

STATE OF ILLINOIS
99th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE

23rd Legislative Day

3/12/2015

Speaker Lang: "The House will be in order. Members will be in their chairs. We shall be led in prayer today by Pastor Wayne Kuna, who's the founder and director of Soul Priority, which is the Navigators Business Ministry in Chicago, Illinois. Pastor Kuna is the guest of Representative Morrison. Members and guests are asked to refrain from starting their laptops, turn off cell phones, and rise for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Kuna."

Pastor Kuna: "In the morning, oh Lord, You will hear my voice. In the morning, I will lay my request before You and wait in expectation. Heavenly Father, like King David before us, we believe this prayer is being heard loudly and clearly in Your holy presence. I humble myself before You and ask for the strength to intercede on behalf of this august Body and that You graciously answer each request. Heavenly Father, I pray wisdom for Speaker Madigan, Minority Leader Durkin, and each Member of the Legislative Body in order to serve You and the citizens of Illinois. I pray for compassion required to serve the weak, and the marginalized, and the sojourners that live among us. Almighty Father, I pray for the vision to inspire meekness and generosity among the powerful. I pray for understanding, the understanding needed to... to unify Leaders of differing skills and ideas for the common good. I pray for boldness to respect and consider others more important than themselves and to forgive whenever necessary. I pray for strength to pursue excellence as public servants regardless of the cost. I pray for courage to chart a course that protects the children of our cities and towns from violence. I pray for the creativity needed to provide access to jobs,

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education, and training so our citizens can enjoy a sense of self determination and generosity. And I pray for the humility to understand fully there's no authority except from God and those authorities which exist are established by God to fulfill His will. Heavenly Father, I ask for protection from the influence and the authority of the evil one. The Lord rebuke his power in this place. Heavenly Father, as your servant and favored son of Illinois, Abraham Lincoln, once said, let us strive on to finish the work we're in with malice toward none, with charity for all, or firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right. Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine according to the power that works within us, to Him be Glory in Jesus to... forever and ever. And all the Members of the House of Representatives from the State of Illinois said, Amen."

Speaker Lang: "Be led in the Pledge today by Representative Welch."

Welch - 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 Lang: "Roll Call for Attendance. Leader Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record show that Representatives Arroyo, Beiser, and Soto are excused today."

Speaker Lang: "Leader Bellock."

Bellock: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Please let the record show that Representative Poe is the only excused absence today. Thank you."

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Speaker Lang: "Please take the record, Mr. Clerk. We have 113 House Members, the House does have a quorum. Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Bolin: "Committees Reports. Representative Rita, Chairperson from the Committee on Business & Occupational Licenses reports the following committee action taken on March 11, 2015: do pass as amended Short Debate for House Bill 2797. Representative Franks, Chairperson from the Committee on State Government Administration reports the following committee action taken on March 11, 2015: do pass Short Debate for House Bill 2824; and recommends be adopted House Resolution 109. Representative Chapa LaVia, Chairperson from the Committee on Energy reports the following committee action taken on March 11, 2015: do pass Short Debate for House Bill 313. Representative Jackson, Chairperson from the Committee on Counties & Townships reports the following committee action taken on March 12, 2015: do pass as amended Short Debate for House Bill 2459. Representative Fine, Chairperson from the Committee on Youth & Young Adults reports the following committee action taken on March 12, 2015: recommends be adopted as amended House Resolution 133. Representative Ford, Chairperson from the Committee on Restorative Justice reports the following committee action taken on March 12, 2015: do pass as amended Short Debate for House Bill 218; and recommends be adopted Floor Amendment #1 to House Bill 169."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Guzzardi."

Guzzardi: "Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lang: "Proceed, Sir."

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Guzzardi: "Thank you. I would like to take a brief moment to acknowledge today a few guests who are with us. From the University of Chicago's Institute of Politics, which is a nonpartisan extra-curricular body at the University of Chicago designed to foster a passion for politics in the young students at that institution, I have with me shadowing me today, Sasha Chhabra, who is a very accomplished and outstanding young student. He is in the gallery, somewhere. And... there are several other shadows around us today who are going to be observing our august Body and I hope that we will conduct ourselves in such a way as to show the honor and dignity with which State Government is to be conducted."

Speaker Lang: "Thank you and welcome to the Capitol. We'll try to be on our best behavior, Sir. Representative Ammons."

Ammons: "Thank you, Mr. Leader. I'm asking for a point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lang: "Please proceed."

Ammons: "Thank you. I just want to announce to the Body that I know there's been a lot in the news about my Mahomet Aquifer Bill. House Resolution... Thank you House Resolution 116, I'm going to table that Resolution because the U.S. EPA has effectively, as of yesterday, designated the Mahomet Aquifer as a Sole Source designation. Many of you will know about... more about this 'cause I'll talk to you about it, but that designation protects that waterway for 750 thousand residents of east-central Illinois. And I am very happy to announce the designation for... you... the Mahomet Aquifer."

Speaker Lang: "And what is that... what is that Bill number, Representative?"

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Ammons: "I'm sorry. Can you repeat that?"

Speaker Lang: "So, come to the well and fill out a form and we'll..."

Ammons: "Yes."

Speaker Lang: "...get your Bill tabled."

Ammons: "Thank you so much."

Speaker Lang: "Thank you. Mr. Mitchell."

Mitchell, C.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for a point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lang: "Please proceed."

Mitchell, C.: "I'm echoing my colleague Representative Guzzardi. Also here from my alma mater is George Adames. There are several people from the Institute of Politics kind of wondering around the Capitol, also in the Senate, but I think it's a useful reminder for us that there are young people who are interested in politics and looking at us as examples. So, I hope, like the Speaker, that we will be on our best behavior. Thank you all so much."

Speaker Lang: "Leader Bellock."

Bellock: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I'd like to have a point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Lang: "Please proceed."

Bellock: "We are honored to have with us today, and Representative Lang and I met with them this morning, we have an international visitor leadership program here today with five women who have come all the way from Israel to visit the United States for 21 days. And this is a program that there... We have with us... the participants include a police commander, two NGO leaders, a think tank researcher, a human rights

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lawyer, and a political science professor and they're here as a follow-up to the government of Israel's adoption of the United Nation's Security Council Resolution acknowledging the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women and girls. So, I want to ask all of you to give a warm welcome to our visitors from Israel today. Thank you. They're up in the corner over there. Could you..."

Speaker Lang: "Welcome to the House chamber. We're glad you're with us today. Page 10 of the Calendar, under Motions in Writing, there are various Motions to table. We'll take them in one vote. House Resolution... House Bill 2660, Mr. Rita; House Bill 3091, Mr. Demmer; House Bill 3366, Mr. Turner; House Joint Resolution 32, Representative Chapa LaVia. Each moves to table their Bill or Resolution. Is there leave? Leave is granted and each of these is tabled. Page 4 of the Calendar, under the Order of House Bills=Second Reading, there appears House Bill 1337, Mr. Drury. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1337, a Bill for an Act concerning criminal law. Second Reading of this House Bill. Amendment #1 was adopted in committee. No Floor Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Lang: "Third Reading. House Bill 1361, Mr. Turner. Out of the record. House Bill 1372, Representative Mussman. Out of the record. House Bill 1376, Mr. Arroyo. Out of the record. House Bill 1404, Mr. Costello. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1404, a Bill for an Act concerning criminal law. Second Reading of this House Bill. No Committee Amendments. No Floor Amendments. No Motions are filed."

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Speaker Lang: "Third Reading. House Bill 1417, Mr. Mitchell.
Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1417, a Bill for an Act concerning
criminal law. Second Reading of this House Bill. No Committee
Amendments. No Floor Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Lang: "Third Reading. House Bill 1422, Mr. Rita. Please
read the Bill. Mr. Clerk, out of the record. House Bill 1566,
Mr. Drury. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1566, a Bill for an Act concerning
criminal law. Second Reading of this House Bill. No Committee
Amendments. No Floor Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Lang: "Third Reading. House Bill 2495, Mr. Yingling. Mr.
Yingling. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 2495, a Bill for an Act concerning
safety. Second Reading of this House Bill. No Committee
Amendments. No Floor Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Lang: "Third Reading. House Bill 2515, Representative
Cloonen. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 2515, a Bill for an Act concerning
transportation. Second Reading of this House Bill. Amendment
#1 was adopted in committee. No Floor Amendments. No Motions
are filed."

Speaker Lang: "Third Reading. House Bill 2658, Mr. Davidsmeyer.
Out of the record. House Bill 2744, Mr. Andersson. Please
read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 2744, a Bill for an Act concerning local
government. Second Reading of this House Bill. No Committee
Amendments. No Floor Amendments. No Motions are filed."

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Speaker Lang: "Third Reading. House Bill 2814, Representative Nekritz. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 2814, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Second Reading of this House Bill. No Committee Amendments. No Floor Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Lang: "Third Reading. House Bills-Third Reading, page 6 of the Calendar. House Bill 200, Representative Kelly Burke. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 200, a Bill for an Act concerning State Government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Burke."

Burke, K.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 200 provides public lib... adds public libraries to the list of entities that can apply for a grant for the purchase of AED equipment from the AED Heartsaver Fund. It's a... an initiative of the Illinois Library Association. I know of no opposition. And I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lang: "There being no debate, those in favor of Bill will vote 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Switches are right there, Members. Acevado, Hays, Hernandez, Williams. Please take the record, Mr. Clerk. On this question, there are 113 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. House Bill 208, Mr. Sommer. Out of the record. House Bill 245, Mr. Zalewski. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 245, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Zalewski."

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Zalewski: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an initiative on behalf of the local governments in my district. The West Suburban Mayors and the Northwest Suburban Mayors are involved in this. It simply makes a change in the threshold amount for which a local government can make a discretionary pick from 10... from 10 to 20 thousand. The original Bill was 50 thousand or... I'm sorry... from 20 to 30 thousand. The original Bill was 50 thousand. We took that downward out of concern we were going too far. I also know Labor's been concerned about this Bill. Please note, nothing in this Bill affects wages in either one way or the other, so whatever the rules would be before are the rules now, there's no difference here. There's nothing to be concerned about on that front one way or the other. So I'd ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Walsh."

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

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Walsh: "Representative, now the contracts that are in place now, do you have any idea how that would affect going forward as far as the threshold between that 20 and 30 thousand?"

Zalewski: "Do I know how would... what do you mean, Larry?"

Walsh: "Well, how many... how many contracts are... would be issued within that... that threshold? Do you have any idea on that?"

Zalewski: "Mr. Speaker, I... we're having a hard time hearing, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Lang: "Ladies and Gentlemen, we all want to move on here today. So, if we keep the noise down, I promise you I will do my best to move through the Calendar quickly. Let's let these Gentlemen hear each other. I notice my comments have had no

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impact on the noise level in the room. Ladies and Gentlemen, I'll wait. Thank you. Please proceed, Gentlemen."

Walsh: "Thanks. The number of contracts that would fall within that threshold between the change of 20 and 30 thousand, do you have any idea..."

Zalewski: "I... I..."

Walsh: "...on what that number would be?"

Zalewski: "I don't, Larry. My guess is, in the grand scheme of things, most local government contracts don't fall within this range, that most... These are for minor repairs, things that don't require a ton of engineering drawings or specs, things that have to be done in short order. So, it's not the... on a pie chart, it's a small sliver."

Walsh: "Now with this change, those contracts that used to have to be posted as far as legal notice, they would still fall under the request for proposal process that they currently do now, correct?"

Zalewski: "Say that again, Larry."

Walsh: "So basically, if they have a job they... and it doesn't qualify, it falls under that 30 thousand threshold, they would have to RFP that job."

Zalewski: "If it falls above that 30 threshold."

Walsh: "They would put it out for bid."

Zalewski: "Right. Correct."

Walsh: "Under would be a RFP within the organization. You would have to post the legal notice."

Zalewski: "Yes."

Walsh: "Okay. Thank you."

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Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Bill will vote 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Ammons, Bryant, Drury, Frese, Nekritz. Please recorded yourselves, Members. Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 60 voting 'yes', 50 voting 'no', 2 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. House Bill 335, Mr. Hoffman. Out of the record. House Bill 373, Mr. Jackson. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 373, a Bill for an Act concerning State Government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Jackson."

Jackson: "House Bill... Thank you, Speaker. House Bill 373 amends the Gubernatorial Boards and Commissions Act. Currently, there are many boards and commissions under the jurisdiction of the Executive Branch. House Bill 373 requires the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions to establish and maintain on the Internet a centralized location for an electronic mail list server for users to receive notices of the meetings of each board and commission and their agendas. A listing of the meeting times and agendas for each board and commission provides that the office shall provide and post information at least 48 hours before each meeting. I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lang: "There being no debate, those in favor of the Bill will vote 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Dunkin, Ford, Sosnowski. Please take the record. On this question, there are 113 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no'. And

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this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. The Chair recognizes Mr. Meier."

Meier: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lang: "Proceed, Sir."

Meier: "I'd just like to take a moment to welcome one of my former 4-H students. He's sitting up in the gallery. He had business to do today in Springfield, Danny Janowski. He's also the Washington County Republican Chairman now. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Thanks for joining us today. House Bill 377, Representative Mayfield. Please proceed. Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 377, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Mayfield."

Mayfield: "Thank you so much, Speaker. I just want to say this is not a new license plate. This is what we're doing is just asking that a current license plate be modified to provide... so that it's available for motorcycles. It is not a new license plate. It is an initiative from my firefighters, several firefighters have asked for this Bill. It's a good Bill. And I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lang: "There being no debate, those in favor of the Bill will vote 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Williams. Please take the record. On this question, there are 109 voting 'yes', 4 voting 'no'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. House Bill 417, Mr. Walsh. Please read the Bill."

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Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 417, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Walsh."

Walsh: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the chamber. House Bill 417 is an initiative of the Illinois Park Districts... Association of Park Districts. And basically what this Bill does is it amends the Park District Code, Conservation District Act and the Downstate Forest Preserve Act that requires competitive bidding for contracts, supplies, materials, and work of excess of \$25 thousand. The current law is \$20 thousand. So, it's a \$5 thousand increase in competitive bidding. They have not asked for an increase in 10 years and the last one went from 10 to 20 thousand. Be happy to answer any questions."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Sandack."

Sandack: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield for a question?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor will yield."

Sandack: "Larry, my analysis says that Lake... I'm looking at the proponents. Lake County Forest Preserve District and obviously the... the Illinois Association of Park Districts was the initiating Sponsor. Have you heard from anyone else?"

Walsh: "As far as proponents? No. This is it."

Sandack: "Have you... have you heard from any opponents?"

Walsh: "The laborers did talk to me. They have some concerns about increasing this bidding limit. But it ver... it came very late in the process and it's very similar to the Bill that we just ran, House Bill 245. I think it's a good Bill. I mean, the

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cost of construction has gone up. This is basically a cost of living deal."

Sandack: "Well and... and that's what I think. So, just kind of explain it a little bit. Are... are park districts experiencing difficulties getting bids or they want to go sole source..."

Walsh: "Well..."

Sandack: "...or they just want to not be bound to put things out that are less?"

Walsh: "So basically, when they have to put this out for bid, they have to file a legal notice and that whole process. And it's a little bit more costly for them to do that process and basically... with... with going to 25 thousand. For those remedial jobs that take place, they still have the RFP process, Request for form or proposal. that they... They follow the prevailing wage; they work well with the local entities to make sure local people are doing the work. I mean, it's basically a cost of living thing."

Sandack: "And... and I get it. I was just kind of struck by the very small incremental increase and I was wondering if there was any real significance in that gap?"

Walsh: "Well, I... I think the park districts' view was they didn't want to increase it largely because maybe they thought they'd find some opposition. That's why they kind of split it in half."

Sandack: "All right. Thank you."

Walsh: "Thanks."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Davidsmeyer."

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

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

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Davidsmeyer: "Quick question. How does this relate to the previous Bill that we just passed just a few minutes ago? We just raised the limit from 20 to 30 thousand. Now, are we setting them aside to say they can only go up to 25 thousand? Were... weren't they included in that previous Bill?"

Walsh: "No. I believe House Bill 245 dealt with the Municipal Code and there's actually a School District Code that has this same requirement in it. I believe counties and townships have that same requirement in it, so it's all these different Codes. The park districts with... with House Bill 417 is just looking at their code and what their requirements are."

Davidsmeyer: "All right. And.. and generally when we deal with the... the rates for local government, they're kind of all included, and.. and that's... that's the only reason I ask. I just want to make sure if we are raising that to 30 thousand for areas of local government that we weren't keeping it low for park districts when we're raising it for everyone else."

Walsh: "Well, I think they each asked as their own entity on increasing that level. I don't know what it may be for... I think counties... counties now are at 30 thousand, municipalities with the passage of this Bill, is working to get to 30 thousand."

Davidsmeyer: "Yeah."

Walsh: "School districts are at 25 thousand. That's what the park districts mirrored this language off of as be... very similar with what school district are obligated to send out for a contract bid."

Davidsmeyer: "Okay. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Zalewski."

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Zalewski: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Bill. I just rise in support. If you were able to support my Bill, you're able to support Larry's. It's the same concept. That Bill received a majority, such as it was. I ask that you vote for this Bill as well."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Walsh to close."

Walsh: "Thank you for the debate and I would ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Bill will vote 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Please record yourselves, Members. Costello, Drury. Please take the record. On this question, there are 60 voting 'yes', 51 voting 'no', 1 voting 'present'. This Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. House Bill 422, Mr. Morrison. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 422, a Bill for an Act concerning public employee benefits. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Morrison."

Morrison: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What House Bill 422 would do is require that the pension systems be studied every three years. Currently, it's... it's four years or five. What this would do is just give us more data to assess where the pension systems stand especially now that we have Tier II in place. We have thousands, tens of thousands of new people entering into Tier II, so we should know where those systems stand. So, I would ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lang: "There being no debate, those in favor of the Bill will vote 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The voting is open. Have all

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voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Bryant, Mautino. Please take the record. On this question, there are 113 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. House Bill 488, Mr. Riley. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 488, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Riley."

Riley: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members. House Bill 488 essentially says that... essentially says that if someone holds themselves out as doing business in certain security agencies and someone... an aggrieved party sues them, that they can receive attorney's fees. And this Bill was brought to me by a constituent who works in a security agency. And I'm requesting 'aye' votes on the Bill."

Speaker Lang: "There being no debate, those in favor of the Bill will vote 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Franks, Tabares, Williams. Representative Tabares. Please take the record. On this question, there are 109 voting 'yes', 1 voting 'no', 2 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. House Bill 1365, Representative Cassidy. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1365, a Bill for an Act concerning State Government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Cassidy."

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Cassidy: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I get started, I just want to draw everyones attention to the list of Sponsors on this Bill. I think we've... we have experienced the unicorn of the Session. We've got Cassidy, Morrison, and McSweeney in agreement on a very simple but important piece of legislation. Many of us have experienced arriving in our office to mountains of paper. This will simply change the requirement that agencies and task forces that provide reports do so electronically, rather than by killing trees. And I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lang: "No debate. Those in favor of the Bill will vote 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Davis. Please take the record. On this question, there are 113 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. House Bill 1360... Excuse me. House Bill 1459, Mr. Leitch. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1459, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Leitch."

Leitch: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A number of you who are in John D'Amico's committee had an opportunity to meet with Troy and Andrea Stringer, whose daughter Lillian suffers from Cystic Fibrosis. It was a very, very moving hearing and the purpose of the Bill was to create a Cystic Fibrosis license plate that would help bring awareness and support for attacking that horrible disease. So, I would simply ask for your support."

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Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Bill will vote 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Flowers. Please take the record. On this question, there are 110 voting 'yes', 3 voting 'no'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. House Bill 1498, Mr. Bennett."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1498, a Bill for an Act concerning government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Bennett."

Bennett: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an initiative from the Illinois Association of School Boards. It's focused on the Open Meeting Act. There are 32 exceptions regarding this... this situation, but what we're focused on is the part that clarifies exemption for number 8. Basically, there's a few words we added to this, the school building safety and security. It allows basically school boards to meet in closed session to discuss safety and security. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "That about it, Sir? That's all you want to say?"

Bennett: "Yes, please."

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Bill vote 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Butler, Feigenholtz, Wallace. Feigenholtz. Please take the record. On this question, there are 113 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Wouldn't have been so easy in the old days, Representative. House Bill 1516, Mr. Cabello. Please read the Bill."

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Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1516, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Cabello."

Cabello: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen. This Bill provides that a willful violation of the Illinois Motor Vehicle Code Safety Law that causes a motor vehicle accident resulting in great bodily harm, permanent disability or disfigurement to another person is a Class 3 felony. Provides that a willful violation of the Illinois Vehicle Carrier Safety Law that causes a motor vehicle accident resulting in the death of another person is a Class 2 felony. Ladies and Gentlemen, this is what has been dubbed the Trooper Sauter Bill. Illinois State Trooper James Sauter was pulled over on the left shoulder on I-294 south of Willow Road when he was hit from behind by a semi-truck. The trucker who struck Trooper Sauter's vehicle was charged with improper lane usage the day of the crash, but the ticket was dismissed on April 15. State Police conducted a lengthy investigation, but there was not enough evidence to charge the trucker with Sauter's death. The trucker was eventually charged with three felonies in Cook County for violating federal safety laws meant to keep tired trucker... truck drivers off the road. The regulations prohibit truck drivers and... from operating a vehicle when they're fatigued, driving more than 14 consecutive hours without taking 10 hours off and making false reports about their duties. The case against the truck driver is still currently pending. The litigation is intended to strengthen the Illinois law and give state prosecutors a tool that'll change truck drivers who cause injury or death in

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similar accidents. This is a Bill that is suggested by the family of the trooper that lost his life, Trooper James Sauter. Ladies and Gentlemen, what this actually does is if you hit a guard rail or you hit and kill a State Trooper, the charge is the same. So this is a bipartisan Bill and we can here protect the protectors. I would respectfully ask for an 'aye' vote and take any questions."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Franks."

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

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Franks: "Representative, I'm trying to understand the last statement that you made. I think a few a years ago I worked with Representative D'Amico and we had enhanced the penalties because there was some questions with bodily injury and there was some terrible accidents in my district where people had.. had died and the most we could charge them with was you know, improper lane usage or something, so we.. we ended up changing that law. And I'm wondering how this is different than the law we had changed a few years ago. Is this only for those who have a CDL?"

Cabello: "Correct. Plus also we're not going after the truck carriers. These are the actual drivers themselves that are having some willful and wanton disregard for the federal regulations along with the State Laws."

Franks: "Okay. And.. and you had made a comment that whether they hit a guard rail and caused property damage or if they hit a person and caused bodily damage.."

Cabello: "Or death."

Franks: "...or death, that the penalty would be the same."

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Cabello: "Correct. And we wish to have that changed."

Franks: "And what is it now? If you... if you... make property damage, it wouldn't be a felony, I presume, currently."

Cabello: "I am... I'm not sure what that is. As far as I understand, it's... it's a traffic citation."

Franks: "I understand what you're trying to do. I'm just... I'm a little concerned about creating a felony for property damage. A..."

Cabello: "No, no, no, no. That's the way it is now."

Franks: "Okay."

Cabello: "So, if you... today, if you were a truck driver and you were driving fatigued, driving past the recommended limits and you hit a guard rail, you would be charged the same as if you struck and killed someone."

Franks: "Then how does this... what does this Bill do then?"

Cabello: "This Bill, if you strike and kill someone will now be a Class 2 felony."

Franks: "So, it'd be enhanced..."

Cabello: "Correct."

Franks: "...a higher felony."

Cabello: "Yes."

Franks: "Okay. I misunderstood the explanation. Thank you."

Cabello: "Sorry about that."

Franks: "No. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Nekritz."

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

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

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Nekritz: "Representative Cabello, could just say... repeat back to me what you just said to Representative... in response to Representative... the prior Representative's question."

Cabello: "Which one? He asked a couple."

Nekritz: "The... just the last question. What... where you described if... if they hit a guard rail what the result is and if..."

Cabello: "Today?"

Nekritz: "Yes."

Cabello: "If a truck driver who was willfully and wonting... want... or willfully disregarding any Federal or State Laws as to how long they are supposed to be driving and they hit a guard rail, they would be charged one way. Today, if this Bill does not pass, if that truck driver hits and kills a person they will be charged the same as if they hit that guard rail. So we are looking at trying to make sure that if you kill somebody we would like to see an increased penalty."

Nekritz: "So the law today has the... has the standard as to whether... as to the willful ignoring of the... the hours that you can be driving. How does one prove that that's willful?"

Cabello: "Well, if you cook your log book, you're willfully changing your log book."

Nekritz: "And... was there... so what... what would be... what would be an unwillful... over... of driving in excess of the number of hours that you're allowed to?"

Cabello: "Well, our truck drivers are professional... they're supposed to be professional. They should follow the guidelines that are laid out, both federally and state. If they decide to go against those and drive for longer periods of times, that's willful."

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Nekritz: "So it sounds to me that any time you would be driving past your recommend... or your required number of hours, it would almost by definition be willful."

Cabello: "Correct."

Nekritz: "Okay. So, if you... okay. So... and I have some concerns about, you know, and we... we run into this with the reckless driving charges where, you know, if someone's texting and they kill someone, its horrific and it's awful, I understand that, but you know, to charge them with a... with a... with what really is not... they're not intending to kill that person. They're stupid and they're... and they're... and they're reckless, but it's not intentional. And so to... to charge someone with a Class 2 felony, I think it's what you said the penalty was, for what is... may or may not be an intentional homicide seems to maybe sweep in a lot more than we might be otherwise intending to."

Cabello: "Well, we're not wanting to go to the involuntary manslaughter charge, which could possibly be the case as well. So we're not wanting to go to that level, 'cause that is involuntary manslaughter, even in the texting case that you're bringing up. So, we could go higher if we wished."

Nekritz: "So, I noticed that... that the committee that this Bill went to... in the... in the Criminal Law Committee, I think the... and I'll let the chairman speak for himself, but I think there's been some very... some policies put in place because we have packed... part of the reason we have problems with our Department of Corrections today is because we've... we... we, in the Legislature, have continually enhanced penalties made... and put more people in jail and put them there for longer and

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so we had... I believe there are some processes in place to make sure that when we're going to enhance a penalty that we have some data or evidence that what we are enhancing will actually reduce crime or will reduce the prison population.

Can you tell me if this..."

Cabello: "Sure."

Nekritz: "...would do either one of those things?"

Cabello: "Those are recommendations. They have not been filed formally by the Clerk, so they're not technically a process..."

Nekritz: "Well but..."

Cabello: "...that needs to be followed."

Nekritz: "So I'm... so I'm interested in... in your response to those questions. It will help guide my vote. Is this the kind of thing where you have any data or evidence..."

Cabello: "But this..."

Nekritz: "...that it will... that it will act as a deterrent?"

Cabello: "...this did not go to that committee. So the committee that it went to didn't have those... those recommendations."

Nekritz: "I'm sorry."

Cabello: "The committee that it went to didn't have those recommendations."

Nekritz: "I... I understand. I... but I'm asking you and it will help guide my vote, personally. I'm... so I'm asking you a question. Is there data or evidence to show that... that by enhancing this penalty that we will, in fact, be reducing crime, deterring this kind of behavior?"

Cabello: "I don't have that evidence with me."

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Nekritz: "And are you... so did you do... you didn't look to see whether there would be any deterrent effect to this kind of penalty enhancement?"

Cabello: "If I brought that here, I'm sure somebody else could bring some that would... would say the other, so I didn't bring it."

Nekritz: "Okay. And... and, you know, again, I... the Governor has put out a pronouncement that he wants to reduce our prison population by 25 percent and the... the policies that this Body has put into place have driven that prison population by, again, putting more people in prison and putting them there for longer. And if we are going to enhance penalties, we need to be... I think as a Body need to be very careful about how we do that to make sure that what we're actually doing will, in fact, have the deterrent effect that we hope it will. Otherwise, I fear we are just going to be making the Governor's job more difficult in reducing that prison population by 25 percent. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Sims."

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

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Sims: "Representative Cabello, we... as you mentioned in your comments, part of the discussions we've been having in the Judiciary-Criminal Law Committee is that discussion of how, overall, we have a... a deterrent... we look at the deterrent effect of all crimes. And you mentioned that this did not come through the jud... the Judiciary-Criminal Law Committee. Is that correct?"

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Cabello: "That's correct. But I had no control over which committee it went it to."

Sims: "No. Sure. And I understand that. But as part of the discussion, and I know that there were some issues that were raised by some of the previous speakers, it might make sense for us to get those... those questions clarified and get... bring clarity to the issues and concerns that have been raised so we know what we're talking about because as... again, we're trying to have comprehensive reform, maybe it makes sense to... to pull this out of the record. Let's get some of those questions answered so we can move forward."

Cabello: "It will not be pulled out of the record. And in our Judicial-Criminal Committee there was a case that did the same thing, and in fact, Representative Williams's case really didn't follow those guidelines either and it went... went forward. So, no, I will not be pulling this out of the record."

Sims: "Well... well, Representative, I... that's certainly your prerogative. I would caution Members on our side of the aisle that as we move forward with our comprehensive discussion on criminal justice reform that we should not be moving penalty enhancements at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Martwick."

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

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Martwick: "Representative, I... I think... I want to ask you a few questions I think maybe will help clarify some things. I was listening and you had mentioned something that said that, currently, a person who... who violates this Act and... and runs

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into a guard rail or someone who kills someone, it's the same penalty level. Is that correct?"

Cabello: "Today, yes, it is."

Martwick: "Yes. And that's not because it specifies property damage versus bodily harm, it's just that the penalty phase is for violating the Act."

Cabello: "Correct."

Martwick: "And that's already in there and violating the fact... the Act is already considered a felony. Is that correct?"

Cabello: "I don't believe so."

Martwick: "A violation of the Act now is already a Class... Class 3 felony, I believe."

Cabello: "Yes."

Martwick: "Okay. And so, what you're saying is that if the violation of the Act is a Class 3 felony, than the outcome of violating the Act should have a distinction on what it actually does to someone. Right? So if they run into a guard rail, currently it's a Class 3 felony, but running over another motorist or a bicyclist or a motorcyclist or a pedestrian or a State Police officer there's no distinction for that. And what you're doing is you're saying, I'd like to create a distinction for those situations. Is that right?"

Cabello: "Correct. Absolutely."

Martwick: "Okay. And so, I... I personally am a big fan of criminal justice reform myself, but would you agree that criminal justice reform is not just about reducing penalties, it's about creating a sense of equity, finding laws where we are maybe punishing too much and reducing the penalties for those, but finding laws where we're not punishing adequately and

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increasing them, rebalancing the scales? Would you agree with that?"

Cabello: "That's correct. And in our... in our discussions, we look forward to reforming the whole criminal justice system and we also understand that we do an excellent job of putting people into prison but we do a horrible job of getting them back into society. So during this whole discussion, what you're saying is absolutely right. We need to look at what we're doing on the high end as well as what we're doing on the low end so that we have nice balance."

Martwick: "And Representative, I don't know myself, I don't know if you would, but I would guess, maybe you can confirm, there are... well, I know, in fact, that there are enhanced requirements for obtaining a commercial driver's license. Is that correct?"

Cabello: "Correct."

Martwick: "Okay. And I... I would assume, but I don't know, maybe you can confirm, that there are some additional training that a driver has to go through or some additional testing where he's tested on certain things that would relate to his license. Is that correct?"

Cabello: "That's correct."

Martwick: "And perhaps part of this Act is discussed in that training. I do not know, but perhaps... Do you know?"

Cabello: "I do not know."

Martwick: "Okay. Well, if it was, and maybe it should be part of his training, part of it might be informing them as to the consequences of violating that Act and taking the life of another person. Is that correct?"

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Cabello: "Could be. It's a what if, but again, it's..."

Martwick: "Right."

Cabello: "...we..."

Martwick: "But if we were to inform, if the Secretary of State, as part of their requirements for commercial driver's license, were to inform these drivers as to the consequences of their action if they violate the Act and kill another, then that person would be on notice and perhaps the deterrent effect that we seek would then be... would be met. Wouldn't it?"

Cabello: "That's another what if."

Martwick: "Well, to the Bill. I think that this is a commonsense Bill. I think that when we look at the situation where we have people who are violating these Acts willfully and wantonly, as the Representative suggests, and they're taking the lives of another person, this is an activity that we need to deter. And I would suggest that it is not equitable, it is not equitable in the law that property damage is the same penalty as someone who takes the life of another. And I suppose if... if there are others who agree with me, maybe they suggest... should suggest then that property damage shouldn't be penalized as harsh as it is but there should be a distinction. And I think it's a good Bill that you bring this distinction and I look forward to supporting it and I encourage everyone else to as well."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Mayfield."

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

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Mayfield: "Hi, Representative."

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Cabello: "How are you?"

Mayfield: "I understand what you're trying to do with this Bill and I really commend you for that, however, we are talking about commercial drivers here and I'm not sure if you are aware, 'cause you mentioned the paper logs, but there was a Federal Law that was passed mandating that all drivers, regardless of if they work for a carrier or if they're an independent operator, they are all required to move to the electronic laws... logs. And your Bill will actually... your Bill really isn't needed because we will no longer have that issue of drivers falsifying their logs because everything will be electronic. I'm not sure if you're aware of that."

Cabello: "As far as I know, there are still lots of trucking companies and truckers that are using paper log books."

Mayfield: "And that is true because they're not supposed to have them switched over until 2015, this year. So your Bill... they're basically... at the end of this year, everybody should be on an electronic log otherwise they will be in violation of the law and that in itself had, I believe, penalties attached to it. So I'm just saying that at this time it may not be a good time for this particular Bill, you know..."

Cabello: "I will file a..."

Mayfield: "...considering that there is something..."

Cabello: "...if you wish, I'll file an Amendment adding, at a later time or a trailer Bill, adding the electronic part because there will be a way to be able to change that electronic part as well."

Mayfield: "Right. But I don't think we should be moving forward right now and that's in all respects."

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Cabello: "All right. Let's move it forward."

Mayfield: "Okay. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Zalewski."

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

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Zalewski: "So John, I think one of the challenges you're seeing is the Bill went through a different committee than what is typically for an enhancement. So we're... the questions you're getting I don't think are meant as an attack on the Bill as much as we just want to understand, given it an enhancement, what... what the value add will be of implementing the Bill. And my question is, what's happening now that's preventing people from being punished appropriately for committing this act?"

Cabello: "Well, in this case, the... the state's attorney did not charge this driver with an appropriate charge."

Zalewski: "What did they charge him with?"

Cabello: "As far as I understand... from what we understand, it was as if he hit a guard rail."

Zalewski: "It was... I'm sorry?"

Cabello: "As if he hit the guard rail instead of hitting and trill... and killing a person."

Zalewski: "So, it was a... it was a negligent driving citation, it was a reckless driving misdemeanor. Like, what... what was the charge?"

Cabello: "I don't have the case in front of me. I don't have access to that."

Zalewski: "And so your state's Attorney... there was obviously a disposition where the victims of the crime weren't pleased

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with the outcome and the state's attorney said, well, talk to the General Assembly because I did in my capacity what was best."

Cabello: "Correct. Because this is now going to give the tools to the Gen... to the state's attorney to make sure that they can charge appropriate charges."

Zalewski: "Okay. And at committee, I wasn't at committee again, so I don't know, was the state's attorney there?"

Cabello: "No."

Zalewski: "So who... so was anyone able to ask the state's attorney... or was anyone able to ask the victims or whomever testified... Who... who testified in favor of the Bill?"

Cabello: "There was an attorney out of Chicago that was the attorney for a Trooper that was injured in a similar case. There was a Trooper from one of the Trooper Lodges and a family member."

Zalewski: "And they testified in..."

Cabello: "In favor."

Zalewski: "And... but did they speak for the state's attorney?"

Cabello: "I'm sorry?"

Zalewski: "Did they speak for the state's attorney?"

Cabello: "No."

Zalewski: "Okay. So there's not... there's... is there a deterrent argument here that your state's attorney feels likes if this is charged appropriately it will deter people from committing this crime again?"

Cabello: "Well, we... I mean, obviously, that's what we're hoping for, so that it... once people realize that, you know, if you're willfully wanting to disregard the law that's in place and

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you kill somebody, there's... there's going to be some consequences. Consequences that are different than the consequences that are in... in place today."

Zalewski: "Is there any evidence that people that commit this crime are always caught and there's swiftness to their sentencing?"

Cabello: "I'm cer..."

Zalewski: "That's the way deterrents work. So, is there any evidence that when you get cited for this, the sentence is swift, you get caught, you get brought in for a citation, that there's quickness to the resolution of these cases."

Cabello: "We sure hope so."

Zalewski: "'Cause that's the way deter..."

Cabello: "But we know the court..."

Zalewski: "... sooner or later. Is there..."

Cabello: "But we all know the court systems take too long sometimes."

Zalewski: "Is it... is there evidence that that's what would happen here? Have you... did you hear about that?"

Cabello: "I would say yes."

Zalewski: "Okay. Okay. Thank you for answering my questions, John."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Moylan."

Moylan: "Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Moylan: "Mr. Cabello, I'd like to refocus on what this Bill is really about. This Bill is about a truck driver that was driving 37 and a half hours with only 3 and a half hours of sleep. He struck and killed a tollway worker and seriously

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injured a State Police officer. In testimony, we had... not only had relatives of the state worker, also the injured police officer. I urge... I strongly urge an 'aye' vote. And I commend Representative Cabello for bringing this to committee."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Cabello to close."

Cabello: "Thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen, there... there's been a lot of discussion on this Bill and I understand that it did not go to a committee that some folks wanted it to go. I do not have the power to say which committee it goes to. It went to the committee, I presented the Bill for certain reasons, which are... we have to protect our tollway workers, we have to protect our State Police, and we have to let the truck drivers know that when you do something willfully wrong, when you're driving for a very long period of time knowing that you're not supposed to, that there will be consequences if you kill somebody. I respectfully ask for 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Gentleman's Bill will vote 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Batinick, Breen, Chapa LaVia, Feigenholtz, Golar. Please record yourselves. Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 85 voting 'yes', 23 voting 'no', 2 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. House Bill 1560, Mr. D'Amico. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1560, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. D'Amico."

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D'Amico: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Basically what this Bill does is raise the minimum requirement for a specialty license plate from 1,500 to 2,000. I'll answer any questions."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Jackson."

Jackson: "Yes. May my... my vote reflect 'no' on the last House Bill."

Speaker Lang: "The record will reflect your intention, Sir. Mr. Sandack."

Sandack: "There we go."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Sandack."

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

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Sandack: "Representative D'Amico."

D'Amico: "Yes."

Sandack: "Why are you carrying this Bill and not Representative Welch?"

D'Amico: "I don't know. I don't know how this got into my hands."

Sandack: "Did you get permission from Representative Welch to run a Bill on behalf of the Secretary of State?"

D'Amico: "I have not talked to him about it."

Sandack: "That's very concerning to me, Sir. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "That's it? Representative Nekritz."

Nekritz: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not often I... that the license plate... specialty plate goes up on the board with... with Nekritz on it and want to applaud the Sponsor for bringing this Bill 'cause this is something we really need to get a handle on. The plethora of plates we have out there is

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of great concern to law enforcement in this state. And I applaud the Representative for doing something about it."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Franks."

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

Speaker Lang: "Yes."

Franks: "Thanks. John, I appreciate this Bill. As you know, when I ch... as chairman of State Government, these license plate Bills came to our committee for a long time, for years and I had met with law enforcement as... and they had real problems with proliferation of all these plates and quite frankly, it's not fair to the people who are driving, as well. Because let's assume you have a plate with, you know, number 99 on it. It could be one of 37 plates. So, if you've got a... the reg... the guy who happens to have that number with the Illinois plate is probably the guy who's going to your... your ticket that you didn't pay, your parking ticket in Chicago. So, I think this is... this is important. But my question is, and I've been trying to do this for a while and actually Dan Rutherford had this idea a while ago, is instead of having the proliferation of all these separate plates is to have one plate and then with maybe a different sticker on it. Have you considered that instead of... that way we would help law enforcement. These... because the... I guess the idea of these special plates is to raise funds. They would still get those funds, but that way we could also help law enforcement. So I'll let you answer that question."

D'Amico: "Yes. That is something that I have brought up a number of times as well. I... I agree with that idea and it's... let's just say it's a work in progress. I'm hoping that someday we

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can come to an agreement with something where it will be one plate with a sticker or something on there where that you'll be free to support whatever group you want and try to stop all these numbers being duplicated and everybody... the wrong people getting these tickets in the mail, as well."

Franks: "Right. And.. I think that's great. I'd like to.. I know you want to move this Bill. And I'll be happy to support it 'cause I think it's a good start, but I'd like to.. maybe you and I can introduce a Bill. I've got a shell Bill that we could use for that reason. And another thing.. another good reason for doing this sticker and just one plate is the fact that the state collects these moneys, for instance, and the group will only get a small portion of those additional funds. Whereas if you wanted to support whatever thing it might be, Sierra Club, Boy Scouts, whatever it might be, you could buy bumper stickers and charge them the same \$125 and then the whole thing could be tax deductible. Here they don't even get a tax break when they're supposedly supporting a 501(c)(3) or some other entity. So, I think if we're creative we can save our taxpayers some money; they can get.. they can get a tax break, and these institutions would get much needed funds. So if you're willing, I'd like to work on that Bill with you in the next week or so."

D'Amico: "Yeah. It's something that I would definitely be open to, Representative Franks, and it's something that's in discussion as we spea... as we speak, but it's just not there yet."

Franks: "Okay. Well, I appreciate your leadership on this, John."

D'Amico: "Thank you."

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Speaker Lang: "Mr. Reis."

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

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Reis: "Representative, I support your Bill as well, but I do have one question. Is this just for new plates going forward? What if there's a plate that was passed last year that's at 1200 and they're trying to get to the 1500? Will their threshold still be 1500, or are they going to get moved to the 2,000 as well?"

D'Amico: "If this were to be passed and signed into law, it would be up to 2,000."

Reis: "Even though their Bill passed a year ago or even..."

D'Amico: "That's the way it's being explained to me."

Reis: "Okay. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Costello."

Costello: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Question of the Sponsor?"

Speaker Lang: "Sponsor yields."

Costello: "John, could you explain the military exemption here, because I think it's something that's important for the Body to realize."

D'Amico: "Right. So for the military exemption, you know, they don't have to meet the requirement of the... like right now in current law, you need 1500 paid for in advance plates, for a specialty plate, but for the military there is... there is no exception. It's... if there's... if there's a special plate created for one military person, that plate will be created."

Costello: "Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Bill will vote 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all

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voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Anthony, Brady, Chapa LaVia, Moylan. Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 112 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. The Chair recognizes Representative Bourne."

Bourne: "A point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Lang: "Please proceed."

Bourne: "Thank you. As you know, March is Women's History Month and COWL is brining attention to history making women in Illinois. Today's women... today's woman is Myra Bradwell. By the age of 24, Mrs. Bradwell had completed her legal education... or her education in women's seminary and became a teacher. She later began her legal apprenticeship working in her husband's law office. Although she had the proper certificate of qualification issued by a lower court, the Illinois State Bar denied her access to the bar in 1869. In 1870, she filed a lawsuit that went all the way to the United States Supreme Court where they upheld Illinois's right to ban women from the Illinois State Bar. When Myra Bradwell was refused admission to the bar, she never lost her passion for the law, for righting an injustice, or her entrepreneurial spirit. In 1868, she started the Chicago Legal News. In her legal newspaper, she wrote about Illinois State Court decisions, Session laws, and legal reforms. My... Myra also reported on Federal Court decisions and legislative news. Her paper was a huge success and became the most widely read legal newspaper in the county. By 1869, Mrs. Bradwell passed the Illinois Bar exam with honor, and although she never did practice law, she became actively involved in women's

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suffrage reforms and actively raised funds to benefit Civil War soldiers and their families. Despite not being a licensed attorney until 1880, she used her legal experience to facilitate improvements in the court system, railroad regulations, and employment opportunities for women. Myra help author the Married Women's Property Act of 1861, which allowed married women the right to keep the wages that they earned and established the right of widows to keep their husband's assets. So, thank you, and help us and join us in celebrating Women's History Month."

Speaker Lang: "Thank you, Representative. Page 9 of the Calendar, Order of Resolutions. House Resolution 14, Mr. Thapedi. Please proceed."

Thapedi: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Resolution #14 creates the Englewood Violent Crime Task Force. And I know that we've talked a lot about the violence in the Englewood community and I'm greatly appreciative to all of the cosponsors on this issue. We have broad-based support for this Resolution for the creation of this task force from Rockford all the way down to the Metro East. I urge an 'aye' vote. And I'm available to answer any and all questions."

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Resolution will vote 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Anthony, Bradley, Breen, Chapa LaVia. Thapedi, you might want to vote on your own Resolution. Thank you, Sir. Bradley, Breen, Chapa LaVia. Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 112 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no'. And the Resolution

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is adopted. House Resolution 125, Mr. Costello. Please proceed, Sir."

Costello: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Resolution 125 recognizes Illinois Envirothon and designates April 30, 2015; April 28, 2016, as Envirothon Day. The Envirothon is a hands on experi... experience for high school age children to... to work on the environment throughout the United States and Canada. Thank you. And I also appreciate my friend here, Larry, giving me grief in the background."

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Resolution will say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes have it. And the Resolution is adopted. House Resolution 128, Mr. Jones. Please proceed. Out of the record. House Resolution 141, Representative Lilly. Representative Lilly. Out of the record. House Resolution 144, Mr. Zalewski. Please proceed."

Zalewski: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Resolution 144 encourages the Department of Public Health to revisit their criteria for vaccinations. I'd ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Resolution say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Resolution is adopted. House Resolution 146, Representative Flowers. Out of the record. House Resolution 148, Representative Flowers. Representative Flowers. Please proceed."

Flowers: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. House Resolution 148 would like to acknowledge the anniversary of Medicare. And it talks about how Medicare is working for senior citizens and is keeping them healthy and we should always have that type of care in the State of Illinois. And I urge for its adoption."

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Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Resolution say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Resolution is adopted. House Resolution 236, Mr. Brown. I believe there's an Amendment on this. Mr. Clerk."

Brown: "Yes, Mr. Speaker. There's just minor cleanup language in this Amendment."

Speaker Lang: "Your Amendment is still in Rules, Sir. Do you wish to wait for it?"

Brown: "Yes. That's great Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Out of the record. Page 7 of the Calendar. House Joint Resolution 13, Mr. Reis. Please proceed, Sir."

Reis: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm trying to get my seatmates in order over here. You know what a difference a few years makes, Mr. Speaker, if I might before I present my Bill. I might file a Motion to reconsider my first Bill. I know you enjoyed that immensely but..."

Speaker Lang: "I... I have no comment, Sir."

Reis: "I know. It's a joke for the old people. House Joint Resolution 13 renames a section of Route 50 in Olney, Illinois, after General Schilt. He was an aviator in First World War, Second World War, and Korea, an amazing man that had buildings named after him. And we just wanted to give a small area to... for the people of Olney in Richland County to remember this great General. I ask for your 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Resolution will vote 'yes'; opposed vote 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Please record yourselves. Anthony, Chapa LaVia, Nekritz. Please take the record. On this question, there are 112 voting 'yes', 0

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voting 'no'. And the Resolution is adopted. On the next page, House Joint Resolution 25, Mr. Costello. Please proceed."

Costello: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Body. House Joint Resolution 25 designates a portion of Interstate 255 as the Monroe L. Flinn Memorial Highway. There are... I believe a few Members here still in the Body who served with former Representative Flinn. He served from 1971 to 1995 for 23 years. He was the past chairman of the Financial Institutions Committee, past cochair of Counties & Townships, and the chair of the Illinois State Merit Commission. I thank you and I ask for your 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lang: "Those in... Excuse me. Chair recognizes Mr. Moffitt on the Motion."

Moffitt: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the greatest respect for the Sponsor and for who this is for, I served with Representative Monroe Flinn. Mr. Speaker, I move the previous question."

Speaker Lang: "That's pretty funny for those that know him, Sir. Those in favor... Mr. Leitch is recognized."

Leitch: "Monroe Flinn was a real favorite around here on both sides of the aisle and I'm just grateful that the Sponsor's recognizing him with this Resolution."

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Resolution will vote 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Burke, Chapa LaVia, Gordon-Booth, Mitchell. Mr. Clerk... Gordon-Booth. Please take the record. On this question, there are 111 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no'. And the Resolution is adopted. The Chair is in receipt of a Motion from Representative Ammons moving to table House Resolution 116. Is there leave? Leave is

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granted and the Motion is adopted. On page 7 of the Calendar, under Agreed Resolutions, there appears House Resolution 212. Mr. Anthony. Out of the record. Second Reading, page 2, House Bill 107, Representative Flowers. Out of the record. House Bill 1361, Mr. Turner. Mr. Turner. Do you wish to move this Bill, Sir? Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1361, a Bill for an Act concerning housing. Second Reading of this House Bill. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #1 is offered by Representative Turner."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Turner."

Turner: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Floor Amendment #1 is technical in nature and I'd just like to discuss the Bill on Third Reading."

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Amendment say 'aye'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. The Amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk."

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

Speaker Lang: "Third Reading. House Bill 1372, Representative Mussman. Representative Mussman. Out of the record. Returning to House Bill 107, Representative Flowers. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 107, a Bill for an Act concerning financial regulation. Second Reading of this House Bill. No Committee Amendments. No Floor Amendments. A fiscal note has been requested on the Bill and has not been filed."

Speaker Lang: "Please hold it on the Order of Second. On page 8 of the Calendar, Order of Resolutions. House Joint Resolution 28, Mr. Sims. Please proceed, Sir."

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Sims: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. House Joint Resolution 28 calls on President Obama to update the Affirmative Action Plan, requiring federal contractors to set and make good faith effort to meet minority and women participation goals. The Executive Order was originally signed in 1965 by President Johnson and has not been updated in the last 10 years. And House Joint Resolution 28 will... will ask for him to do that. I ask for its passage, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Lang: "Those in favor of the Resolution will say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Resolution is adopted. Mr. Clerk, Agreed Resolutions."

Clerk Bolin: "Agreed Resolutions. House Resolution 267, offered by Representative Batinick. House Resolution 268, offered by Representative Moylan. House Resolution 272, offered by Representative Nekritz. And House Resolution 274, offered by Representative Franks."

Speaker Lang: "Leader Currie moves for the adoption of the Agreed Resolutions. Those in favor say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Agreed Resolutions are adopted. Members, we will be adjourning on a Death Resolution for Judy Baar Topinka. We're not quite ready to do it. It won't be long, please stick with us. Mr. Clerk, House Resolution 251. Leader Durkin is recognized. Staff will retire to the rear of the chamber. Members will rise. Leader Durkin. Mr. Clerk, please read the Resolution."

Clerk Bolin: "House Resolution 251 offered by Representatives Durkin and Madigan."

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WHEREAS, Illinois Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka was born on January 16, 1944; a native of Illinois, she was born in Riverside, attending local public schools and the Ferry Hall School for Girls; and

WHEREAS, Judy Baar Topinka attended the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, graduating with a degree in journalism; after graduating in 1966, she worked as a reporter for the "Forest Park Review" and the "Life Newspapers" chain, rising within Life Newspapers to the rank of editor; and

WHEREAS, Judy Baar Topinka worked in public relations for the American Medical Association and as an independent consultant; as a community leader and public relations consultant, she became active in 28 separate ethnic, civic, and political organizations, including the Cermak Road Business Association and the Riverside, Lyons, Brookfield, and West Suburban Chambers of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, As a community leader, Judy Baar Topinka ran for election to the Illinois House of Representatives in November of 1980; winning election in the former 7th District, she took the oath of office in the 82nd General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, After serving 2 terms in the Illinois House, Topinka ran for, and was elected to, the Illinois Senate in November of 1984; she served the 22nd District with distinction for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, After 14 years as a member of the Illinois General Assembly, Judy Baar Topinka ran for statewide office; as a pioneer in the cause of women in elected statewide office, she was chosen in November of 1994 to serve as Illinois State

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Treasurer, winning the votes of 1,504,335 of her fellow Illinoisans; and

WHEREAS, As Treasurer, Judy Baar Topinka was responsible for the prudent investment and safeguarding of Illinois' financial assets, including dedicated funds specifically earmarked by the Illinois General Assembly for defined public purposes; as Treasurer, her performance was increasingly valued by the people of Illinois; her election and re-election percentages rose from 50.4% in 1994 and 50.0% in 1998, to 54.8% in 2002; and

WHEREAS, During Judy Baar Topinka's final term as Treasurer from 2003 to 2007, the then-sitting Governor of Illinois pursued a financial policy of shifting monies between State funds, "sweeping" money out of the dedicated funds overseen by the Treasurer and damaging the ability of Illinois to keep its promises and meet its financial commitments; and

WHEREAS, Fighting to defend the financial honor of Illinois, Judy Baar Topinka accepted the nomination of the Republican Party in 2006 for Governor of Illinois, waging a severely underfunded campaign for the State's highest office as the first Republican woman to be nominated for this position; and

WHEREAS, After briefly living in the private sector, Judy Baar Topinka returned to the statewide scene in 2010, seeking and winning election in November of 2010 as the 7th State of Illinois Comptroller with 1,927,139 votes from her fellow residents of the Prairie State; and

WHEREAS, As Comptroller, Judy Baar Topinka now had responsibility over managing Illinois' active cash flow;

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during her tenure, she continually warned of the dangers associated with Illinois' unbalanced budgets; and

WHEREAS, As Comptroller, Judy Baar Topinka pioneered the online publication of Illinois' cash flow situation in the monthly report "Monthly Money Matters", showing her fellow citizens how Illinois' unofficial debt and unpaid bill situation was steadily worsening, even as complacent public officials claimed that the State was continuing to balance its budgets; and

WHEREAS, As Comptroller, Judy Baar Topinka strongly supported economy in government; she even supported efforts to abolish her own position in office through House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment 1, a bipartisan constitutional amendment introduced in the 97th General Assembly to eliminate the Office of the Comptroller and transfer its powers and duties to the Office of the Illinois State Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, After HJRCA 1 and similar measures failed to get the required 3/5 majorities in both houses of the Illinois General Assembly and were not submitted to the voters in 2012 or 2014, Judy Baar Topinka ran for re-election to the office of Comptroller; and

WHEREAS, Judy Baar Topinka was re-elected to a second full term as Comptroller on November 4, 2014, marking the 5th time that she had successfully won the votes of her fellow Illinoisans for statewide office; but while serving out the final days of her first term as Comptroller, and preparing to take the oath of office for her second term, she died in office at the age of 70 on December 10, 2014 in Berwyn; therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we pay tribute to the memory of our colleague, Illinois Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm that Judy Baar Topinka was a pioneer in the election of women to statewide office in Illinois and a figure beloved by the members of both political parties; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka's son, Joseph Baar Topinka, and her longtime Chief of Staff, Nancy Kimme."

Speaker Lang: "Leader Durkin."

Durkin: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it's an honor to present this Resolution on behalf of our dear friend, our good friend, Judy Baar Topinka, who we are here today as Judy Baar Topinka Day. They just finished the ceremony in the Senate. It was a beautiful ceremony and I'm glad and I'm honored we're able to do this in the House chamber. But I remember that day, December 10, 2014 like it was yesterday. I think all of us do. All of us who woke up and we found out that Judy had left us. It was a really sad day. We're honored to have in the gallery with us is Judy's son Joseph. He's in the Speakers Gallery. Joe, thank you for joining us; he came in from Texas. Welcome back to Springfield, Joe. We all know how proud your mother was of you when you served our country as a member of the Army, health care attorney, and an educator. She talked about you often in loving terms as a mother would of a son. So, you should be very proud of that. She made you proud; you made her proud. We also want to recognize her dear chief of

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staff, her dear friend for so many years, who's joined us, Nancy Kimme. Nancy, thank you for joining us. Nancy, you just didn't work for Judy, you were... just... you really were part of her family, you really were. And I know that she would get a real kick out of the fact knowing that you have now left public service for so many years and are now thriving in the private sector, with that cigarette in her mouth and swishing around that coffee. So... but I think all of us know that it's very difficult for us and hard to believe that she's just not with us. Judy served in the House from 1981 to 1985 before serving 10 years in the Illinois Senate. What brought her and I together initially was the fact that we both represented the West Suburbs. My first run for public office was for a school board. She supported me back in the early 1990s. But when I took my first... when I first took office in the House of Representatives in 1995, Judy had become State Treasurer. She took myself, a new State Representative and new State Senator, Tom Walsh, under her wings and kind of looked at us as kind of part of her extended family, two of her sons, but a lot of us looked at us as kind of like the dysfunctional sons in that family, and I think you all could probably understand that. But she also really offered such wonderful sound advice on constituent outreach, dealing with the media, but also, most importantly, about how to be a good lawmaker. What was really great about Judy is that she called it like she... like she saw it. You'd always get an honest accep... assessment from her. She had a wonderful sense of humor. Had she not entered politics and government, she clearly would have been a member of this Second City alumni. Her ability to

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bring levity to even the most serious of topics was her trademark. But the most important reason we love Judy was because she loved us back. She went out of her way to connect with people. She was always sending handwritten notes or gifts to someone. We've all received them in this chamber. And at her memorial service, I was amazed by the stories from people whose lives she's touched throughout the state and throughout this country. Everyone thought of her as a friend, she had a way of making people feel special. We're also joined today by the Comptroller Leslie Munger. Thank you for joining us, Leslie, and thank you for running the office of comptroller in the spirit of Judy. Thank you. We know how special she was to us and we will never forget her. And Joe, we share in your sorrow and thank you for sharing your mother with us for so, so many years. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Zalewski."

Zalewski: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Resolution. First, I'd ask leave of Chair that I and the rest of us could be added to the Resolution."

Speaker Lang: "Without objection, so ordered. Please proceed."

Zalewski: "She... Comptroller Topinka was a constituent of mine and you and you're young and you enter this business and you try to go out and about and try to meet all the important people you need to meet to... to put your feet on the ground. I went to have breakfast with the... the... then... she was out of politics at that point, but she still was very important and we had a very nice conversation. She, as Jim mentioned, laid it all out on how to be a good State Representative. I was getting really excited, and I said, okay, Treasurer Topinka, one last

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thing, if I could just get a picture with you, I'll put it on my... one of my first pieces of literature and I'll be on my way. She says, honey, I love you, but I'm still a Republican. So, I struck out and it taught me a big lesson on humility early on and... and to be... to always protect your home base. But I was proud to be her State Representative. I took pride in the fact that she lived in my district and always kept a watchful eye over me, even though I was a Democrat. And we shared a lot of shared values. And the state took a gut punch on the day we lost her. So I support the Resolution. And thank you and good luck to you and thanks for... thanks for everything. Excellent, excellent. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Davis."

Davis, M.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to say that I served as an Illinois Legislator as Judy served as a constitutional officer. If you ever attended an event and it was a bit dull, it was no longer dull after Judy Baar Topinka arrived. She had a beautiful smile, a beautiful laugh, and she did not care, as Zalewski just stated, which Party you belonged to. If you were her friend, you were her friend. And I think she saw all of us in the Legislature as her friend. Judy traveled and she loved to travel to secondhand stores. She liked the lion that I wore that I bought in Jamaica and she said, if I ever see anything that matches it, I'll get it for you. She brought me earrings from one of the, what do they call them, the dives, where she'd do diving, the secondhand store, and she brought me the earrings that matched my lion. I think one of the things that all of us can learn from Judy, she loved people and she loved serving people. If you ever saw her on

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Chicago Tonight, Channel 11, she never tried to make her answers political. They were Judy Baar Topinka answers. She made sure that people could understand the language of what was going on in the State of Illinois. She didn't try to dress it up or dress it down, she told it exactly like it was. What do we call that, folksy people? Judy Baar Topinka will be loved and remembered. If you attended her funeral, it was so packed you could not get in. People from all over the state attended; elected officials and just the everyday man. And I hope one day that I'll be as loved and remembered as red-headed Judy Baar Topinka. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Greg Harris."

Harris, G.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you Joe, and Nancy, and Cory, and the rest of, you know, Judy's family up there for sharing her with us for all these years. And as Representative Davis just said, she was beloved because she was what she was. You know, in an era where, you know, so many of us are poll tested or message tested, Judy Baar Topinka was the real deal. And as Leader Durkin said she had friends across the state and she was beloved and she had friends because people knew her, they could trust her, they knew she would always tell the truth. Whether she was talking about our state budget, whether she was talking her family, whether it was talking about equal treatment for every citizen of this state, Judy Baar Topinka always told the truth. And when she called you honey, you know, I walked down a number of aisles with her where the arm went around you and you heard the word, honey, I'm just going to tell you, she told you. And there was no mistaking what side of the issue she was on.

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And I, you know, join everyone here in regretting her loss and just thinking I remember back to the day we signed the Marriage Equality Bill up in Illinois... up in Chicago, and she said to the crowd, and probably no other elected official, you know, around could say this, and I'll be anyone's flower girl at their wedding, and she meant it. So thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, my fellow colleagues."

Speaker Lang: "Representative Bellock."

Bellock: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to Judy's family up there and all of her staff and all the people that were so devoted to her. And just to reiterate what everybody else has said today, nobody will ever forget Judy Baar Topinka. Not only women, as she was such a trailblazer for all of us, not only Republican women, but all women that have been involved in politics. But that day, as Representative said, everybody that day that she died spoke to me. It was as if she was their aunt or their mother or their sister. Every single person for a week or two would say, oh, what happened about Judy? Everybody loved her. And my... one of my favorite stories about Judy is that... well, first of all, I ran into her a couple of times at garage sales 'cause we both love to do that... and she was one day on the radio, like at 5:30 in the morning here in Springfield. I heard her talking about the budget, this was a couple of years ago, and she said, and I told those Legislators and those Leaders over there about that spending. She said, just stop it, stop it, stop it. And I know at her funeral they said she liked to repeat things three times to emphasize it so that people would remember. But as far as remembering, we will all remember Judy. I don't think there's

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anybody that ever served in Illinois politics, whether it was 40 years ago or just within this last year, that will ever forget such a wonderful woman that did so much for the State of Illinois."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Mautino."

Mautino: "Thank you, Speaker. And thank you, Joe, for sharing your mom with us. I could say something that probably most of the people in this chamber would not be able to say, I spent my 34th birthday drinking beer and having shots with Judy Baar Topinka in a bar in Southern Illinois. I loved Judy, and actually, Nancy was there and Cory was there. I carried one of my first Bills for the Treasurer's Office to allow people to use credit cards. And it was the middle of August and Judy called me up and said, I know you're about five hours away, but you want to drive down to Southern Illinois to.. to Southern Illinois University to do this hearing? And so I dragged my boat down to Southern Illinois and she called me down there, it was on my birthday, it was August 7, and I met Nancy and Cory and Judy and we did a hearing, and she said, now, I'm going to take you out to lunch. We went to one of the local places had a beer, shot some pool, and she was a delightful, wonderful lady with a great heart and a spirit for all the people of the State of Illinois. Throughout the years, of the 20 years I've always carried Bills for Judy and Nancy would make sure I did, otherwise I'd be in trouble. But she was a great person, she helped with constituents, she cared about the people of the State of Illinois, she cared about the process. So I loved her, I'll miss her and thank you all for sharing her with us."

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Speaker Lang: "Mr. McSweeney."

McSweeney: "Speaker, thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to celebrate the life of this great public servant; somebody who was honest, someone who fought for real reform, and somebody who'll never be forgotten in this state. And Joe, I saw you speak at the memorial, your mom would be proud of you, you're a winner like she is. And let's just talk about 2006, there was somebody in... who's sitting in a jail in Colorado now who asked, what was she thinking? What she was thinking is that she loves the people of this state, that she wants to serve the people of this state. God bless Judy Baar Topinka. Thank you for sharing her with us."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Dunkin."

Dunkin: "Judy, Judy, Judy, is what I would affectionately call your mom, Joe. Nancy and Cory who work with her, she was that to me. It was... for me she just... she epitomized a life of gaiety. She stayed current, straight shooter and then some. I first learned of Judy Baar Topinka in the hood on the south side. She would have these women workshops and they would be packed, extremely packed and diverse with all kind of folk and she was the star. But more importantly, her personality just really touched so many folks all the time. We loved her and I often call... called her, I said, you're the Jesse White of Illinois, if you will. And he certainly loved her as well as we all do, but she was just a dynamic spirit. The last time that... one of the last fun times with her, not was when she did the cheesecakes, but when she came to the Black Caucus's annual picnic and she and I danced on the floor. And let me tell you, your mother knew how to cut a rug. You know,

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a lot's been said already. Truly, truly a wonderful person, great spirit, super energy, trailblazer and then some. This... this place doesn't seem the same without her. So again, thank you all for sharing her and may her spirit lives on forever. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Harris."

Harris, D.: "Thank you, Speaker. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I venture a guess that each and every one of us could probably tell a story about Judy Baar Topinka, and if I can, I'd like to take just a moment to... to tell you mine. And it goes back to the time when we were both Members of the House. And I happened to be talking to Judy and we were talking about our kids and my son, my oldest son at that time was in third grade. And I told Judy, I said, well, you know, my... my son and his class are... are going to the circus one day. Judy said, they're going to the circus. Yeah, they're going to the circus. She said, here, call this person and he can do something special for you. And Nancy, you'll know who I'm talking about. I called this person, its cha... a fellow by the name of Charlie Slezack. And Charlie was the person who handled the elephant that was, I don't know, 10 or 12 feet high that Judy would always have in a parade on a trailer. Now let me tell you something, it's not easy to drag a 10 or 12 foot elephant from Berwyn to Arlington Heights, okay, but Charlie did that on the day that these kids were going to the circus. And when those kids came out of school, first thing, they went to the class, then they were going out to the circus. And when they came out of the school building to go to the circus, there was this 10 to 12 foot elephant. They

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went ecstatic. You know, it is a wonderful, wonderful testimony to this wonderful, wonderful human being that she can leave us with so many warm memories. God bless her, she'll be with us forever. Thank you."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Leitch."

Leitch: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, was among the many of us who loved Judy. She was so genuine. She connected to everyone from all walks of life and never was that ever more true than when Judy and I had gone through the parade at the Toulon Fall Festival up in Stark County. And I know Don Moffitt and others recall a very colorful character named Judge Charles Wilson who would.. thought himself a magician and would be thoroughly obnoxious at most events with his tricks. Anyway, you have to, after the parade, go to the ice cream social. So we went to the ice cream social. The municipal band was forming, Judge Wilson pulled out his false teeth, started playing the tuba, and Judy started playing the accordion, a polka, and everybody in Stark County was having a blast. And that has to be my favorite memory, not only of Judy, but perhaps my entire career in the General Assembly. So God bless, Judy."

Speaker Lang: "We'll take a moment of silence. Those in favor of the Resolution will say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Resolution is adopted. Thank you, Members. And now, leaving perfunctory time for the Clerk, Leader Currie moves that the House stand adjourned 'til Tuesday, March 17 at the hour of 12 noon. Those in favor say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the House stands adjourned."

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Clerk Hollman: "House Perfunctory Session will come to order. Introduction of Resolutions. House Resolution 269, offered by Representative Verschoore. House Resolution 270, offered by Representative Flowers. House Resolution 271, offered by Representative Lilly. House Resolution 273, offered by Representative Leitch. These are referred to the Rules Committee. Introduction and First Reading of House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment #34, offered by Representative Smiddy.

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the State for adoption or rejection at the general election next occurring at least 6 months after the adoption of this resolution a proposition to amend Section 6 of Article VII as follows:

ARTICLE VII

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SECTION 6. POWERS OF HOME RULE UNITS

(a) A County which has a chief executive officer elected by the electors of the county and any municipality which has a population of more than 20,000 are home rule units. Other municipalities may elect by referendum to become home rule units. Except as limited by this Section, a home rule unit may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs including, but not limited to, the power to regulate for the protection of the public health, safety, morals and welfare; to license; to tax; and to incur debt.

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(b) A home rule unit by referendum may elect not to be a home rule unit.

(c) If a home rule county ordinance conflicts with an ordinance of a municipality, the municipal ordinance shall prevail within its jurisdiction.

(d) A home rule unit does not have the power (1) to incur debt payable from ad valorem property tax receipts maturing more than 40 years from the time it is incurred or (2) to define and provide for the punishment of a felony.

(e) A home rule unit shall have only the power that the General Assembly may provide by law (1) to punish by imprisonment for more than six months or (2) to license for revenue or impose taxes upon or measured by income or earnings or upon occupations.

(f) A home rule unit shall have the power subject to approval by referendum to adopt, alter or repeal a form of government provided by law, except that the form of government of Cook County shall be subject to the provisions of Section 3 of this Article. A home rule municipality shall have the power to provide for its officers, their manner of selection and terms of office only as approved by referendum or as otherwise authorized by law. A home rule county shall have the power to provide for its officers, their manner of selection and terms of office in the manner set forth in Section 4 of this Article.

(g) The General Assembly by a law approved by the vote of three-fifths of the members elected to each house may deny or limit the power to tax and any other power or function of a home rule unit not exercised or performed by the State other

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than a power or function specified in subsection (1) of this section.

(h) The General Assembly may provide specifically by law for the exclusive exercise by the State of any power or function of a home rule unit other than a taxing power or a power or function specified in subsection (1) of this Section.

(i) Home rule units may exercise and perform concurrently with the State any power or function of a home rule unit to the extent that the General Assembly by law does not specifically limit the concurrent exercise or specifically declare the State's exercise to be exclusive.

(j) The General Assembly may limit by law the amount of debt which home rule counties may incur and may limit by law approved by three-fifths of the members elected to each house the amount of debt, other than debt payable from ad valorem property tax receipts, which home rule municipalities may incur.

(k) The General Assembly may limit by law the amount and require referendum approval of debt to be incurred by home rule municipalities, payable from ad valorem property tax receipts, only in excess of the following percentages of the assessed value of its taxable property: (1) if its population is 500,000 or more, an aggregate of three percent; (2) if its population is more than 20,000 and less than 500,000, an aggregate of one percent; and (3) if its population is 20,000 or less, an aggregate of one-half percent. Indebtedness which is outstanding on the effective date of this Constitution or which is thereafter approved by referendum or assumed from

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another unit of local government shall not be included in the foregoing percentage amounts.

(l) The General Assembly may not deny or limit the power of home rule units (1) to make local improvements by special assessment and to exercise this power jointly with other counties and municipalities, and other classes of units of local government having that power on the effective date of this Constitution unless that power is subsequently denied by law to any such other units of local government or (2) to levy or impose additional taxes upon areas within their boundaries in the manner provided by law for the provision of special services to those areas and for the payment of debt incurred in order to provide those special services.

(m) Powers and functions of home rule units shall be construed liberally.

SCHEDULE

This Constitutional Amendment takes effect upon being declared adopted in accordance with Section 7 of the Illinois Constitutional Amendment Act. This is First Reading in full of House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment #34. There being no further business, the House Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."