois. I'd be happy to answer your questions. I'd appreciate your support."

Speaker Hannig: "Is there any discussion? Then all in favor of the Resolution say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Resolution is adopted. Representative Howard, you have House Bill 1831. Out of the record. Representative Ryg on House Bill 5187. Out of the record. Representative Molaro on House Bill 4383. Out of the record. Representative Riley on House Bill 2308. Pardon me, the Gentleman's excused today. Representative Joyce on

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House Bill 2047. Up to you, Representative. Do you wish us to read it? Read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Mahoney: "House Bill 2047, a Bill for an Act concerning public employee benefits. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Hannig: "The Gentleman from Cook, Representative Joyce."

Joyce: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. House Bill 2047 would allow the persons that are working for a fire department that gets merged as a result of an intergovernmental agreement into a fire protection district to capture those years of service for terms of pension benefits, disa... pension disability benefits. I believe there is no opposition to this Bill and I'd be happy to answer any questions."

Speaker Hannig: "The Gentleman has moved for the passage of House Bill 2047. Is there any discussion? Then the question is, 'Shall this Bill pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Representative Ramey and Sullivan, do you wish to be recorded? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 102 voting 'yes' and 0 voting 'no'. And this Bill, having received a Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Representative Golar, you have House Bill 4913. Read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Mahoney: "House Bill 4913, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Hannig: "The Lady from Cook, Representative Golar."

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Golar: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. House Bill 4913 is an accountability Bill. As amended it creates tougher accountability provisions in the law for charter schools that fail to achieve goals set in their original charters. Once a charter is notified for failure to meet its goals, HB 4913 requires a written improvement plan within one (1) year timetable to begin implementation of the plan and includes the authority for revocation of a charter for failing to meet its own standards of achievement. I'll be happy to answer any questions."

Speaker Hannig: "The Lady moves for the passage of House Bill 4913. And on that question, the Gentleman from DuPage, Representative Meyer."

Meyer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Sponsor yield?"

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

Meyer: "Representative, how many charter schools do we now have?"

Golar: "I think about eighty-four (84), Representative."

Meyer: "Where are they located?"

Golar: "Mainly in Chicago."

Meyer: "What do you have to do to start a chartered school now?"

Golar: "Well, I would imagine first of all you would need some sponsors to start a charter school. Basically, in most of the communities there have been people that actually come in and put in moneys and there is a portion of it that is also paid by CPS."

Meyer: "By what?"

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Golar: "By Chicago Public Schools."

Meyer: "Which would be for those chartered schools that are in the Chicago Public School system, correct?"

Golar: "Would you repeat that, Representative."

Meyer: "I said that would cover those chartered schools that are in the Chicago Public School system."

Golar: "That is correct."

Meyer: "Okay. If the school wasn't in the Chicago Public School system then they wouldn't get anything from the Chicago Public Schools, would they?"

Golar: "What's that again, Representative?"

Meyer: "I said, if the schools were not in the Chicago Public School system, they would not receive anything from the Chicago Public Schools, correct?"

Golar: "That is correct."

Meyer: "Okay. Is there a revocation method in... currently in law?"

Golar: "Yeah. In the present statute there is a revocation. The reason for this Bill being implemented is because when the charter schools were formed in 1995, during the initial conversations about charters, once they decided on it they put in statute that it could be either renewed or revoked. There was no time line in there. This is an agreed Bill, Representative Meyer. I met with Arne Duncan on this Bill. Have been working on it now for approximately five (5) or six (6) weeks. It was passed out of the committee based on me holding it on Second and then working with the Chicago Public Schools and charters to come to an agreed Bill. And it is agreed by Arne Duncan."

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Meyer: "Who is the civic committee? Are you familiar with them?"

Golar: "The civic committee are... is some individuals that state that they are opposed to the Bill. I would say to the civic committee that..."

Meyer: "I thought you said that this was an agreed Bill?"

Golar: "It is an agreed Bill."

Meyer: "With whom?"

Golar: "It's agreed by Arne Duncan. That's who I was supposed to be talking to, not the civic committee. Arne Duncan."

Meyer: "The civic committee should not have input? They're just kind of normal citizens, would they not be?"

Golar: "Well, I'm not saying that they are or not. I'm not putting any... I was supposed... according to the agreement that I made with the Elementary & Secondary Education Committee is that I would work out these details with Chicago Public Schools. That has been done. That was the agreement."

Meyer: "Well, I really wasn't referring to that agreement. I don't sit on that committee and I, quite frankly, wasn't aware we..."

Golar: "But I just wanted you to know that it has been worked out."

Meyer: "My question to you I guess is was it... You... you said it was an agreed Bill, I happen to understand that it wasn't. The civic committee was against it."

Golar: "Well, it wasn't... it wasn't..."

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Meyer: "The civic committee was against it and my question to you is, don't they count? You said all you had to do is get Arne Duncan's approval."

Golar: "No, no, no. I didn't say that, Representative. I said..."

Meyer: "Well, I thought you did."

Golar: "Let me say this. Let's revisit... let's revisit the prior agreement. And the revisiting of this is, is that we decided out of the Elementary & Secondary Education Committee, they had some questions. I brought up showing there were fourteen (14) schools that were in noncompliance. Fourteen (14) out of the eighty-four (84) that were in noncompliance with very low math and reading scores. Those individuals on the committee was not aware of that, I passed out that information. In doing so, if you would look at the Bill, let's revisit it, there are four (4) Amendments that has been put on the Bill. So, it is a workable Bill. We first had thirty (30) days, we went to sixty (60) days, we went to ninety (90) days. And after meeting with the charter school representatives, these are the individuals that work out of CPS, we met with them and the final agreement was to..."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative, we'll let her answer... finish answering the questions and then you can bring your remarks to a close. So, Representative Golar."

Golar: "Their objection was the ninety (90) days and... on Amendment 3. And Amendment 4... after I met with the CEO of Chicago Public Schools, we had an agreed Bill, which is one

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(1) year for the implementation of them taking care of issues that affect the Chicago charter schools."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Meyer, could you bring your remarks to a close."

Meyer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That clock just seemed to just whiz by. I'm going to keep my eye on it today and make sure it's just not the angle that I'm looking at it from. And I appreciate the time you've given me. Thank you."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Bassi."

Bassi: "Thank you, Mr. Sponsor (sic-Speaker). Will the Lady yield?"

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

Bassi: "Representative, if I'm not mistaken, there is already a process in place to revoke a charter for a charter school. Is there not?"

Golar: "That... there is."

Bassi: "And what's... how does that work?"

Golar: "Well, basically, it actually had in the Bill saying that they would revoke or... act... Let me back up a little. Actually, since charter schools have been... from the origination of charter schools in 1995, there have been three (3) schools that have been... actually revoked their charter."

Bassi: "Whose charters have been revoked by..."

Golar: "By?"

Bassi: "...by whom?"

Golar: "Chicago Public Schools."

Bassi: "By the Chicago Public Schools."

Golar: "Yes."

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Bassi: "So, in other words, there is a process in place to revoke charters?"

Golar: "Right. But there was not represented an accountability piece in there. There was no timetable. I mean, they could go on five (5) to ten (10) years and..."

Bassi: "No... I think... don't charter schools sign a contract, though, for a certain length of time?"

Golar: "They have an accountability plan and it is five (5) to ten (10) years. And I feel..."

Bassi: "I thought it was five (5) years. I think it's five (5) years initially, unless extended. Isn't it?"

Golar: "Well, let me say this, Representative. We have six hundred and twenty-four (624) schools in the City of Chicago that are traditional schools. We have approximately eighty-four (84) charter schools, and charter schools, of course, is a choice. It is a choice for many men and women that are trying to find an alternative to the traditional schools."

Bassi: "But what your Bill would do would be shorten the time frame that a charter... I mean, it would change the original intent of the law, I think, by changing the time frame in which a charter can be revoked."

Golar: "Well, let me say this, Representative."

Bassi: "And if, in fact, you're talking about giving kids choices through the charter school program, then this would be doing the reverse of that. And that's one of my concerns in that..."

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Golar: "That may be the very best possible choice to make. But let's say this charter schools are getting public funds. Is that correct, Representative?"

Bassi: "Yes, Ma'am, they are."

Golar: "Okay."

Bassi: "They are public schools."

Golar: "So, if they are getting public funds. The meeting that I had with Arne Duncan, I told him, they should be... they should have the same level playing field as the traditional public schools. And each year a public school must do a school improvement plan if they are not meeting the AYP. And right now, what is happening with the present charter schools, they are not meeting the AYP and there is no plan put in place to say, what are they going to do to correct it. This is what my Bill does."

Bassi: "But the Amendments that you've got ended up being Floor Amendments. Did they not, Representative? They did not come..."

Golar: "Floor Amendments... because, Representative... because, Representative..."

Bassi: "...they did come to the committee 'cause if I recall correctly there was a lot of concern in committee about this Bill. And I know you had said you were going to work on it and I'm..."

Golar: "I did work on it."

Bassi: "...and I'm assuming..."

Golar: "That's the reason for the four (4) Amendments."

Bassi: "These are pretty strong Amendments, though. I mean..."

Golar: "Strong, in what way, Representative?"

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Bassi: "Well, they really do change the intent of what happens with the charter school, since it changes the..."

Golar: "I don't think they change the intent. The intent is is that if they are getting public funds, they should be using the same measure that they're using for the traditional public schools. How is that?"

Bassi: "But this is a mandatory revocation of a charter."

Golar: "No, it's not mandatory. It does not say 'shall'. It says 'may'. Read the Amendment, Representative."

Bassi: "But if you're not meeting the standards... you know, you're talking about not meeting the standards for AYP, but have they shown progress? Because that's..."

Golar: "We want them to meet the standards. Let me give you an example... let me give you an example, Representative."

Bassi: "Like the six hundred and twenty-four (624) schools in the Chicago area..."

Golar: "Representative Bassi, you sat... Representative, can I speak?"

Bassi: "...many of which are not meeting the standard right now. Is that what's happening?"

Golar: "Can I speak, please."

Bassi: "Yes, Ma'am."

Golar: "In the Elementary/Secondary Education Committee, you sat there and Representative Mitchell spoke on behalf saying that I needed to work with Chicago Public Schools on this and get an agreed Bill. I started out with thirty (30) days and I was working with the Illinois Federation of Teachers and they brought it up to sixty (60). I was not in agreement with that because I know the measure. I told

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them that we needed more time. I talked with the IGA person, she was able to get a meeting with Arne Duncan. I sat in that meeting not only with them, but also with his charter people. And this is an agreed Bill with the Chief Executive Officer, Arne Duncan..."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative, would you bring your remarks to a close and we'll let Representative Bassi finish her remarks as well."

Golar: "Is there any more question, Representative Bassi?"

Bassi: "No. Representative, with all due respect, I... I really struggle with this because I'm seeing it as a mandate to revoke charters."

Golar: "It doesn't say it... it doesn't say it in... why don't you..."

Bassi: "And I wish we had more time to work on this or that we could..."

Golar: "Why don't you read the fourth Amendment?"

Bassi: "Well, I'm..."

Golar: "It says 'shall'. It does not say 'shall'; it says 'may', 'may', 'may write up a plan to correct the issues of why they are not meeting the AYP.' There is a school, the Young Math and Science School, 1995, they are, currently, Representative, 14 percent in math in compliance and 28 percent in reading. Now, I could talk about the other thirteen (13) schools that are also having those issues. Now, if the traditional schools in the City of Chicago are receiving public funds and they have to do an improvement plan, there is no reason for the charter schools to be

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receiving moneys from the State of Illinois and they are not in compliance in the same way."

Bassi: "But if their children are actually improving more rapidly than those in the schools in the immediate area..."

Golar: "And what makes you say that, Representative?"

Bassi: "Those are some of the statistics that I've seen from some of the schools."

Golar: "Well, you may have seen the stats, but I also passed out a stat to you on fourteen (14)... fourteen (14) schools that are very, very low in AYP."

Bassi: "Mmm mmm."

Golar: "And I'm only bringing about a measure of accountability. I'm not trying to revoke any schools or do anything of that nature. It is only an accountability measure. I don't know how you're reading it, but I think you're dead wrong on this."

Bassi: "And I... and I'm afraid that the way I'm reading is that this... this seems to be a manda..."

Golar: "Well, take your time, Representative, sit down... sit down and look over it."

Bassi: "Since... since unfortunately, the Amendments came to the floor instead of committee, this is the first I've seen these Amendments. So, I will take time to read them and in the meantime, regretfully, I'm going to have to stand in opposition to the Bill. I'm sorry."

Golar: "I appreciate that, Representative."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Monique Davis."

Davis, M.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hannig: "Indicates she'll yield."

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Davis, M.: "Representative, what Amendment did Representative Black put on this Bill?"

Golar: "Representative Davis, what did you say?"

Davis, M.: "No, I was... I can answer the question. Representative Black put Amendment #3 on this Bill, which extends the time, I believe, to ninety (90) days. Is that right?"

Golar: "That's correct."

Davis, M.: "Okay. Representative Black is in support of this Bill based upon his Amendment that extended the time that they give the charter schools to meet the requirements by the state. I believe that those of us who represent districts that have charter schools would probably be much more concerned because they are our children. We want them to learn at the same rate at least as children in other public schools do. Now, we say we support charter schools, but then sometimes we're saying we don't want to support what will make them better or what will make them equal to the rest of the public schools in our state. I think Representative Golar along with Arne Duncan, who is the chief superintendent, almost, of our charter schools, have worked on this legislation. This legislation has been before the Elementary/Secondary Education Committee. Every time there was a major concern, the Sponsor of this Bill worked and corrected those concerns. What is she trying to do? She's merely saying that if a charter school its not doing what is charter mandates that they have to write a corrective plan. Now, in the rest of the school system, I think we call it an action plan. There... there are some

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other titles, but every school in Chicago in the State of Illinois has to write a plan of action for the coming year. This Bill merely asks the charter schools have to write a plan and maybe corrective plan if the original one is not working. It is not in any way in opposition to the charter schools. In fact, it's in support. We've had several, three (3) or so to close. Maybe they would not have had to close had they been given an opportunity to write a corrective plan. This Bill is not complicated. It is not complex. It is a Bill that supports the charter schools that this Body wants. It supports them and gives them an opportunity to perform at the same level and expectations of other schools. I urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hannig: "The Gentleman from Cook, Representative Durkin."

Durkin: "Inquiry of the Chair."

Speaker Hannig: "Yes, state your point."

Durkin: "Mr. Speaker, could... there's a lot of confusion as to whether or not Representative Black had introduced an Amendment. Could you kindly ask the Clerk if whether... who is the Sponsor of House Amendment #3 to this Bill?"

Speaker Hannig: "Mr. Clerk, could you advise us who the Sponsor of Amendment #3 was on this Bill?"

Clerk Mahoney: "Floor Amendment #3 was sponsored by Representative Golar."

Durkin: "Additionally, could you ask the Clerk if he could find out if any notes have been attached... have been filed against this Bill and if so, who are the Sponsors of those notes."

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Speaker Hannig: "Mr. Clerk, could you give us the status of the notes? Who filed them and what the status is? We're advised that all the notes have been filed, Representative. In fact..."

Durkin: "Well, is there any way I can find out who requested that the note be filed then?"

Speaker Hannig: "The Clerk... the Clerk could look it up. They don't have them in front of him because that's typically an item that we deal with on Second Reading, but if that's an important issue for you, we'll look it up. So, Mr. Clerk, could you advise us who had requested the notes?"

Clerk Mahoney: "Representative Black requested a state mandates note on House Amendment 3 and a fiscal note on House Amendment 3."

Speaker Hannig: "So, Representative Durkin."

Durkin: "Thank you."

Speaker Hannig: "Further discussion? Then Representative Golar to close."

Golar: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and Gentlemen, it is important that we look at this Bill as a measure for all schools. Charter schools is a choice. And I ask today that in my explanation of this Bill that you will give me an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hannig: "And the question is, 'Shall this Bill pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Representative Poe, Mitchell, Flowers, Brauer, Leitch, do you wish to be recorded? Have

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all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. Do you wish to put this on Postponed, Representative?"

Golar: "Yes, thank you."

Speaker Hannig: "Okay. So, we'll put this on Postponed Consideration. Representative Turner, you have House Bill 4385. The Amendment's been out. Would you like us to read that Bill? Mr. Clerk, read the Bill."

Clerk Mahoney: "House Bill 4385, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. Second Reading of this House Bill. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendments 1 and 2 have both been approved for consideration."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Turner on Amendment #1."

Turner: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Amendment #1 removes the ability of the city or of a municipality to petition the court to have a property declared abandoned if there, in fact, there's no active water service. And I move for the adoption of the Amendment. The Amendment would exclude the fact that water service is not necessary or would not be one of the provisions. And so, I move for the adoption of Amendment #1."

Speaker Hannig: "Is there any discussion? Then all in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. The Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments?"

Clerk Mahoney: "Floor Amendment #2 has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Turner."

Turner: "Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. And Amendment #2 includes Amendment #1 and it also has a term in there which

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says that the property has to be unsafe. And I move for the adoption of Amendment #2."

Speaker Hannig: "All in favor of the Amendment say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. The Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments?"

Clerk Mahoney: "No further Amendments. No Motions filed."

Speaker Hannig: "Third Reading. Representative Chapa LaVia, you have House Bill 4728. Do you wish us to read this on Second? I'm advised the Amendment is out of Rules. So, Mr. Clerk, read the Bill."

Clerk Mahoney: "House Bill 4728..."

Speaker Hannig: "No. Excuse me, Mr. Clerk. They'll take that out of the record. Representative Chapa LaVia, you also have House Bill 4927. I'm advised you need to take that back to Second and adopt an Amendment. Is that correct? Okay. So, Mr. Clerk, let's return that to the Order of Second Reading and are there any Amendments?"

Clerk Mahoney: "On House Bill 4927, Floor Amendment #4, offered by Representative Chapa LaVia, has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Chapa LaVia, would you like to present the Amendment?"

Chapa LaVia: "Speaker, I think I'm going to move it back on Second. I'm working with Representative Fritchey on his concerns before I move it forward. So, thank you for..."

Speaker Hannig: "So, we'll just hold that then on the Order of Second Reading. Representative Lou Lang on House Bill 5668. What is the status of that Bill, Mr. Clerk?"

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Clerk Mahoney: "House Bill 5688 (sic-5668) is on the Order of Consideration Postponed."

Speaker Hannig: "So, let's return that to the Order of Second Reading for the purposes of an Amendment. And now Mr. Clerk, are there any Amendments?"

Clerk Mahoney: "On House Bill 5668, Floor Amendment #2, offered by Representative Lang, has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Lang."

Lang: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen. During the debate on this Bill there was some concern that there be a limit on the fee and also some language that would not allow any sweeps by the Governor's Office. This Amendment accomplishes both of those goals. I move adoption of the Amendment."

Speaker Hannig: "Is there any discussion? Then all in favor of the Amendment say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. The Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments?"

Clerk Mahoney: "No further Amendments. All notes have been filed."

Speaker Hannig: "Third Reading. Representative Howard, you have House Bill 1831 on the Order of Third Reading. Would you like us to read that Bill? Read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Mahoney: "House Bill 1831, a Bill for an Act concerning criminal law. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Howard."

Howard: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 1831 as amended would amend the current expungement and sealing laws, which seek to clarify the current law on several

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points. There's been a lot of work done on this. In fact, everybody is pretty much agreed. And the only person... the only entity that's not has no position, but if you notice everybody has worked real hard to make sure that all the changes that were necessary were made. This Bill clarifies the current law in several ways: that petty traffic offenses not bar expungement of any criminal record which would otherwise be eligible to be expunged; that in order to be eligible to have records sealed, a petitioner must satisfy one waiting period which commences at the termination of his last sentence; that individuals be allowed to seal cases with a finding of not guilty; and that the treatment of nontraffic, petty, and business offense convictions should be logically consistent. And the goal of this legislation is to ensure that ex-offenders receive the full measure of relief that the Legislature intended to grant them in the legislation of 2005. I will answer questions."

Speaker Hannig: "Is there any discussion? The Lady from Kane, Representative Lindner."

Lindner: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

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

Lindner: "What is the genesis of this legislation?"

Howard: "I'm sorry, would you repeat that?"

Lindner: "What is the genesis of this legislation?"

Howard: "Unfortunately, after the legislation was passed in 2005 there have been, obviously, attempts to implement it. And those who were a part of the process were noticing that there were some barriers to implementation because there

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was not enough clarification. And so, there were a number of persons who suggested that there needed to be some clarification so that each of the entities understood specifically what their role was in the implementation process."

Lindner: "So, this isn't a new law, but it's clarification of the law..."

Howard: "That... it is not a new law."

Lindner: "...on expungement and sealing."

Howard: "That is correct."

Lindner: "All right. And whose initiative was this then?"

Howard: "Whose initiative..."

Lindner: "I mean, did the State Appellate Defender... was it their initiative?"

Howard: "Well, the State Appellate Defender was one of the... one of those who asked me to assist. And there were some of the community organizations that were attempting to assist those who they believe were eligible for expungement as well."

Lindner: "And you said almost everybody was in agreement. Who is not?"

Howard: "The Illinois Press Association is not in agreement. The State's Attorney's Office of Cook County does not agree, but they have no position. At one point, they were against it."

Lindner: "All right. But they... then are they neutral now or just..."

Howard: "That's correct. They have no position."

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Lindner: "All right. And what is the objection of the Press Association?"

Howard: "As has been the case, as far as I can remember, their objection has been that they just don't want to not be able to access any case that they want to be able to see."

Lindner: "And there were many, many Amendments."

Howard: "Absolutely. Seven."

Lindner: "Does... is the seventh Amendment... is one of those Amendments become the Bill or just does every Amendment add to the Bill?"

Howard: "The third Amendment was a gut and replace. The others were just an attempt to make certain that the various entities, including the State's Attorneys of Cook County, were agreeable or at least not against the Bill."

Lindner: "And you worked with the State's Attorneys Association on this Bill... on the Amendments?"

Howard: "Yes."

Lindner: "And everybody's in agreement on the Bill now?"

Howard: "As far as my... as far as I know, that is the case."

Lindner: "All right. Thank you."

Howard: "Thank you."

Speaker Hannig: "Is there any further discussion? Then Representative Howard to close."

Howard: "I would appreciate a 'yes' vote from my colleagues on this. Thank you."

Speaker Hannig: "The question is, 'Shall this Bill pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk...

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Representative Cultra, do you wish to be recorded? Mr. Clerk, take the record. Do you wish to put this on Postponed?"

Howard: "Yes. Thank you."

Speaker Hannig: "Okay. We'll put this on the Order of Postponed. Representative May, you have Senate Bill 2380. Mr. Clerk, read the Bill."

Clerk Mahoney: "Senate Bill 2380, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative May."

May: "Yes. Thank you. Senate Bill 2380. Well, the underlying Bill... and I'd like to thank Representative Mautino and Senator Demuzio... the underlying Bill just clarifies the transition time between ICHIP and Medicaid so that we can make sure that our providers get paid. And then the Amendment that I added was the Hospital Uninsured Patient Discount Act, which we discussed last week when it was added to the Bill. This is really groundbreaking and compassionate legislation to bring relief for health care costs to 83 percent of the uninsured families in our state because the uninsured are the only ones that pay full sticker price. This would give a discount to them. And today because of the serious negotiations between Attorney General Lisa Madigan's Office and the Hospital Association, we have an agreed Bill with many protections and safeguards for our consumers. I'd like to thank again Paul Gainer from the Attorney General's Office and Howard Peters of the Hospital Association as well as my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who bore with us through about three (3)

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hearings over several years, specifically Minority Spokesperson JoAnn Osmond, Representatives Tryon, Mulligan, Krause, and Coulson who worked on this, too. It's an important piece of legislation to help these people. It'll give a deep discount, 35 percent, above hospital costs for all medically necessary services exceeding three hundred dollars (\$300) for any inpatient or outpatient visit. I'll be happy to answer any questions."

Speaker Hannig: "The Lady moves for the passage of Senate Bill 2380. And on that question, the Lady from Lake, Representative Osmond."

Osmond: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Bill. Representative May and the Hospital Association and Members of the committee, they all had questions and Representative May did work very closely and all opposition on the Hospital Association has been removed, and this has turned out to be a very positive Bill. And I hope that everybody would support it. Thank you."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative May to close."

May: "Yes. Thank you very much, Representative Osmond. It truly has been, as I said, a bipartisan effort when everyone recognized the compelling nature of this issue. We have a chance to make history and help hundreds of thousands of residents get a break they deserve on escalating health care costs. They will pay closer to what everyone else is paying right now for these services. We can correct this injustice. And I ask for a 'yes' vote."

Speaker Hannig: "The question is, 'Shall this Bill pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The voting is open."

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Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Representative... Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 102 voting 'yes' and 0 voting 'no'. And this Bill, having received a Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Representative Mathias, for what reason do you rise?"

Mathias: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Hannig: "State your point."

Mathias: "As you know here, we, on both sides of the aisle, have our partisan differences when it comes to issues, but when it comes to Members' health and the health of their families we always stand together. So, I hope that I could speak for everyone... and if I could have a little quiet, please. I just found out this morning that Representative Froehlich's mother had a very serious stroke yesterday... or I'm sorry, on Sunday. And I hope that I can speak for everyone in saying that our prayers are with him and his family. And that his mother recovers and everything, you know, is able to leave the hospital. So, thank you."

Speaker Hannig: "Mr. Clerk, do you have some readings?"

Clerk Mahoney: "Senate Bills-First Reading. Senate Bill 1102, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. Senate Bill 1103, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. Senate Bill 1115, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. Senate Bill 1116, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. Senate Bill 1129, offered by

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Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. Senate Bill 1130, offered by Representative Hannig, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations."

Speaker Hannig: "Mr. Clerk, will you read the Agreed Resolutions."

Clerk Mahoney: "On the Order of Agreed Resolutions is House Resolution 1338, offered by Representative Reboletti. House Resolution 1339, offered by Representative Reboletti. House Resolution 1340, offered by Representative Cross. House Resolution 1341, offered by Representative Osmond. House Resolution 1342, offered by Representative Washington. And House Resolution 1344, offered by Representative Winters."

Speaker Hannig: "Representative Currie moves for the adoption of the Agreed Resolutions. All in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. The Agreed Resolutions are adopted. Are there any announcements? Mr. Clerk, would you read the committee announcements for this afternoon."

Clerk Mahoney: "Committee announcements. Immediately following Session: Agriculture & Conservation will meet in Room 122B, Environmental Health will meet in Room 115, Financial Institutions will meet in Room 114, the Labor Committee will meet in Room 118, Public Utilities will meet in Room C-1, and Railroad Safety will meet in Room D-1. A half hour following Session the following committees will meet: Consumer Protection will meet in Room 115, Drivers' Education & Safety will meet in Room D-1, Elections & Campaign Reform will meet in Room 118, Environment & Energy

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will meet in Room C-1, Higher Education will meet in Room 114, and Local Government will meet in Room 122B."

Speaker Hannig: "Are there any announcements? And Representative Currie would move, that allowing perfunctory time for the Clerk, that the House stand adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 28, at the hour of 12 noon. All in favor say 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. The Motion is adopted and the House stands adjourned."

Clerk Mahoney: "House Perfunctory Session will come to order. Committee Reports. Representative Reitz, Chairperson from the Committee on Agriculture & Conservation, to which the following measure/s was/were referred, action taken on May 27, 2008, reported the same back with the following recommendation/s: 'do pass as amended Short Debate' is Senate Bill 1927 and Senate Bill 1945; 'do pass Short Debate' is Senate Bill 1984. Representative Gordon, Chairperson from the Committee on Consumer Protection, to which the following measure/s was/were referred, action taken on May 27, 2008, reported the same back with the following recommendation/s: 'do pass as amended Short Debate' is Senate Bill 2187. Representative D'Amico, Chairperson from the Committee on Drivers Education & Safety, to which the following measure/s was/were referred, action taken on May 27, 2008, reported the same back with the following recommendation/s: 'do pass Short Debate' is Senate Bill 993. Representative Nekritz, Chairperson from the Committee on Elections & Campaign Reform, to which the following measure/s was/were referred, action taken on May 27, 2008, reported the same back with the following

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recommendation/s: 'do pass Short Debate' is Senate Bill 2190, Senate Bill 2191, and Senate Bill 2314. Representative Holbrook, Chairperson from the Committee on Environment & Energy, to which the following measure/s was/were referred, action taken on May 27, 2008, reported the same back with the following recommendation/s: 'do pass Short Debate' is Senate Bill 2017. Representative May, Chairperson from the Committee on Environmental Health, to which the following measure/s was/were referred, action taken on May 27, 2008, reported the same back with the following recommendation/s: 'do pass as amended Short Debate' is Senate Bill 2707. Representative Boland, Chairperson from the Committee on Financial Institutions, to which the following measure/s was/were referred, action taken on May 27, 2008, reported the same back with the following recommendation/s: 'do pass as amended Short Debate' is Senate Bill 2338. Representative McCarthy, Chairperson from the Committee on Higher Education, to which the following measure/s was/were referred, action taken on May 27, 2008, reported the same back with the following recommendation/s: 'recommends be adopted' is a Motion to Concur with Senate Amendments 1, 2, and 5 to House Bill 1334; 'do pass as amended Short Debate' is Senate Bill 1982. Representative Soto, Chairperson from the Committee on Labor, to which the following measure/s was/were referred, action taken on May 27, 2008, reported the same back with the following recommendation/s: 'do pass Short Debate' is Senate Bill 2070. Representative Chapa LaVia, Chairperson from the Committee on Local Government,

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to which the following measure/s was/were referred, action taken on May 27, 2008, reported the same back with the following recommendation/s: 'do pass as amended Short Debate' is Senate Bill 2292; 'do pass Short Debate' is Senate Bill 2005, Senate Bill 2160, and Senate Bill 2239. Representative Collins, Chairperson from the Committee on Public Utilities, to which the following measure/s was/were referred, action taken on May 27, 2008, reported the same back with the following recommendation/s: 'do pass Short Debate' is Senate Bill 1987. Representative Nekritz, Chairperson from the Committee on Railroad Safety, to which the following measure/s was/were referred, action taken on May 27, 2008, reported the same back with the following recommendation/s: 'do pass Short Debate' is Senate Bill 2182. Introduction and reading of House Bills-First Reading. House Bill 6652, offered by Representative Mathias, a Bill for an Act concerning public employee benefits. Introduction and reading of Senate Bills-First Reading. Senate Bill 970, offered by Representative Jakobsson, a Bill for an Act concerning conservation. Senate Bill 2719, offered by Representative Bassi, a Bill for an Act concerning criminal law. Senate Bills-Second Reading. Senate Bill 993, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. Second Reading. Senate Bill 1927, a Bill for an Act concerning agriculture. Second Reading. Senate Bill 1945, a Bill for an Act concerning warehouses. Second Reading. Senate Bill 1982, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Second Reading. Senate Bill 1984, a Bill for an Act concerning agriculture. Second Reading. Senate

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Bill 1987, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Second Reading. Senate Bill 2005, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. Second Reading. Senate Bill 2017, a Bill for an Act concerning environmental safety. Second Reading of this Senate Bill. Senate Bill 2070, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. Second Reading. Senate Bill 2160, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. Second Reading. Senate Bill 2182, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. Second Reading. Senate Bill 2187, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Second Reading. Senate Bill 2190, a Bill for an Act concerning elections. Second Reading. Senate Bill 2191, a Bill for an Act concerning elections. Second Reading. Senate Bill 2239, a Bill for an Act concerning special districts. Second Reading. Senate Bill 2292, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. Second Reading. Senate Bill 2314, a Bill for an Act concerning elections. Second Reading. Senate Bill 2338, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Second Reading. And Senate Bill 2707, a Bill for an Act concerning health. Second Reading. Corrected Committee Reports. Representative Holbrook, Chairperson from the Committee on Environment & Energy, to which the following measure/s was/were referred, action taken on May 27, 2008, reported the same back with the following recommendation/s: 'do pass as amended Short Debate' Senate Bill 2017. There being no further business, the House Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."