

STATE OF ILLINOIS
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

104th Legislative Day

10/12/2007

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The regular Session of the Senate of the 95th General Assembly will please come to order. Madam Secretary, Reading and Approval of the Journal. Senator Hunter.

SENATOR HUNTER:

Madam President, I move to postpone the Reading and Approval of the Journal of Thursday, October 11, 2007, pending arrival of the printed transcripts.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

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

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Resolution 391, offered by Senator Watson and all Members.

Senate Resolutions 392 through 396, offered by Senator Lauzen and all Members.

And Senate Resolution 397, offered by Senator Dillard and all Members.

They're all death resolutions, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Resolution Consent Calendar. Introduction of Bills. Madam Secretary.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Bill 1870, offered by Senator Brady.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

1st Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

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Messages, Madam Secretary.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I have a Message from the House by Mr. Mahoney, Clerk.

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has adopted the following joint resolution, in the adoption of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate:

House -- Joint Resolution 21, offered by Senator Raoul.

Adopted by the House, April 19th, 2007. Mark Mahoney, Clerk of the House.

And it is substantive, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

WTTW requests permission to videotape the Senate. Seeing no objection, leave is granted. Ladies and Gentlemen, if I could have your attention, please. Will all Members within the sound of my voice please come to the Senate Chambers? All Members within the sound of my voice please come to the Senate Chambers. Madam Secretary, have we received any motions to override the Governor's specific recommendations for change of legislation?

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Yes, Madam President. The following motion has been filed with respect to the Governor's action on the following House Bill regarding the override of specific recommendations for change:

House Bill 664, filed by Senator Link.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Let it be printed on the schedule -- on the Calendar. To fulfill our responsibilities under Article V, Section 9 of the Constitution, we will now proceed to the Order of Advise and

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Consent. Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you, Madam President. I move that the Senate resolve itself into Executive Session for the purpose of acting on the appointments set forth in the Messages of the Governor, dated May 28th {sic} (25th), September 17th, October 4th and October 11th, 2007.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon moves that the Senate resolve itself into Executive Session for the purpose of acting on the appointments set forth in the Messages from the Governor dated May 28th {sic}, September 17th, October 4th and October 11th, 2007. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senator Hendon, Chairman of the Committee on Executive Appointments, to which was referred the Governor's Message of May 28th {sic}, 2007, reported the same back with the -- recommendation that the Senate do advise and consent to the following appointment.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Madam President, with respect to the Governor's Message of May 28 {sic}, 2007, I will read the salaried appointment of which the Committee on Executive Appointments recommends that the Senate do advise and consent:

To be the Assistant Director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, for a term commencing May 21st, 2007, and ending January 19th, 2009: Joseph Klinger.

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Madam President, having read the salaried appointment from the Governor's Message of May 28th {sic}, 2007, I now seek leave to consider the appointment on a roll call. Madam President, will you put the question as required by our rules?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? The question is, does the Senate advise and consent to the appointment just read from the Governor's Message of May 28th {sic}. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 54 Yeas, none voting Nay, and none voting Present. A majority of the Senators elected concurring by record vote, the Senate does advise and consent to the appointment just read. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senator Hendon, Chairman of the Committee on Executive Appointments, to which was referred the Governor's Message of September 17th, 2007, reported the same back with the recommendations of the Senate that the Senate do advise and consent to the following appointments.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Madam President, with respect to the Governor's Message of September 7, -- September 17th, 2007, I will read the salaried appointments of which the Committee on Executive Appointments recommends that the Senate do advise and consent:

To be Assistant Director of the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, for a term commencing July 3rd, 2007, and ending

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January 19, 2009: Sharron Matthews.

To be a member of the Illinois International Port District, for a term commencing August 21st, 2007, and ending June 1st, 2010: Dean Maragos.

To be a member of the Prisoner Review Board, for a term commencing August 20th, 2007, and ending January 21st, 2013: Thomas Johnson.

To be a member of the State Police Merit Board, for a term commencing August 20th -- August 30th, 2007, and ending March 21st, 2013: Kenneth Schloemer.

To be a member of the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, for a term commencing August 30th, 2007, and ending May 1st, 2011: Thomas Canham.

To be a member and Chair of the Illinois State Tollway Highway Authority -- Toll Highway Authority, for a term commencing August 30th, 2007, and ending May 1st, 2011: John Mitola.

To be the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, for a term commencing September 14, 2007, and ending January 1st, 2009: Milton Sees.

To be the Assistant Director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, for a term commencing August 23rd, 2007, and ending January 19th, 2009: Sergio Estrada.

To be members of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission, for terms commencing August 16th, 2007, and ending January 17th, 2011: David Gore and Molly Mason.

To be a member of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission, for a term commencing September 1st, 2007, and ending January 17th, 2011: Kevin Lamborn.

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To be a member and Chair of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission, for a term commencing August 16th, 2007, and ending January 17th, 2011: Dennis Ruth.

Madam President, having read the salaried appointments from the Governor's Message of September 17th, 2007, I now seek leave to consider the appointments on a roll call. Madam President, will you put the question as required by our rules?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? The question is, does the Senate advise and consent to the appointments just read from the Governor's Message of September 17th. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 54 -- 56 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present. A majority of the Senators elected concurring by record vote, the Senate does advise and consent to the appointments just read. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senator Hendon, Chairman of the Committee on Executive Appointments, to which was referred the Governor's Message of October 4th, 2007, reported the same back with a recommendation that the Senate do advise and consent to the following appointments.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Madam President, with respect to the Governor's Message of October 4th, 2007, I will read the salaried appointment of which

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the Committee on Executive Appointments recommends that the Senate do advise and consent:

To -- to be the Director of the Department of Public Health, for a term commencing October 1st, 2007, and ending January 19th, 2009: Damon Arnold.

Madam President, having read the salaried appointment from the Governor's Message of October 4th, 2007, I now seek leave to consider the appointment on a roll call. Madam President, will you put the question as required by our rules?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? The question is, does the Senate advise and consent to the appointments just read from the Governor's Message of October 4th. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present. A majority of the Senators elected concurring by record vote, the Senate does advise and consent to the appointments just read. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senator Hendon, Chairman of the Committee on Executive Appointments, to which was referred the Governor's Message of October 11th, 2007, reported the same back with a recommendation that the Senate do advise and consent to the following appointments.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Madam President, with respect to the Governor's Message of

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October 11th, 2007, I will read the salaried appointments of which the Committee on Executive Appointments recommends that the Senate do advise and consent:

To be a member of the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, for a term commencing October 11, 2007, and ending May 1st, 2011: David Andalcio.

To be a member of the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, for a term commencing October 11th, 2007, and ending May 1st, 2009: James Banks.

Madam President, having read the salaried appointments from the Governor's Message of October 11th, 2007, I now seek leave to consider the appointments on a roll call. Madam President, will you put the question as required by our rules?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? The question is, does the Senate advise and consent to the appointments just read from the Governor's Message of October 11th. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present. A majority of the Senators elected concurring by record vote, the Senate does advise and consent to the appointments just read. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senator Hendon, Chairman of the Committee on Executive Appointments, to which was referred the Governor's Message of May 28th {sic}, 2007, reported the same back with the recommendation that the Senate do advise and consent to the following appointment.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Madam President, with respect to the Governor's Message of May 28th {sic}, 2007, I will read the non-salaried appointment of which the Committee on Executive Appointments recommends that the Senate do advise and consent:

To be a member of the Guardianship and Advocacy Commission, for a term commencing May 21st, 2007, and ending June 30th, 2009: Kathleen Ryg.

Madam President, having read the non-salaried appointment from the Governor's Message of May 28th {sic}, 2007, I now seek leave to consider the appointment on a roll call. Madam President, will you put the question as required by our rules?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? The question is, does the Senate advise and consent to the appointment just read from the Governor's Message of May 28th {sic}. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present. A majority of the Senators elected concurring by record vote, the Senate does advise and consent to the appointments just read. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senator Hendon, Chairman of the Committee on Executive Appointments, to which was referred the Governor's Message of September 17th, 2007, reported the same back with the recommendation that the Senate do advise and consent to the

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following appointments.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

..President, with respect to the Governor's Message of May -- September 17th, 2007, I will read the non-salaried appointments of which the Committee on Executive Appointments recommends that the Senate do advise and consent:

To be a member of the Illinois Medical District in Springfield Commission, formerly known as the Springfield Medical District, for a term commencing July 5th, 2007, and ending June 30th, 2011: Bradley Schaive.

To be a member of the Northeastern Illinois University Board of Trustees, for a term commencing August 30th, 2007, and ending January 17th, 2011: Omar Duque.

To be a member of the Ticket for a Cure, for a term commencing August 16th, 2007: Senator Mattie Hunter.

Madam President, having read the non-salaried appointments from the Governor's Message of September 17th, 2007, I now seek leave to consider the appointments on a roll call. Madam President, will you put the question as required by our rules?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? The question is, does the Senate advise and consent to the appointments just read by the Governor's Message of September 17th? All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 53 Yeas, none voting Nay, 1 voting Present. A majority of the Senators elected

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concurring by record vote, the Senate does advise and consent to the appointments just read. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senator Hendon, Chairman of the Committee on Executive Appointments, to which was referred the Governor's Message of October 4th, 2007, reported the same back with the recommendation that the Senate do advise and consent to the following appointments.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

...President, with respect to the Governor's Message of October 4th, 2007, I will read the non-salaried appointments of which the Committee on Executive Appointments recommends that the Senate do advise and consent:

To be a member of the Illinois Finance Authority, for a term commencing September 20th, 2007, and ending July 21st, 2008: April Verrett.

To be a member of the Medical Disciplinary Board, for a term commencing September 19th, 2007, and ending January 1st, 2010: Robert Fernandez.

To be a member of the Medical Disciplinary Board, for a term commencing September 19th, 2007, and ending January 1st, 2008: Homero Tristan.

To be a member of the Workers' Compensation Advisory Board, for a term commencing September 20th, 2007, and ending January 17, 2011: Philip Gruber.

Madam President, having read the non-salaried appointments from the Governor's Message of October 4, 2007, I now seek leave

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to consider the appointments on a roll call. Madam President, will you put the question as required by our rules?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? The question is, does the Senate advise and consent to the appointments just read from the Governor's Message of October 4th. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present. A majority of the Senators elected concurring by record vote, the Senate does advise and consent to the appointments just read. Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you, Madam President. I move that the Senate arise from Executive Session.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon moves that the Senate arise from Executive Session. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the motion carries. The Senate has arisen from Executive Session. Ladies and Gentlemen, on your desk if you can go to Supplemental Calendar No. 1, Motions in Writing Override Specific Recommendations. We will be going to House Bill 664. Senator Link, do you wish to proceed? Madam Secretary, please read the motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move that House Bill 664 do pass, notwithstanding the specific recommendations of the Governor.

Filed by Senator Terry Link.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

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Senator Link, to explain your motion.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Madam President. I probably could say I'm enthusiastically standing up here seeking an override, but it would be a lie. But I am standing up here asking for an override of the Governor's -- Governor's veto on a seven percent cap and I'm asking that we override this so that the people, predominantly in Cook County, can get their seven percent assessment relief and that the other tax advantages that are in this bill can become law like...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Link, please, could you hold up a second? We cannot hear. This is a very big, important bill. If everybody could please keep it down so we can listen to Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Madam President. There are other things that are positive in this bill like disabled persons homestead exemption, disabled veterans homestead exemption, fallen veterans {sic} and rescue workers abatement, senior citizens assessment freeze, and, one of the most important things in this bill, a task force that will be appointed by all four Leaders of the caucuses to address property tax throughout the whole State of Illinois. And, that maybe we don't have to come back here every year to address this issue. So, I would ask for affirmative vote on this and I'll be more than happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Senator Maloney.

SENATOR MALONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. I rise in support of this

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legislation and I want to commend the sponsor for his hard work and diligent work on this. I know that there have been opposing forces on this bill, not necessarily in opposing it in principle, but in its details. And so this will, as the sponsor has indicated, provide -- relieve the anxiety of the Cook County taxpayers. It will provide stability. It will -- relieve the anxiety that right now many school administrators are going through, understanding what this bill will accomplish. So I rise in support of this and I am confident that the task force, as the Senator has indicated, will provide a framework in which we don't have to revisit this issue every year. And again, I thank the sponsor for his support on this measure. I urge an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Any further discussion? Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY:

Thank you, Madam President. To the bill. First, let me commend the sponsor for his hard work on this critical issue throughout this year. I would have personally liked to have seen a little bit more property tax relief for my district as well. But I want to remind everybody on my side of the aisle, this is not merely a Cook County property tax relief bill. There is relief for every property owner in the State in this bill. We all supported this the first time it came through. It is of particular importance to those of us in Cook County, of course, because of the extension of the seven-percent bill. I've got people in my district, frankly, longtime residents who have lived there for years who are scared. They're scared that they can't afford to remain in the house they raised their -- their children in. They're scared they're not going to be able to continue to

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be a part of the community that they helped to make - the great community we live in today. And it's -- it's time to give them the relief that this bill will provide. It's time to take the suspense away and it's time for an override of this to make an extension of seven-percent law. I urge an Aye vote and a support of property tax relief for everyone we represent.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Any further discussion? Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank -- thank you, Madam President. We need to make a few things clear before we vote on this override. First of all, what is it that we're overriding? The Governor was right. What the Governor did in his veto was return the bill to its original form and strengthen it just a bit, the way the Senate had proposed it in the first place. I, too, want to commend Senator Link for his patience, because it's taken a lot of patience to deal with the other side of the aisle -- I mean, across the Rotunda. The other side of the aisle has been fine, but the other side of the Rotunda, on this issue. So, what did the Governor do? What are we going to override? And, I'm going to vote with Senator Link for the override, because the people deserve something. But they actually deserve more than we're giving 'em here today. What the Governor did was make this cap permanent. And what's wrong with that? Why should senior citizens and people who are struggling in regentrified {sic} communities have to worry every two or three years if they're going to have to pay more taxes than they could afford? What's wrong with making it permanent so that people who are at the last stages of their lives, who are in buildings where they have saved their life savings into those

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properties? What's wrong with making it permanent? The Governor made it permanent. We're going to override him. We shouldn't do it. But, they have us over a barrel, 'cause it's either we do this or the people of Cook County, especially, and the rest of the State suffer. There are people paying more on their property taxes than they are on their mortgages right now. Foreclosures are at an all-time high. And, yet, we can't give permanent property tax relief to the people of Cook County and of this State. It is wrong. The Governor was correct. The Governor also raised the thresholds, raised the exemption level - forty thousand dollars, across the board. That's what will give people, when you look at it with the seven percent, the property tax relief that they deserve. At one time we had it, under Senator Link, at sixty thousand. And that's where it really should be. We need to give people relief in Cook County, right now. The people on the other side of the Rotunda, they have reasons why they did what they did. They were wrong, the Governor is right. But, reluctantly, because it's this or the people suffer further damage, I'm going to support Senator Link here today. But it is even with a heavy heart that even the sponsors carries this today. He does it for the people. Because we should put the people first, the homeowners, the property owners and the renters first, before big business. I love big business, but guess what? If the people are forced out of Cook County, there will be no people to spend money with those businesses. There will be no people to -- to work at those businesses. So, we should put the people first. And, unfortunately, because this is only the -- the best thing we can possibly do, I'm going to reluctantly vote with Senator Link

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today. But, the Governor was right. And, when we come back to this, hopefully, we will give the people permanent property tax relief throughout Cook County.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

AP seeks leave to take photographs. Seeing no objection, leave is granted. Any further discussion? Senator Pankau.

SENATOR PANKAU:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR PANKAU:

Senator Link, could you kind of lay out for us a timetable now, because I know the school districts and some of the other taxing bodies in Cook County are very concerned as to when exactly the tax bills will come out. So, when we override this veto today, how many days does it take, you know, to calculate how many days after that? When will the residents of Cook County expect to get a tax bill in the mail?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Senator. First of all, I'm not the clerk or the assessor, but speaking to the assessor's office, this is already calculated because they knew what this bill was. After the vote today, if the vote is an affirmative vote with over thirty-six votes, it automatically is law the minute we pass it. So, the clerk and the assessors can go into immediate action. So they are telling me that probably the first part of November the

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people will be getting their tax bills. And I don't want to be the bearer of sad tidings, but that's when they're approximately looking at when they will be getting their bills.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Pankau.

SENATOR PANKAU:

Okay. So you're saying, basically, November 1st to get the tax bills out. And, then there's thirty -- you have thirty days to pay. So, approximately December 1st is when the payments will be due and probably coming in.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

...Link.

SENATOR LINK:

That is the approximate dates that I've been told, but don't hold to me to those exact dates. But that's the approximate dates I've been told.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

...Pankau.

SENATOR PANKAU:

And, then other than not making it permanent and putting it, basically, back the way it was when we passed it the first time, was anything else changed in it? Like I had a concern about when you do closings on a real estate matter, but all of that stayed the same. Correct?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

Yes.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

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Any further discussion? Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Thank you, Madam President. To the bill: I probably received more letters on this one issue than more than any other issue. I think one of my colleagues has characterized this issue as "our Ameren", and it indeed is that type of situation for us. And it's unfortunate that, as Senator -- Senator Hendon pointed out, that we're held over a barrel on this issue because of the Legislative ping pong that has gone on throughout the Session on this issue and on -- on other issues. That an individual's conflict of interest can prevail in this matter is -- is unfortunate, because it -- it -- it is the constituents that we represents -- it -- it -- it is their -- it is their well-being that we should be looking out for. And I commend Senator Link. He's been putting this forth and he's been strong in putting this forth throughout this Session. And, I commend the assessor as well for bringing this to our attention. And I feel -- schizophrenic in my position today 'cause I am going to vote to override the Governor's veto, which I agree with, which -- which really doesn't make sense. But, we're -- we're held over a barrel. And I urge an Aye vote on this, simply because we're held over a barrel because of the Legislative ping -- pong that has gone on and because of -- because of a conflict of interest.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Any further discussion? Senator Sandoval.

SENATOR SANDOVAL:

Thank you, Madam President, Members of the Illinois Senate. I rise in support of the gentleman of Waukegan's work on this effort providing property tax relief to the people of Illinois.

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You know, there is no barrel, there's no gun to anyone's head. There is no ping pong that's going back and forth. This is the right thing to do. It is about time. Yesterday, I was quoted -- today I was quoted in the paper as saying - and I stand firm to my -- to my quote - there is more democracy and more consensus-building in the Middle East than there is under the dome of the General Assembly. This is one -- this is one issue today -- this is one issue today where there has been consensus, bipartisanship, people working on both sides of the aisle. This is what we have all been called to do as Legislators, the give and the take, not my way or the highway, as known on the second floor of this State Capitol. Terry Link -- Senator Link, has done a yeoman's job in bringing this compromise piece of legislation to the Floor of the Senate. I commend my President Emil Jones, Jr. and Speaker Michael Madigan for coming together and doing what's right for the people of Illinois. Vote green.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Any further discussion? Senator Emil Jones.

SENATOR E. JONES:

Thank you, Madam President. I hadn't planned to speak on this issue. But, listening to several of my colleagues make comments on this matter, I really want to commend Terry Link for the tremendous job that he has done. Several times, I believe at least twice, this Chamber overwhelmingly passed a much, much better bill that would have benefited the homeowners in Cook County. And, each time, it was rejected in the House. There is nothing wrong with tax breaks being permanent for homeowners in Cook County. I feel that it should be. And -- and I don't believe that we are really over the barrel because that gives

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those individuals who oppose good tax relief for homeowners in Cook County a victory. Senator Hendon is correct. If we are really interested in taking care of those persons who live in their homes, who live in areas that all of a sudden become upscale, be it the near-south, near-west, near-north side in the City of Chicago, in the Englewood community -- if we are really interested in looking out for those homeowners, then we would have passed a much, much better bill and made it permanent. In good conscience, I recognize if this bill does not pass and the other bill that's on the Calendar does not pass, the homeowners will receive nothing in the first year. But, my conscience will not let me be supportive in voting Yes, to give a victory to those who oppose the homeowners getting a decent tax relief package. It's been going back and forth. This Chamber has responded with the appropriate legislation on this issue. Unfortunately, the House, not in their best wisdom, has saw fit not to do that. If we send another piece of legislation over, it would probably end up the same way. So I intend to vote my conscience on this. I know some Members here who reside in Chicago have a conflict of interest because they're going to get a tax break on their home, and they should. They should receive one. But, it's not in my best interest to be supportive of something because the first year may be all right. It's that second and third year where the problem come in. We must come back and correct that piece to make it permanent and not reduce the tax breaks that the homeowners should receive, but make it uniform. The homeowners in Cook County are bearing the burden of financing local government. It has been a tremendous shift from business to homeowners. Business is not paying their fair share.

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And a vote -- a Yes vote would be -- would be saying to business, you need not have to worry in the second and third year, because the burden will be on the homeowners and you would not have to pay your fair share. So I'm not going to vote Yes for it. In conscience, I just cannot do it. Some of you will. But, it's that second and third year where the major, major problem is with -- with this bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Any further discussion? Senator Link, to close.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Madam President, and thank you to all my colleagues. This is a long time coming. And, I want to rectify a few things before I continue on. There's been a lot of disparaging comments made. But, one of 'em took me very personal. When I think any colleague in this Chamber that has worked with me through the years that I've been in this Senate on both sides of the aisle, know one thing I have and that's my word and my commitment. When I make my word to you, I keep it. And, I take great offense when somebody said that I lied and that I went against my word. And, I got to tell you one thing. There were only two people in the meeting, so I know what was said and I never went against my word. And when they said the President went against the word on that, he wasn't even in the meeting. I was the negotiator on this bill. I know what was said in it. This is not the best bill we could pass out of this Chamber. We could do a lot better and we have passed a lot better of a bill out of here. But it is not the twelfth hour. It's past the twelfth hour and the people need relief. But we're doing something for 'em and, we're doing a commitment for 'em. And,

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this has been hovering over here for a long time. And I've had colleagues, I've had interest groups coming to me. And first of all, I want to commend those ladies and gentlemen in the House that stood up and voted for a better bill for the residents of Illinois and had the courage to do it, because it did take courage to do it. But we need something for them. But we're going to put an issue to rest today, one of the big issues that's been talked about for a long time in all of the big issues. And as I said, colleagues have been talking to me, "You got to do this. It's important to my area. You got to do this. I'm getting all these phone calls. I'm getting all these e-mails. It's an important issue. You got to do it." Well, you know what? There's other issues out there that are important to my area, to other areas of this State, but we're not addressing 'em. They're big issues. The capital bill is a big issue. We passed out a bipartisan funding source for it. Let's pass that so we help everybody in Illinois. We're passing something here today that's helping a part of Illinois and some segments of other parts of Illinois. This is the State of Illinois and we're trying to help everybody in this State, I thought. I thought there's twelve million-plus residents of this State. So let's help every one of 'em, and we can do it by putting all these issues to rest. And it's time to do it. We're putting this issue to rest. I'm like Senator Hendon, I'm reluctantly proposing this bill and this override, because it's not the best one and I'm going to be voting Yes on it because we need to put this issue to rest. But let's put the other issues to rest because I want to do what I think about a hundred seventy other Legislators want to do - because I don't want to count everybody

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- but, about a hundred and seventy other Legislators want to do, and that's go home. And, I think what we could do is put these other issues to rest, if we put as much concern and as much pressure as we did on this issue and say enough is enough and let's go home. So when you vote a green light today, you're putting a green light to go. Let's all vote green. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The question is, shall the Senate pass House Bill 664, notwithstanding the specific recommendations of the Governor. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 55 Yeas, 1 voting Nay, none voting Present. And House Bill 664, having received the required three-fifths majority, is declared passed, notwithstanding the veto of the Governor. Senator Radogno, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR RADOGNO:

...you, Madam President. A point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

State your point.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

In the gallery behind me are seventh graders from Eisenhower Junior High in Darien, Illinois who are visiting us today and had the opportunity to see a good debate with all the decorum that we are capable of having during a debate. So, since they're studying the Illinois Constitution, I think this was a good experience and I'd like for us to welcome them to Springfield.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Will our guests in the galleries please rise? Welcome to

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Springfield. Senate President Emil Jones, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR E. JONES:

Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

State your point.

SENATOR E. JONES:

I just want to make a comment how everyone looks so nice and beautiful, all those who are wearing their pink today - the pink ties and I believe Senator Watson forgot his pink suit. But we all look very wonderful as we -- as we -- as we pay tribute to Breast Cancer Month here in the Illinois Senate. And each and every day that we bring about awareness, we are letting women know that you must get in and get those mammogram tests early. Early detection is -- is the way that we can stop this dreadful disease from taking so many lives. So, again, I want to thank everyone for at least participating and getting involved and wearing pink today to show that we strongly support more breast care awareness throughout the State of Illinois.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Brady, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR BRADY:

Thank you, Madam President. For a point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

State your point.

SENATOR BRADY:

I want to thank Senator Jones and Senator Watson for bringing and highlighting this very important issue. But I had a

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question for President Jones and that was whether or not he could convince Barack Obama to wear a pink lapel pin.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Brady, did you say President Obama? Senator Brady.

SENATOR BRADY:

No.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

For some reason, I heard President Obama. Okay. If everybody can pick up that really heavy "Reader's Digest" that's on your desk, that I'll call the Calendar. Get your weight-lifting exercises going. And, we're going to turn to page -- we're going to the Order of House Bills 3rd Reading on page 32. With leave of the Body, we will be going to House Bill 4144. Senator Hendon, to proceed. Madam Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

House Bill 4144.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Madam President, is the board correct? It's... Thank you, Madam President. First, I'd like to thank Senator Crotty for her hard work on this issue. She worked long and hard in the interest of the home care workers of this State. She has done a wonderful job and I wanted to commend her on the work that she has done and the advice that she has given me as it relates to this State and as it relates to this issue within this State.

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House Bill 4144 appropriates money to the Department of Aging in order to increase the rate, the reimbursement rate for home care workers and provide health care insurance for these employees. As many of you know, these workers do great work at personal sacrifice. They take care of those who need it the most, and yet they are severely underpaid. They often work without insurance. These workers, many of 'em make less than a person in a fast food restaurant, but yet they take care of the sick, the elderly, the aging. They deserve this small increase. Actually, the increase is not large enough. And, I've said that time and time again. The additional dollar and seventy cents a hour still will only get 'em in the area of eight dollars and eighty cents per hour. I'll be happy to answer any questions. I know there will be some, so I'll save some of my comments for that time.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is -- is there any discussion? Senator Radogno.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

Thank you, Madam President. Couple things, I am in favor of this. I do believe that these home care workers do important work for us and we really need to treat them well and recognize the work that they do. I do want to just ask a question that was raised in committee so that hopefully we can get -- have a little better understanding about the insurance portion of it.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The sponsor indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR GARRETT:

Could you explain how the dollar thirty-three that is allocated for the insurance will work?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

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Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

It -- it is expected that the -- the dollar thirty-three will go towards a health care program, which will be paid to the vendors and then they will provide the health coverage for the employees.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Radogno.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

Is there a guarantee that that money will, in fact, go to provide insurance for these employees?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

That is a wonderful question, Senator, and something that we most certainly wanted to make sure that that, in fact, was the case. It would be wrong to give the money to the vendors and then they don't give insurance to the workers. So, that is a excellent question. And, the answer is yes. And, we will continue to monitor the situation to make sure that the vendors are doing the right thing by their employees. That's a excellent question. I appreciate you asking it.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Any further discussion? Senator Crotty.

SENATOR CROTTY:

First of all, I'd like to thank Senator Hendon for recognizing me as one of his chief cosponsors. And just to follow up, I think all of us know that there's such a turnover - and I mentioned this in committee - with home care workers. And

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in this legislation, it is specific that these dollars go for a raise and to go toward health insurance. Many years that we've been here, we give vendors an increase, but sometimes we've never seen those increases filter down to the employees that do the work. So for all of us, who have had an opportunity to have home care workers help any of our friends or our family members, this is a time that I'd like to also give them great thanks and appreciation and I also urge an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any further discussion? Senator Garrett.

SENATOR GARRETT:

Thank you. Will the sponsor yield?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR GARRETT:

I, too, am obviously for this bill. But, I do have a question that I asked in committee and the question is, the threshold dollar -- the number of hours that a home care worker is employed before he or she gets the insurance.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

That's twenty hours or more per week.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Garrett.

SENATOR GARRETT:

So, and so my question is -- my worry is, is that if there's a small percentage of the home care workers who work more than twenty hours, are we diluting this by not providing more

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coverage, more insurance coverage, because possibly a majority of the home care workers work less than twenty hours. I asked the question. They were going to get those numbers to me. And, I never received them.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator...

SENATOR GARRETT:

And -- and the reason I'm concerned is that obviously the point of the -- to make sure that we provide as much insurance to as many people as possible.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

...Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Senator, I agree with you. Fortunately, most of the workers do work more than twenty hours a week. If we find that we're missing a pool of workers who work less, then we can always come back and tweak it. It will be my commitment to do so, but I would urge all of them to seek at least twenty hours a week just for the economics of it. Anything less than that - with gas being so high, with transportation and heaven forbid to have to eat lunch - you know, they're really not making -- that's one reason we're raising the -- the salaries, the wages a bit because they're really not making any money if they're working less than twenty hours a week. So we want to encourage them and -- and -- and see that everyone would get at least those many hours.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Garrett, your light wasn't on. I see that you want to speak again. Senator Garrett.

SENATOR GARRETT:

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Finally, is there a way to get some sort of an assessment or report on this just to make sure that we are in sync with what your legislation proposes to do?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Absolutely. Senator Crotty, Senator Collins, Trotter and myself, who also was carrying this bill at one time, Senator Martinez, who I have discussed it with, will certainly monitor the situation to make sure it works for the workers.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Any further discussion? Senator Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

Yes, Madam President, you look wonderful today.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, sir.

SENATOR WATSON:

As you do every day, but this is a special day. Excuse me. Pardon me. That -- I -- that was incidental. That was just a totally incidental cough. Sorry.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Got you all... You know what, Senator? I got you all choked up.

SENATOR WATSON:

You do. You do. Well, I -- I, too, want to rise in behalf of this -- this -- this legislation and commend the sponsors, everyone who's worked on this. I -- I had the opportunity several years ago - and we -- and we've done this in incremental increases over the years, I believe, giving salary increases to

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home care workers - but it was, oh, I don't know, it's been three years ago, maybe, that I was in Decatur and the -- the local SEIU people asked me to go out on a visitation with a -- a home care worker and I did that. And I would suggest everyone doing that because -- to see, first of all, the environment in which these workers are put into. We went to a home of a poor young man who had AIDS and I -- I have to believe he's passed on by now because the condition in which he was living and -- and the manner in which he was living was -- was one deplorable -- none of us would want for anyone. But he was living there and this home care worker visited him regularly. And, this was the only way, the only way this individual -- could stay in the home. And I have to -- hats off to the people who are willing to do this kind of work. And, obviously they're not paid much money. They're not given a whole lot of consideration for health care. And, this is one individual -- one group that we ought to be trying to help. And they -- this whole effort of these home care workers and what they do has gone -- they're -- they're kind of unsung heroes, as far as I'm concerned, in this whole effort of trying to provide service to the people of this State. They do a wonderful job and are very worthy of this -- your consideration on this piece of legislation. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Any further discussion? Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

Thank you, Madam President. I rise in strong support of the -- the -- the Senator's bill. This is very important. But I think one thing that we're not doing here that needs to be taken care of is the AFSCME employees, as well. We have frontline

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State workers in Illinois who don't have enough help and we're remiss as a Body by not taking care of this fact.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon, to close.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you, Madam President. Senator Jacobs, I appreciate you supporting this particular issue, especially with the situation with AFSCME. And, I know how sincerely you feel about that, and Senator Sullivan as well. I agree, but we agreed to try to get this out of here as a clean bill and that's why we're -- we're doing this as a clean bill today. Also, I want to thank Senator Radogno and Leader Watson for understanding the issue. And, -- and actually being, as you said, Frank, three years ago, at the forefront of this issue in making sure that these workers get a better pay for what they do. 'Cause it is very serious, what they do. And many of us, and many people out in the community, would not take on this kind of work. I also would like to say to some of my colleagues, who were kind of set upon by the leadership on this issue of the local, they -- they've apologized. They didn't really mean it. You know, sometimes they - in their zest - you hurt the ones that closest to you, the ones that love you the most. They kind of did that. But, it's for the workers we're doing this today. And we can always talk to the leaders of the particular union, but they need to know that -- stay with -- dance with the one you came to the party with. You know, people who have been with you, stick with them, that's the way to get things done. Our Governor, I also want to point out in closing, is also in favor of this and I'd appreciate an Aye vote.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The question is, shall House Bill 4144 pass. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 Yeas, 1 Nay, none voting Present. Senate -- House Bill 4144, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Syverson, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you, Madam President. I wasn't recorded on the 664 and I'd like to have the record reflect I would have voted favorably for that.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator, the record shall so reflect your intention on 664. Senator Watson, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR WATSON:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. I just want to introduce Linda Hinton. Linda Hinton is on our staff, secretary of John Millner, and she's actually the one who suggested that we make this a special day in the Senate about wearing pink in honor of the -- those women who are fighting breast cancer. So I think we ought to recognize Linda.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Linda. You always come up with so many great ideas. We love you. Our next bill will be at the top of page 33 in House Bills 3rd Reading. It's 4148. Senator Forby, do you wish to proceed? Madam Secretary, read the bill.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

House Bill 4148.

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(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Thank you. House Bill 4148 is a special ed hold harmless bill. What we done three years ago is pass a bill that left schools hold harmless. Made sure they got the same money they got year before. For some reason this year it got by us. So what we're doing today is passing a hold harmless bill -- to extend it from now on, where schools get paid at least the same amount as they done the year before. So, I ask for your vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any..

SENATOR FORBY:

And this bill -- and another thing, this -- this is on both sides of the aisle there's two hundred and fifty schools in this that's going to get hurt on this, so this -- this bill that everybody -- will help everybody in the State of Illinois.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Yes, thank you, Madam President, Members of the Senate. I just wanted to announce that we have been in Session so many days this year that I actually understood everything that Gary Forby just said.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Okay. It doesn't look like anybody wants to follow that, so if there are no further questions, we are not going to allow you

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to close, Senator Forby, because you might go backwards on that. The question is, shall House Bill 4148 pass. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present. House Bill 4148, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Mr. Cullerton, you know there's a lot of times I don't understand what you say. You come kind of off the wall. You know, I don't know if people from up north does that every now and then, but I just want to thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

With that, Rules Committee has to meet immediately in the President's Anteroom. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senator Halvorson, Chairman of Committee on Rules, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Be approved for consideration - Floor Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 4149 and Floor Amendment No. 6 to House Bill 315.

Senator Debbie Halvorson, Chairman. October 12th, 2007.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Righter, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Madam President. The Senate Republicans would request a caucus immediately in Senator Watson's Office, forty-five minutes if we might, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

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Senator Righter, this is our last bill. We can -- we have a death resolution that we need to do, too, so we'll give you till 12:30, twenty minutes. The Senate will stand in recess to the call of the Chair.

(SENATE STANDS IN RECESS/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The Senate will come to Order. Will all Members please come to the Senate Chambers? Madam Secretary, have we received any motions from the sponsor regarding the Governor's veto of items in House Bill 3866?

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Yes, Madam President. The following motion has been filed with respect to the Governor's action on the following House Bill regarding override item vetoes:

House Bill 3866.

Filed by Senator Trotter.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Let it be printed on the Calendar. All Members within the sound of my voice please come to the Senate Chambers. Madam Secretary, have we received any motions from any other Members regarding the Governor's vetoes of items in House Bill 3866?

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Yes. The following motions have been filed with respect to the Governor's action on the following House Bills to override item vetoes:

House Bill -- 3866, by Senator Haine.

House Bill 3866, by Senator Haine.

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House Bill 3866, by Senator Watson.

House Bill 3866, By Senator Watson.

And House Bill 3866, by Senator Garrett.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Let them be printed on the Calendar. Madam Secretary, have we received any motions from the sponsor regarding the Governor's reduction of items in House Bill 3866?

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Yes, Madam President, the following motion has been filed with respect to the Governor's action on the following House Bill to restore item reductions:

House Bill 3866, by Senator Trotter.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Let it be printed on the Calendar. Madam Secretary, have we received any motions from other Members regarding the Governor's reduction of items in House Bill 3866?

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Yes. The following motions have been filed with respect to the Governor's action on the following House Bills to restore item reductions:

House Bill 3866, by Senator Watson.

And House Bill 3866, by Senator Watson.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Let them be printed on the Calendar. All Members please come to the Senate Chambers immediately. All Members please come to the Senate Chambers. We will now proceed to the Order of Resolutions Consent Calendar. With leave of the Body, all those resolutions read into today will be added to the Consent Calendar. Madam Secretary, have there been any objections filed

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to any resolution on the Consent Calendar?

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

No objections filed, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the resolutions on the Consent Calendar be adopted. All those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The motion carries, and the resolutions are adopted. We will now proceed to page 33 of the Calendar. Ladies and Gentlemen, please turn your Calendar to page 33, top of the page. House Bills 3rd Reading. We will be going to House Bill 4149. If everybody would open their Calendar to page 33. Top of page 33, House Bills 3rd Reading, 4149. Senator Forby, do you wish to proceed? Senator Forby seeks leave of the Body to return House Bill 4149 to the Order of 2nd Reading for the purpose of an amendment. Hearing no objection, leave is granted. On the Order of 2nd Reading is House Bill 4149. Madam Secretary, are there any amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Floor Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Forby.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby, to explain your amendment.

SENATOR FORBY:

Thank you. Amendment -- Floor Amendment No. 1 is restoring funding that -- reduced by the government. And what is does is restore from Department of Corrections -- over seven thousand {sic} dollars for personal service; over -- over a hundred thousand dollars to {sic} GRF; five hundred thousand dollars GR for Social Security. And, Department of Human Service division

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and the Human Capital Development, which was reduced by the Governor, is -- is another over a hundred thousand {sic} dollars GRF; over two hundred thousand dollars to retirement; hundred -- over a hundred thousand, social security. Same as Department of Human Service, four hundred -- thousand {sic} dollars GRF; seven hundred thousand dollars GR for retirement. And, the Department of Juvenile Justice is over a hundred thousand dollars GRF, personal service; three hundred -- over three hundred thousand dollars for retirement; over a hundred thousand dollars for social security. That's what the amendment is. The -- House Bill 4149. And House Bill 4149 is restoring the twenty-two million dollars for -- for education, to supplement education.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion on the amendment? Senator Delgado, do you want discussion on the amendment? Senator Delgado.

SENATOR DELGADO:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR DELGADO:

Senator Forby, I notice -- absent on this list is the Department of Children and Family Services. Can you address that?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

It's not included.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

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Senator Delgado.

SENATOR DELGADO:

...me -- can you help me understand why not? The Department of Children and Family Services have been historically underfunded and more so on bilingual by worker level and, heck, we're not even at par. Can you help me understand where the priorities are at on that?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

I understand what you're saying. I don't know what people say their priorities are, where the priorities go. This is a step in the right direction, I think. And so this is what -- I've got on this amendment, so that's -- that's why I'm running it.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion? Senator Delgado, you just have to put your light on so that I know you're still contemplating. Senator Delgado.

SENATOR DELGADO:

Thank you, Madam President and Members of the Senate. It is vital that we have a comprehensive approach and I'm encouraged that this is in the right direction. I want to commend the sponsor. However, once again - and I'll be brief - let's put a face on -- let's -- well, as brief as I can be without risking the best interest of the child for those of you who are in a hurry -- but to keep in mind that workers are out there with hundreds of cases and with inadequate operating tools to get out there and see the children that are definitely in a complex

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situation and parents that come along with 'em. We have to continue to do the right thing, as the Illinois Association of Hispanic State Employees and the Latino Caucus and others have worked diligently to make sure that all children in this State are serviced. And I would ask that you join me in making sure that we continue to advocate that we get at least slots and -- and -- and have some kind of grid sheet to understand where those needs are at, identify those needs and at least address them incrementally. I'm a patient man, however, to not have them on this sheet, I think we're doing a disservice and this work is not complete, although I will step in the way of this particular amendment. I do say, caution to the wind. I pray and I'm -- and I have confidence, since it's come this far, that we'll continue these conversations. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Any further discussion on the amendment? Senator Crotty.

SENATOR CROTTY:

Thank you, Madam President. Also on the same -- the same vein that the previous speaker spoke, I notice that we also aren't including the COLA for the -- those who work with persons with developmental disabilities. And I know how long and hard we've discussed this and we've worked for it and I'm wondering why that was left out of this supplemental bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

I'm not sure why it was left out of it. I agree with both of the sponsors -- said that we need to just keep working on it and work -- and doing that. And I'm there with you. I do think

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they need to be worked on and today this is the -- this is the best I can do. I'm going to take what I can get. I'm going to run with it. But, I'm still going to work with both of you guys to help get something done, down the road.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

...Crotty.

SENATOR CROTTY:

Thank you. And I also want to commend you for carrying the bill and working on this, but I look forward to working with you and looking forward to more supplementals that'll address these. Thanks.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Any further discussion? Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much, Madam President, Members of the Senate. I just want to reiterate what I said yesterday that we are looking at the entire override bill or document that was given to us by the Governor and came from the House. And so there will be additional supplementals and can't say for certain if all the concerns that individuals are talking about, but based on the amount of revenues that we have and the things that we can pay for, there certainly -- these are the kinds of things that we'll be prioritizing as we go forward.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Any further discussion? Senator Haine.

SENATOR HAINE:

Thank you very much, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Quite briefly, I appreciate very much this amendment coming to the Floor. As the Senator indicated so ably,

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this is a step in the right direction. Rome wasn't rebuilt in a day, I suppose. And I agree with Senator Crotty and Senator Delgado's comments completely. And, just want to add, an institution that's frequently left out is the State Police. It's been brought to my attention the last few days, by the -- a couple of State's attorneys, that the forensic laboratory is in great need of an infusion of -- of money. Perhaps that can be done in the capital bill. But certainly that is a need which isn't publicized, but it become -- becomes a problem in the court system and it's something that threatens the fairness and the accuracy of evidence presented in a court. It could mean justice delayed or certainly -- or justice gone awry. And, I would add that to the -- the -- to those lists of -- of items. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Wilhelmi.

SENATOR WILHELMI:

Thank you, Madam President. I just rise in strong support of this legislation. I want to thank Senator Forby for his leadership on this. I also want to thank the men and women in this Chamber that are fighting hard so we can restore funding for those men and women who are on the front lines across the State of Illinois in our prisons and other State facilities. This really does affect men and women who are working hard to make sure that we are safe and that we have the kinds of facilities in this State that we can be proud of. We do have farther to go and I'm very happy to hear Senator Forby stand up, along with many of us, to say we're going to continue to work on additional funding to make sure that all of these positions can be restored. And so, Senator Forby, on behalf of all the men and women that work

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in our State facilities, thank you, and let's continue this work as we go through our business the remainder of this year.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion? Senator Garrett.

SENATOR GARRETT:

Thank you, Madam Chair. To the sponsor, I have a question. Would you yield?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR GARRETT:

We do a lot of work in our part of -- the northern part of the State on flooding issues, water issues, and I noticed that when the Governor -- when some of these items were vetoed from the bill, DNR is maybe out about over a million dollars. And this is not something that we can neglect and hope that someday, you know, just magically we're going to be able to address some of these issues without staff. So I'm wondering if you are (a) aware of that and if you were, why -- why did that happen?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

...Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Yes. I'm aware of a lot of things that's happened in the budget that we didn't get. I -- I was looking forward to getting everything that we talked about in budget. You know, the State of Illinois is short every place you look: DNR, IDOT, Corrections, Human Service. I mean, I don't know of any place that we can't say that works in the State of Illinois is not a shortage. So, today, I agree with you. I -- I think that DNR needs more people and this is a -- this is a step forwards and

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like Mr. Trotter said a while ago, this is -- probably will not be the last one. This is something we need to work on and try to keep going. And I think this is just a step in the right step. Of course, I'd like to see everybody -- what everybody says in here put back in the budget and I don't know, is it today? This -- this is the best I can do here today.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Garrett.

SENATOR GARRETT:

To the amendment. I -- I really appreciate what Leadership has done to restore some of these much needed funds. My concern is and it -- and it started really yesterday is that we do find out about these restorations really as a Legislator, rank and file Legislator, at the last minute and there's really nothing we can do or say to find out exactly why some of these funds have been omitted and not restored. And I think these are all important questions that are coming up. But it really speaks to the process that we have to do a much better job of informing Legislators, as well as -- as the organizations who are seeking to get their funds restored. So, I hope in the future - as we have heard from Senator Trotter - that there is a commitment to do more, that the process is much more informative every step of the way. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion? Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Madam President. If the sponsor would yield for two quick questions, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

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The sponsor indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Senator Forby, are you in a hurry to get this money to these very good causes that's contained in your amendment?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Yes.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Then why wouldn't you go to the overrides, which are contained in this two-pound Calendar? I think this is the heaviest Calendar we've ever had in the State Senate's history according to the printing unit. Why wouldn't you just go to the veto overrides, rather than do this if you're in a hurry to get the money to AFSCME and the State workers and the other good causes that are in this bill?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Well, as you know, this bill, what I brung up, was -- 4149 and it was for special ed and that's what I've been working on. This bill, the amendment, just came up today. I did not have time long enough to work on it, so they -- so I agreed to have this amendment put on my bill today because I think this is important. I think everything else that all the Legislators are talking about are very important, too. You know, I -- I'm willing to work on that the see if we can go further down the

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road.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion? Senator Sullivan.

SENATOR SULLIVAN:

Thank you, Madam President. To the bill. Senator Forby, I want to thank you for bringing this bill to the Floor. I know that each and every one of us, each and every one of us have heard from our constituents that have been affected by, you know, the budget and the budget process. And I just want to reiterate, as Senator Trotter said and as you have said, Senator Forby, that we are trying to work together to restore as much funding as we possibly can. This is a step in the right direction. It's a small step, but it's a step in the right direction. And I know that you have committed to continue to work on this process. I do likewise. Senator Trotter and many of our colleagues will. Our -- our goal is to try to address and -- and resolve the issues that the State is facing. And, again, this is a step in the right direction.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Any further discussion on the amendment? We're still on the amendment. Senator Bomke. Further discussion on the amendment? Senator Brady, on the amendment.

SENATOR BRADY:

To the amendment. You know, I just -- I can barely stand it. I mean, do you guys really think the headline tomorrow is going to read, Senate Democrats support funding for State employees? Come on. Yesterday, we talked about a step in the right direction by overriding the Governor's vetoes. Today, now, because of a promise that was made after a promise wasn't kept,

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you're all standing up and applauding each other like this means something. The House has passed and given us an opportunity to fund State workers as we should and we have failed to do over the last five years. You are not going to get your headlines of cover that you think you're going to get tomorrow, 'cause the media's smarter than this. Do the right thing. Vote this down and force a vote on the overrides for the people of Illinois.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion on the amendment? Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Inquiry of the Chair, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

State your inquiry.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Can the Secretary of the Senate acknowledge that I have filed a slip asking that I be removed as a cosponsor of House Bill 4149?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Yes. ...Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

So the board reflects that. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

...further discussion? Senator Demuzio.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

Thank -- thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to also add my thank you to Senator Forby for bringing this House Bill 4149 with the amendment to the Floor. This is a small but significant step in the right direction and I know that as we work through this process, and it is a process, that we will be hopefully

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seeing some additional supplemental additions to -- to this to our Chamber. Again, I applaud the Senator for his tenacity and also all of the Members on the Floor for working very diligently to assure that we support the working men and women that are in the Department of Corrections and Department of Human Services and Juvenile Justice Systems, as we are today. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion on the amendment? Senator Luechtefeld.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

Thank you, Madam President and Members of the Senate. First of all, I also would like to be - I was on this bill as a sponsor when this was not part of it - would like to be taken off of that if -- if possible.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator, you'll have to fill out a form for that.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

I -- I will do that. Senator, a couple of questions. The money in this bill, the supplemental, would be for Corrections and -- and then that would be for positions in Corrections. Is that right? I think there was twenty-five million dollars in the original budget for new positions in Corrections and Human Services. Is that -- is that now part of this?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

That was all agencies.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Luechtefeld.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

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But that is part of this -- this supplemental, then?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Yes.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Luechtefeld.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

Oh, is there money in here for the hold harmless? I think that's twenty-one million dollars. Is that part of the supplemental? For the bill that you passed for the schools.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

The supplemental is just a part of the underlying bill. The item appropriation for twenty-two {sic} million dollars for schools - that's the original bill and that money is still in there.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Luechtefeld.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

Well, Senator, you know, if -- if we really want to get this done, you know, there've been a lot of people get up on that side of the aisle who know that this is probably going no place. I mean, this has to now go over to the House, whether they call it or not, whether the Governor signs it. This -- this is one of those things that we do here, I think, that we get criticized so much for. To be as phony as -- as this is, we all know this is a game. And, the people who've gotten up and -- and who have

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backed this and have said they know it's a game, too. I'm just amazed that we're doing this. You -- you can -- with -- if you really mean that you'd like to -- to restore those positions, we can do that in one vote and it's done and we go home today and it's over and it happens. Now we -- we're going to pass this, if we do, and -- and the House is not going to be in Session for a while and it's probably not going to happen. But, we can do what you want to do today and go home and it's done. And how you can defend what we're doing is beyond me. 'Cause we can do what you want to do, right now, today, if you'll let that happen. I'm -- I'm surprised that we're doing this. I really am. I'm surprised that you're doing this, because I think you know that this is going no place and it's not a step. It's not even a step, not even a small step. It's just something that maybe people can get a few headlines for and this is the wrong way to go. Send it -- don't do it and let's do the override and get it done right. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion? Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Question of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Would -- did you have something you wanted to say with regards to the comments of the last speaker?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby, will have plenty of time to close. Senator Raoul.

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SENATOR RAOUL:

You're not carrying this bill for a head -- for purposes of headlines or anything like that are you?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Absolutely not. And since you brung that up, I will probably say something else that - Mr. Luechtefeld, I'd liked you to listen to me - there's no way that I'm phony. I've never been phony and I'm not phony and I want you to remember that. I am doing this for the good of the people. I am not -- I know it's not enough. I know it's not right. I know we need to do more, but I am not phony.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Any further discussion? Senator Noland.

SENATOR NOLAND:

Thank you, Madam President. I, too, have been troubled by the process here and as you may recall from last night, in my votes as a Present on some of the overrides. I object to the fact that we're being arbitrary, and, if you will, in a sense capricious, in the way that we're selecting who's benefiting from this process and who is -- who is not. Now, I'd like things made a little bit more clear to me, too. But I take it at -- out of -- out of hand that we are not seeking headlines. We're not playing games in this particular bill. This is a bill. It's not the override. It's a different way of going about getting this essential funding that our frontline service providers at our human service facilities, mental health facilities, our DOC facilities require. And, I for one, having gone through the

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agonizing process of sorting out whether we should be in support of the separate bill versus looking at it through the overrides as we have on these other bills, having to settle for less in the way that we're going about our process here. So, I, reluctantly, will be supporting this bill. And, I urge those who might be riding the fence on this to consider to do likewise.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion on the amendment? Senator Lightford.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you, Madam President. To the bill. I rise in support of this legislation. And, especially from -- coming from the Department of Corrections - I actually did my graduate work there and worked for the Department for a couple years - and I spent a lot of times in many of the different prisons. And, it's so important that we protect the staff there and we provide them with all the essential services, because their lives is truly at risk. And, if nothing else, we should make sure that we do that before we leave here during veto Session. As I look at the Juvenile Justice Department, it's clearly an add-on to the adult facilities. If we do not address the needs at the juvenile facilities, it would just be continuous carry-over. These young people will go from juvenile facilities to the adult facilities and just live their lives in the penal system. It's costing us millions of dollars to just allow them to live in the penal system all their lives. And, so, if nothing else, we can protect the workers. When you have individuals who feel they have nothing to live for, that they've been sentenced to life, they have nothing else to do but to sit back and think about what they can do to put those men and women in -- in -- in danger. And,

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so, it's so important that we do all that we can to ensure safety for those individuals. And, least but not, DHS, oh my, they're already understaffed. The -- the public service that's being put out from that department is nowhere near the level that it should be. And, we should make sure that we protect the social security and all of the benefits of the staff members that are currently overworked and overstaffed {sic} and just let them know that we care about them as our State employees. And, so, Madam President, I rise in strong support of this legislation and I would encourage all of us to just take a look at this and -- and vote Aye.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion on the amendment? Senator Cronin.

SENATOR CRONIN:

Thank you, Madam President. If I may, just to ask a question, direct a question to the sponsor of the amendment.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR CRONIN:

Given that the underlying bill has some very good things in it - and some things with which the Governor has not vetoed or not yet, as far as we know - would you consider tabling this amendment, withdrawing this amendment, let the bill go forward, let us vote on it and then seek motions to override vetoes in order to accomplish what you're trying to accomplish in this amendment. Would -- would you agree to do that?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

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I personally would not agree to do that. If the people votes it down, that would be a way that they can table it. And, I'd like to see a vote that people thinks the way I think is -- I'm not doing this to get with the press. I -- I don't care if they mention a word what I say today about this. And, I'm not interested in doing that. That's just a part of -- more money, you might say, forty million dollars here to put back into the budget. And, where I come from, that's not peanuts.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion? Senator Luechtefeld, for a second time.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

Thank you, Madam President. My name was mentioned earlier. Senator, I did not call you phony. I respect you because you have some courage and I did not call you phony. But I ask you this, if you are doing a bill that every person in this building knows will go no place, all the press...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Luechtefeld, please keep your comments to the bill, please. Senator Luechtefeld.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

What -- what other word would you like to use?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is that a question, Senator Luechtefeld?

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

That's a question.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Because we're not going to partake in back and forth banter on personalities.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

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And -- and -- and I'm not.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby, answer the question and we need to move on.

SENATOR FORBY:

What was the question? Would you repeat -- would you repeat the question?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Luechtefeld.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

Senator, if we're -- we're doing a bill that you're carrying right now that everyone in this room knows is -- is not going any place, and that we could do something that would solve the problem that you want to solve, maybe you'd like to use a different word than phony. And I did not call you phony and you know that. What -- what would you like to use? What -- what would you call that? What -- what -- what word would be appropriate?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby, you could answer that if you'd like or we can move on. Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

I want to thank you, Mr. Luechtefeld, for saying that I'm not phony. I appreciate that and I don't have another word for this what you saying and who's -- who knows this is not going any place? I think it is going some place. So, I think it will go some place. How can you tell these people that you're going to give them twenty million dollars and you're not going to give it to 'em? I mean, that's all I'm here today -- I'm just trying to help. I'm trying to do what I can do. It's not enough. I agree

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with you. It's not near enough. But -- I didn't have much time today. This is all I had and I'm running the bill. It costs twenty million dollars here in this -- amendment, Floor Amendment No. 1, is quite a bit of money. I know it's not enough, but it's still yet quite a bit of money.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion on the amendment? Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

I rise in -- strong support of the gentleman's amendment or agreement. You know, we don't get to deal with perfect worlds in the -- in the Illinois Legislature. Sometimes we don't get everything we want. And, I would very much like to vote on the complete -- override of budget, too, because I think we would sustain it. But, look, I'm -- I'm smart enough to understand that we're not going to get everything we want here. But, this is real life, folks. This is real people that need real help. I have correctional workers that are in dangerous situations. I have youth -- youth -- youth correctional officers that are finding themselves being raped by inmates. So, we need to put some more people on the streets. I don't care how we do it. I commend Senator Forby for trying to do the right thing. And, I will tell you, Senator, this bill does have a place where it's going. It's going to the Illinois House after we move it through the Illinois Senate.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

We have further discussion, but let me remind everybody about the rules. We are not allowed to describe personalities or motives. If someone brings either of them up, I will turn the microphone off. Further discussion? Senator Koehler.

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SENATOR KOEHLER:

Thank you, Madam President. Question for the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR KOEHLER:

Senator Forby, we've heard a lot of back and forth about, you know, whether this is a sincere effort, whether it's going to actually succeed and I just wanted to have you reiterate, if you would, that this is a step, in that we come back and we continue to work on other issues where we need other funding. Is that -- is that your intention with this?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Yes, it is.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Koehler.

SENATOR KOEHLER:

I want to offer my support for this as well. Because if -- if this were a perfect world, we could all, you know, choose how we wanted to handle this, it might be one thing, but this is what's before us right now. And this funds some areas that are very critical to the State. I have been in the prison in my district. I can tell you, right now, that they are so short-staffed that in some cases they rely on other inmates to help quell fights, if they break out in the yard. This is not the way to run a prison system in this State. If we don't begin to address some of these issues immediately and provide these kinds of funding, then I think we're going to be in trouble and

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certainly putting our employees in harm's way. It may not be perfect. It may not be the exact direction we want to go, but I think this is a step in the right direction. And I would ask for an Aye vote as well.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion? Senator Sieben.

SENATOR SIEBEN:

Thank you very much, Madam President. I think speakers on both sides of the aisle, in referring to this amendment, have made the point very clearly that this amendment is seriously lacking, that this amendment is seriously deficient, that this amendment does not represent the desires of the fifty-nine Members of this Senate. And we could all go through the Calendar today and pick out one or two or three or four of the interested areas that we have, where budget cuts have impacted people and employees and services. We've heard that testimony at public hearings all across this State a few -- weeks ago. We've been there, we've heard it. So I think the point's been well-made that this amendment, as written today, is substantially deficient, substantially incomplete. And, whether we refer to this process as political phonyism or whether we refer to it as political ping pong, we're just throwing things back and forth and we're not taking care of the people's business in the manner in which we ought to be taking care of it. So I think, when you talk about steps, the appropriate step here - yes, this is a step - but I would suggest and I would, in my opinion, suggest that the appropriate step here would be one step back. Over the next week, let's put together a comprehensive list of these things that we truly want to restore or override, put that together and

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take a vote on that. Then take the step forward and do the right thing for the people of our districts and the right thing for the people of the State of Illinois and the right thing for the way this process ought to function. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Althoff.

SENATOR ALTHOFF:

Thank you, Madam President. Will the sponsor yield?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR ALTHOFF:

Hey, Senator Forby, you know as a former special ed teacher and as the minority spokesperson for Appropriations III that heard the original House Bill 4149, I really support your underlying bill. I think it's great. Amendment 1 -- I -- I also support every single issue that you have in the amendment. I was an Aye vote after eleven weeks of overtime, when we finally crafted that great budget that we passed. I was a Yes. I -- I have a question now that may seem silly and maybe you can direct me. But I have heard individuals in this Body, today, state that we're going to continue to address some of the Governor's vetoed items, either by override motions or -- or potentially by supplementals. Can you tell me what criteria is being used for that consideration? Because I've got a LaSalle Veterans' Home. I, too, have DD-DASA COLAs that are extremely important to me, mental health workers that need an increase in their rates. I've also got reimbursement for my nonpublic school transportation and health and safety issues. How -- how do I get, you know, how do I get the opportunity to advocate on behalf of those vetoed

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items?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

I think you're doing that today and I think everybody in this room is doing that today. They're saying this is not enough. Everybody is agreeing to that. Everybody says we need to sit down and work together and try to get something done. I think you're -- whatever you're saying is right. You know, when I first had this bill, it was on the education. And, you know, today, this amendment come up to me today. I didn't -- didn't have time to do a lot of looking at it. But, I do think there's some very important things on this amendment. And, I do agree what everybody's saying in here today. I am not disagreeing with anybody in this room on both sides of the aisle that -- this not enough. And I'll agree to do that. And, you know, I'm agreeing to work with -- on trying to get something else, more done. But, right now, this is all I have.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Althoff.

SENATOR ALTHOFF:

I heard you loud and clear, Senator. And I understand that you're stating that. I'm just asking for better clarification on how we, on this side of the aisle, get to work with you, on that side of the aisle, to get our priorities put back into the budget. If we're not going to have an opportunity to override the entire budget, how do we advocate for all of those issues that it took us eleven weeks to agree upon? How do we do that? How did you get those special items in this amendment?

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

This is not an override. This is a appropriation. So the override bill still can come up. All that still come. Today, this is just appropriation bill, not an override bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Althoff.

SENATOR ALTHOFF:

In closing, I would just like to ask every single individual within this Chamber -- I think we worked for eleven weeks together. We crafted a budget that almost everyone - a hundred and fifty out of a hundred seventy-seven of us - agreed wasn't the best, but at least it was a working document to go forward. I, too, have grave concerns about how we're going to pick and choose which one of those items to include in an override vote or into a supplemental. And I would strongly urge each and every one of you to be very careful about how this process goes forward. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Trotter, for a second time, short second time.

SENATOR TROTTER:

And -- and I do and I apologize for rising a second time. But -- and I can feel everyone's pain here where we're going, but we going -- you're going to have a chance here with House Bill 3866, we have another 2.2 million dollars for the eighty additional beds at LaSalle Veterans' Home. We have more dollars here for the appellate prosecutors -- more dollars -- we have another seven hundred and forty-eight dollars for the -- public

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defender, another six million dollars for -- for human services, TANF. We're going to get a chance to vote on these bills. This is the bill that's before us today. We know what the priorities are and we're still listening to get some more of those priorities and address them as the revenues -- as we can reassess what our revenue stream is going to be. So we are going to do that. We are listening. We are responsible. We are conscientious and we are going to do the right thing for the people of Illinois. Today, we have an opportunity to vote on this bill and I ask for everyone to give him his Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby moves the adoption of Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 4149. All those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted. Are there any further Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading is House Bill 4149. Senator Forby, I'm sure you wish to proceed. Madam Secretary, read the bill.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

House Bill 4149.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Thank you. Yesterday, I think I passed House Bill 4148. I

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gave hold harmless to the kids in the State of Illinois. There's over two hundred and fifty schools that -- on both sides of the aisle that needs it very, very bad. And when you do that, you know, they only got to have appropriation bill. So in this bill, the 4149 is a twenty-one million-dollar appropriation bill. It goes into '08. All this does make sure from now on there is a hold harmless for the -- for the schools that falls behind. And, today, I just ask you to vote for this appropriation bill on 4149.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Martinez.

SENATOR MARTINEZ:

Madam Secretary, I'd like to move the previous question.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you. Senator Martinez, there are four -- five speakers. Discussion? Senator Lightford.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you, Madam President. To the -- to the bill. I'd just like to acknowledge that the Illinois State Board of Education needs more, but I'm really glad that we're looking at a sunset that came upon us dealing with special education and that we're acknowledging the need to fund that appropriation line. And I, too, Senator Althoff, would like to see a whole lot more happen in terms of gifted education. Five million dollars there needs to be restored and the sixty positions that needs to be filled for our agency to run adequately. So, Senator Forby, I appreciate you taking the first step in making sure that our person -- our special education obligations are being met and I hope that we go a lot further with the Illinois State Board of

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Education.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Let me remind everybody, the bill -- the amendment was debated at length. If you've already heard your statement, turn your light off and keep it to the bill only - no personalities, no motives. Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you. Senator Forby, I've got some questions about what's in House Bill 4149, now that it's been amended. In the original budget, there was thirty-five thousand dollars allocated to the City of Carterville for equipment. Is that in this bill?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

No, this is just for special ed and staffing.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Madam President. In the bill -- in the -- in the budget that passed, there was twenty-five thousand dollars to the City of Johnston City for a city hall expansion. Is that in House Bill 4149?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

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No.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

...Righter

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Just in the interest of time, Senator Forby, there was also in the budget that passed twenty-five thousand dollars in Marion for a -- a new roof for the senior citizen center. There was thirty -- sixty-three thousand allocated to Williamson County for community development projects. There was fifty thousand allocated to the City of Herrin for purchase of equipment and drainage. And I can go on and on and on and on with projects down there. Are any of those to your knowledge, in House Bill 4149?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

No. What I am trying to do is help some school district in your district that's fell behind. This is -- will do big in your district.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

I would guess, Senator, that your constituents would find that impressive, but for you weren't elected to represent my constituents, you were represented -- elected to represent yours. Let's move on. Senator Forby, I want to ask you about the Calendar that I assume that you have on your desk and I have one as well that's dated October 12th. And the reason - it's my understanding - it's so thick is because there are veto override

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motions in this Calendar prepared to...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Does this have something to do with the bill we're speaking of, Senator Righter?

SENATOR RIGHTER:

It sure does, Madam President. Thank you. Now, those are all positioned to move today. Everything that you have in House Bill 4149 is in this Calendar ready to be called as a motion to override. If the motions were called, they would become law. If House Bill 4149 is passed by this Chamber today, what hoops does it have to go through in order to become law?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby, you don't have to answer that question. The process is not your -- your responsibility. Senator Righter, do you have anything else?

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Sure -- well, I had a question. Let me try another one. Senator Forby, the Governor vetoed what you're trying to restore in House Bill 4149. Have you had any communication from -- I'm going to ask a question, if I might, if I might. Have you had any communication with the Governor's Office on whether or not they intend to sign House Bill 4149 if it arrives at his desk?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Today, you know, I feel like this is a part of my personal -- personal -- I think personal for myself and I think it's personal for everybody else in this room that falls through the cracks that -- that are -- that are not held hold harmless. And

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I, you know, I'm -- it's all, you know, the here -- why we're here today is about the kids. This is exactly what this bill is today is about the kids. So that's why I think that the Governor is going to have a hard time vetoing this bill for -- and for the working men and women. I mean, I -- I -- I've came up hard work. I don't know of any other way. I'm for working men and women. I'm for kids. That's why I'm running this bill today.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Righter, how many more questions do you have? 'Cause maybe we need to go to the clock. Are you about done?

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Well, first -- with all due respect, Madam President, I asked if he'd had any communication with the Governor's Office on this and he told me how he thinks the Governor will sign it. I asked a simple question, whether or not he's had any contact with the Governor's Office on whether or not they intend to sign the bill. I would like an answer to that question. That's my last question. Then I would like to close on the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

No, I have not talked to the Governor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Madam President. First, in case this bill does receive the requisite number of votes, we would request a verification of the roll call. And to the bill, if I might, Madam President. Thank you. You know, this has been a

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fascinating debate and Senator Forby, at the end, talked - right at the end there - talked about this is for the kids. Now, someone over there - and I think it was Senator Delgado - talked about DCFS. There are kids who badly need assistance in DCFS. But, that's not in this bill. And I appreciate Senator Forby looking out for the kids in my district. But, I think his first job is to look out for people in his district. There are badly needed projects that are not in this bill, but they are in this Calendar. We've heard a lot of talk -- we've heard a lot of talk about, we appreciate this step forward. Ladies and Gentlemen, let's remind ourselves of where we're at in terms of procedure. This is not a step forward. This is a huge step backwards. Everything that is in House Bill 4149 is on this Calendar. It's this close to becoming law - this close. You approve the motion to override and it becomes law. If you approve House Bill 4149, you are taking, what is at best, a piecemeal approach. You don't have any idea if it's going to be called over in the House. The relationship between this Chamber and that Chamber over there has been nothing short of an unmitigated disaster, this Session. Yet, we believe that somehow the House is going to move it. And, then, what makes us think that the Governor, who vetoed everything in House Bill 4149 the first time, is suddenly going to have an awakening and say, I'm going to do this for the kids and I'm going to sign it. That's not going to happen. This is an enormous, enormous step backwards for us, for everyone that we represent. Vote down House Bill 4149 and insist that this Chamber's Leadership bring the veto motions, all of the veto motions, for a vote. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

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Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you, Madam President. Just a question of the sponsor. Sponsor -- Senator Forby, if you can help me understand...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield. Senator Forby {sic}.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you. If you can help me understand, if this gets passed today, then this goes over to the House. The House has already adjourned. Do you know when -- when the House would act on this? Or...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Sieben -- Syverson, he has answered that question. We are the Senate. We don't know what the House is going to do. Next question, please.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Excuse me, Madam President. I -- I asked a question of -- do we know when the House is going to be -- they have adjourned. It is my understanding, they have adjourned. Is there a date set when they are going to be coming back to -- to address this? Do we know that? Has there been any calendar put out yet?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Syverson, you could actually go across the hall and find the answer to that yourself, but we'll give Senator Forby the opportunity to answer.

SENATOR FORBY:

I think that question would have to be answered from Mr. Madigan. He runs the show over there.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

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Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Okay, I guess then I will -- we'll assume that a date in the -- in the future that they're going to address this. If this -- if the House does not address this legislation or if the House does address it and it goes to the Governor, and it gets vetoed, are you going to support an override then of the Governor's veto of this legislation?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Yes, I will.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR FORBY:

And same...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

...apologize, Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Same way in your district, too, that, you know, there's three hundred and fifty thousand dollars in this bill for your district, too.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

I guess then help me understand it. The Governor's already vetoed it, so if the Governor vetoes this three or four weeks from now and this comes back, he's vetoed the things that are in this legislation. If -- if the Governor vetoes this legislation,

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and you are going to support overriding that veto that has that information in that, and you've made promises and statements to everyone here that you would support funding for their programs, why would we want to delay four or five or six weeks when we're just one vote away from actually doing the job? I guess I don't understand, Senator, why would we support an override six weeks from now if we're not going to support the override today on this issue and the other issues that you've said were so important?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

One thing I would like to clarify and I'd like the Secretary do this. 4149 has never went to the Governor. Has never been vetoed, right?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby, she cannot answer from the Podium. Please proceed.

SENATOR FORBY:

Would you recall the question again?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Sieben {sic}, you have four seconds to close.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

She asked -- he asked me to repeat the question, ma'am. So I'm just repeating the question.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Final question and then Senator Syverson...

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you very much. The question was -- is if the Governor has already vetoed the language from this bill previously, if the

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Governor is going -- if the Governor vetoes it again and you are going to seek an override of that veto, why would we want to wait eight weeks to do that, as opposed to overriding the veto today so we can put it into law today so we can help your children and our children today, as opposed to doing it six or eight weeks from now? Can you help me understand why we would support that override and not this one?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Repeating myself one more time, this bill has never been into the Governor's Office and has never been vetoed.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Radogno.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

Thank you, Madam President. There's been a lot of rhetoric here used about small steps, moving in the right direction and I think that's what we all want to do. It's clear. Everyone's talked about all the things that are not in this bill - money for hospitals, nursing homes, community colleges, community providers. But, I want us - and this is clearly not about personality or intent - but I want us to think about the outcome, about how we achieve success in doing what we all want to do and whether or not this is the right way to do that. And I point to another debate we've had where we've gone through a lot of the same procedural kinds of issues and that is the ethics debate and we still have House Bill 1 sitting in Rules...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Radogno, that has nothing to do with the bill we're

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talking to. Senator Radogno.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

Thank you, Madam President. I'm drawing a corollary between what has happened with other legislation where we've expressed exactly the same intent on wanting to achieve a particular outcome and we have not been successful because we've gone through the same machinations we're going through right now. So, when we're thinking about whether to vote in favor or against this particular bill, I think it's very relevant to think about what's happened there. I mean, it's a good predictor of what will happen. We won't achieve what we want to achieve by going down this road. We will by voting on the motions in this Calendar. I do have a couple of specific questions for Senator Forby since I know that he wants to achieve success for the folks in his district. And so, Senator, I would like to ask you if you know, there is some money for Logan Community College, for Shawnee Community College, for Southeastern Community College, all in your district, are those included in this particular bill?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

No. I -- I answered that question once before. This is for staffing and special ed.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Radogno.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

Thank you. So Benton Nursing Home, Homestead House, Independence Place are not included either? The hospitals in your district are not included either? My question is, I know

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you want to be successful in restoring funding to those. They were in the budget. They were vetoed. How could what -- how could we get -- make sure that those are -- that we successfully get the money to those institutions?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Doing exactly what we're doing today. Doing exactly what we're doing on the Floor. Listening to everybody's issues and our issues and so everybody will get together on both sides of the aisle. It's just not one side of the aisle. Both sides of the aisle has done that and in working together to get something done, that's the way things happen.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Radogno, with your last twenty-nine seconds.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

Thank you. I would suggest that we do exactly what was done on the ethics bill. Senator Garrett had the courage to take it out of the record when she realized that it was not going anywhere. That's what we need to do and force a vote on the motions that will take care of all of the needs that we collectively have said we want to have happen. That is the way we'll achieve success in restoring the things that we need to restore.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

Yes, thank you very much, Madam President. A question of the sponsor.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

...indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR WATSON:

Yes, thank you. Senator Forby, do you have any idea what the position of AFSCME is on this bill, on this supplemental appropriation?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

I have not talked to AFSCME on this -- on this bill, but I would think that something is better than nothing. And, I've talked to AFSCME before that I would keep working with them, try to get them more -- more people. I have four prisons in my district. I know the issues that AFSCME got. I know they're short-handed. I do know they need more -- more people.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

Yes. Thank you. I have talked to Henry Bayer, the Executive Director of AFSCME. They have no position on this because they recognize - Henry didn't say this but I'm saying it - they recognize this is -- for the sham that it truly is. And I'll tell you, the issue, Madam President, about the whole problem of -- you see people getting up and expressing some real major concern about the process. And those who have spoke - and -- and it's not just on this side - I -- I mean, you -- privately, you have many Members on your own side who think this whole process this last week is just totally unacceptable and outrageous. There's people over there that have told me that.

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So I -- it's not just Republicans. This is not a partisan position that we feel that what you're doing here is just not real and that's why everyone is reacting -- is the way they have. And I appreciate your manner and what -- you're trying to take the personality out of this and trying to make the decorum as -- as much as we can. But, that's why it's happening is because people are just truly upset with the way this whole process has gone. And I just think it's very, very unfortunate. And all that has to be done - and it's been said many times - is turn to page 156, page 156 in today's Calendar and read the motions from 156 to 163. Read those motions. That takes care of the Department of Corrections. That takes care of the juvenile justice. And it only takes a simple majority in which to override the vetoes and it becomes immediately law. This particular piece of legislation ends up having to go over to that -- the dreaded House of Representatives and the Speaker of the House. He doesn't even be -- come into play into this. I mean, you're so afraid of the Speaker. It's incredible. The comments that are made about the Speaker of the House and the manner in which he dictates his policy is amazing to me, just amazing. But anyway, having said all that, I know the concerns that you have. This could be done very easily - very, very, easily - by simply calling the motions, calling the overrides, Madam Speaker. And we could end this today. We would support you in that effort. We would support you and the men and women who are on the front lines of the -- of the -- in the Department of Corrections, who we're trying to protect, would be protected and they would be addressed and would be served. This is not the way to do it. This is truly a sham. Thank you.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Perfect timing, Senator Watson. Senator Emil Jones.

SENATOR E. JONES:

Yeah, thank you, Madam President. You know, everyone, especially on that side of the aisle, and maybe a few on this side, they always talk about the process and talk about what we are doing here. This bill and the amendment attached to the bill deal with a issue that Members have expressed concern about. They expressed concern as relate to the penal institution in the State being understaffed. Some Members talked about agreements. I thought I addressed that issue before. Four people sat down, four people agreed. Not one individual in there should criticize what one of the others did for their particular caucus. When you do that publicly, then we have no agreement. As relate to the process, as I indicated yesterday, I talked to the Minority Leader several times. Not one time did he come and say, okay we would like to have -- can you help take care of this piece or do this piece? Zero. But, you criticize what we put forth. If you want the pork that's in the budget for yourself, then say it. When we put forth an amendment yesterday, a motion, you all -- all are against that, but no suggestions came from your side of the aisle, not a single one. It's a question as to whether or not the AFSCME workers in our -- in our prisons across the State of Illinois, whether or not they going to get the dollars out of our left pocket or the right pocket. It's the same amount of money. Everyone's talking about the process, the Governor, everything becoming law. If you serve in this Body or serve in this government any length of time, the spending authority is left with the Chief Executive of the State. You can put anything

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you want in a budget. The spending authority is with the Governor. That has not changed. I don't care if you have a override, you have a supplemental appropriation, it's up to the Chief Executive side whether or not how much money he's going to spend. Mr. Minority Leader, you and I have had those discussions many, many times. So let's -- let's stop playing the games. Either you are for increasing the staff of the prisons or you are against it. Stand on the Floor and say, I'm against putting the money back in to help staff the prisons across the State of Illinois. Stop playing the games. I don't care if the money comes out of the right pocket or left pocket. It still the same amount of money. As soon as you get your calls and dictates from the other -- side of the Rotunda, so maybe the other side of the Rotunda said, don't vote for that. But sometime you must represent the Members in this Chamber as to what they think is best, but -- but don't say we had no input. You had a opportunity to have input, but you never bring anything to the table. So that's why we're in the process that we are in. But you not going to dictate, you're not going to dictate as to what the procedures shall be. We did not intend to go down this -- this path, but you indicated yesterday you not going to support unless I have everything - I got to have all this pork. I said, that's not going to happen. And that's why we at this juncture right now. I urge an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Forby, to close.

SENATOR FORBY:

First thing I want to do, I want to thank everybody on both sides of the aisle that get up and what they've said. And I

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appreciate what everybody says. And, I do realize that they need to be more money. And, another thing, I want to apologize, myself, for getting a little crazy here on the Floor and I know - - but I guess the reason why I probably done that, I come from a district - all we have is working men and women and kids. We don't have no big factories. We don't have no big jobs. All I've got in my district is working men and women. And I think this bill goes a long way for them. It don't go -- it -- I agree with every -- each and every -- it don't go far enough, don't go far enough. On both sides of the aisle -- realize that. And, you know, I want more. Today, this is the best I can do. I just ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The question is, shall House Bill 4149 pass. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 33 Yeas, 4 voting Nay, 18 voting Present. House Bill 4149, having not received the required constitutional majority, is declared failed. At this time... Senator Righter, you don't have any need to ask for a verification, obviously?

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Madam President. I think my request was conditioned on it receiving the requisite votes necessary. Thank you for asking.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Just want to make sure. Ladies and Gentlemen, we will be going to a death resolution. I will need everybody in their seats, please, and your solemn attention. Will the Members

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please be in their seats? Will the staff please retire to the gallery? And will the doormen please secure the doors? Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Resolution 387, offered by Senator Emil Jones, President of the Senate and all Members.

(Secretary reads SR No. 387)

Senate Resolution 387.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Jones moves for the suspension of the Senate rules for the immediate consideration and adoption of Senate Resolution 387. All those in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Emil Jones, on the resolution.

SENATOR E. JONES:

Yeah. Thank you, Madam President. I had the honor of serving with George Sangmeister when we were both elected in 1973 and we served together in the House until 1976 and also in the Illinois Senate from 1983 to 1987. He served his area and the people of the State of Illinois with distinction. He was not the type of person who would always seek media attention. He was, however, a man who believed in getting the job done. He served as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Chairman of the Senate Executive Committee. He was fair and he was to the point always. He cared about the people he worked for. He cared about the people who worked with him and he cared about the people who worked for him. Yesterday at his funeral, it was said many times that George really cared about his family. The day he left this Chamber in 1987, his closing remarks were how great the staff

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was. He recognized his colleagues for their support. But he gave credit to his wife, Doris, and he said, "No man or no woman can succeed in this business without one-hundred-percent support of their spouse." He was a good friend, a great Congressman and the State of Illinois and the people of the Joliet Community will really miss him. He was a true, true statesman and he will be missed deeply.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator Wilhelmi.

SENATOR WILHELMI:

Thank you, Madam President. To the resolution. I had the great privilege of knowing George Sangmeister very well. I also had the privilege of practicing law with him. He was a law partner of mine. But my most important privilege was being mentored by George Sangmeister. As the Senate President just said, he was a very humble man, very modest, did not seek attention. But he was very fair and effective as a Legislator. He told me once, "Remember why you're there and remember that you work for the people." Sometimes we tend to forget that. But, I won't forget that as long as the words of George Sangmeister are in my mind, and they will be, hopefully, there for the rest of my life. He once told me, "Always ask when you have a critical issue, what's best for the people? And if you ask that question, A.J., you will find the answer." He also was a man of his word. He told the story once of, right after President Clinton took office in 1993, the issue of NAFTA was one of his most critical issues and he pushed hard for NAFTA. George Sangmeister talked to the labor community in Joliet and they asked him and they begged him, please vote No on NAFTA. And he told them, "You have

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my word. I'll be a No." Soon after he told them that, President Clinton called Sangmeister and said, "Come on for a ride with me on Air Force One. I want to talk with you about NAFTA." Of course the Congressman obliged the President. And, after an hour of discussing the bill, President Clinton turned to George and said, "So can I count on you?" And, he turned to the President and he said, "Mr. President, I -- I cannot be with you on this bill. It's bad for the people of my district and in addition, I told them that I would vote No and I'm not changing my position." That sums up George Sangmeister - to the point, fair and honest, a man of integrity and a great friend to the people of Will County, to the State of Illinois and to this country. As I continue in this job, I will remember George Sangmeister. I will remember his lessons, his life lessons, not just his political lessons, and I know that his memory will live on in this very important Body because of what he meant to the people of this Body and to the people of the State of Illinois. My dear friend will be missed.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator Wilhelmi. Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Madam President. I had the honor of knowing George Sangmeister, both as a Senate staffer here and then even longer as Governor Jim Thompson's liaison to this Body, when George served here. I've never met a better gentleman who ever served in this Chamber. George was a good gentleman and a good Democrat and was one of the least partisan people that had ever been here. Jim Thompson sought Senator Sangmeister's counsel all the time, as did then Senate Republican Leader James Pate Philip.

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Everybody went to George for answers on a variety of things. Ironically, as a Senate staffer, I was assigned the task, off hours, to do the opposition research on Senator Sangmeister for our side of the aisle before George ran for the State Senate. And I did that research. I brought back what little I found to our people over here. And what a surprise, there was no opposition research on George Sangmeister, both as the former State's Attorney of Will County where, like Senator Petka, he was -- an impeccable State's attorney - along the lines of a Bill Haine today. And George's record in public service was unbelievable. So, there was no opposition record other than his record was impeccable, both as a State's attorney and as a Legislator. He is in my mind, having been around this Chamber a long time, one of the finest Members we ever had. He is, to me, somebody that I think we should all have as a role model. He was, as Senator Wilhelmi put it so well, a great mentor, a great family man and just a great gentleman. And, he will be sorely, sorely missed. And, it was my honor to meet this fine man as a young staffer. And, I will always remember what he was like and what I learned from his exemplary, exemplary record. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator Dillard. Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Just briefly, I served in the House as the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee when George Sangmeister was the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the Senate. And many, many years ago, for you younger Members, you probably never heard of this, but we used to have a thing called Conference Committees and it was after there was two different

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versions of bills, we would resolve that by meeting, actually meeting. Ten of us would sit down in both parties and George and I had many of those and he was a very, very good lawyer, a -- really a very good politician, well respected, as Senator Dillard said, by both sides of the aisle. When he became a Congressman, I actually went on a trip with he and his wife to Israel. And, I'll never forget going to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum with him where he was -- he was a Congressman at the time, in fact Congressman Durbin was with us at the time and he was -- he was truly moved by that experience. Really a great man. And, these death resolutions are important, I think. We all know that all of us are going to have a death resolution, eventually, read about us. And wouldn't it be nice for all of us to have such nice things said about 'em? But it really, really is true in the case of George Sangmeister.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator Cullerton. Senator Watson.

SENATOR WATSON:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President, and it has been well-said here, on the Floor. I served with George in the House, I was elected in 1978. And then came over here in '82 and then served with him in the Senate. And I can't say anything more than what's been said, other than, and I asked A.J., I didn't know really what was the problem. I knew he'd had some issues, but it was leukemia. And, I think it's appropriate that here we are today wearing pink and trying to make aware of -- the people of this State that the problems of cancer, leukemia, whatever it may be, you know, it can be detected and it can be treated and you can live a healthy life. And, so, in George's passing, once

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again, we're reminded of this dreaded disease. And, I also think it's very significant that Jerry Shea is here. Jerry, a former Member of the House, did you serve with George? He did. Former Member of the House, Jerry Shea, in the gallery here as we speak about a good friend and a passing colleague. I think it's very significant, Jerry, you are here 'cause that speaks volumes. I mean, someone from the past who's willing to take of his time to be with us as we actually celebrate, I guess, in many cases if -- I like to look at it as a celebration of -- of the passing of one of our beloved friends. Now George was, as has been indicated, a very respected guy. And, he -- he was kind of the E.F. Hutton of the House and the Senate. When he got up to speak, everybody kind of got caught -- quiet and -- and listened. He's very independent to our benefit and in -- and in some cases to those of us on the Republican side of the aisle. But, he was very independent, but he -- he was a principled man and stood by his beliefs. And that's what we should all do. And I think that was very fitting, what you said, A.J., is what's good for the people and that's what you ask - the question - you know, if it's good for your people that you represent, then that answers your question on how you should feel on any particular issue. It was incredible to listen to all the awards and recognition that he's -- he's received throughout his years of service. And, to me, once again, just tells the quality of the character of the individual. So, I -- I regret that we're here talking about a former Member, but this is one who has fond memories for all of us who served with him and knew him. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator Watson. Senator Jones now moves for the

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adoption of Senate Resolution 387. All those in favor of this resolution please rise. The resolution is adopted. There being no further business to come before the Senate, regular Session of the Senate stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 17, 2007, in perfunctory Session and each Wednesday thereafter in perfunctory Session, until such time as the Senate assembles in regular, veto or other Session pursuant to the schedule established and published by the State -- Senate President.