

STATE OF ILLINOIS
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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

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

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Journal of January 12th, 2009.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Hunter.

SENATOR HUNTER:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Hunter moves to approve the Journals just read by the Secretary. There being no objection, so ordered. Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Resolution 978, offered by Senator Demuzio and all Members.

Senate Resolution 979, offered by Senator Watson, Emil Jones, Schoenberg and all Members.

And Senate Resolution 980, offered by Senator Jones and all Members.

They're all death resolutions, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Resolutions Consent Calendar.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

And Senate Resolution 981, offered by Senator Silverstein.

Senate Resolution 982, offered by Senator Watson, Radogno,

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Emil Jones and all Members.

And Senate Resolution 983, offered by Senator DeLeo and all Members.

They are all substantive.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senator Crotty, Chairperson of the Committee on Local Government, reports a Motion to Concur with House Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 826 recommend Do Adopt.

Senator Garrett, Chairperson of the Committee on Public Health, reports Motions to Concur with House Amendments 1 and 4 to Senate Bill 101, House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1174 and House Amendment 1, 2 and 6 to Senate Bill 2348 recommend Do Adopt.

Senator Munoz, Chairperson of the Committee on Transportation, reports House Joint Resolutions 88 and 130 Be Adopted.

Senator Wilhelmi, Chairperson of the Committee on Judiciary-Criminal Law, reports Senate Amendment No. 2 to House Bill 260, and Motions to Concur with House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 100 and House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1013 recommend Do Adopt.

Senator Harmon, Chairperson of the Committee on Revenue, reports a Motion to Concur with House Amendment No. 4 to Senate Bill 801 recommend Do Adopt.

Senator Maloney, Chairperson of the Committee on Higher Education, reports a Motion to Concur with House Amendments 1 and 3 to Senate Bill 2603 recommend Do Adopt.

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And Senator Schoenberg, Chairperson of the Committee on Appropriations II, reports Senate Amendment No. 2 to House Bill 4215 recommend Do Adopt.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Madam Secretary, Messages.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

A Message from the House by Mr. Mahoney, Clerk.

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has concurred with the Senate in the passage of a bill of the following title, to wit:

Senate Bill 243, together with the following amendment which is attached, in the adoption of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit:

House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 243.

We've received like Messages on Senate Bill 381, with House Amendment No. 1; Senate Bill 761, with House Amendment No. 1; Senate Bill 1132, with House Amendment No. 1 {sic} (1, 2 & 3); Senate Bill 1383, with House Amendments 1 and 2 {sic}; Senate Bill 1985, with House Amendment No. 1; Senate Bill 2173, with House Amendment No. 1; Senate Bill 2362, with House Amendment No. 1; Senate Bill 2513, with House Amendments 2 and 3; and Senate Bill 2757, with House Amendment No. 1.

All passed the House, as amended, January 12th, 2009. Mark Mahoney, Clerk of the House.

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 concurred with the Senate in the passage of -- of a bill of the following title, to wit:

Senate Bill 171, together with the following

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amendment which is attached, in the adoption of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit:

House Amendment No. 3 to Senate Bill 171.

Passed the House, as amended, January 13th, 2009. Mark Mahoney, Clerk of the House.

A Message from the House by Mr. Mahoney, Clerk.

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has concurred with the Senate in the adoption of the following joint resolution, to wit:

Senate Joint Resolution 109, together with the attached amendment thereto, in the adoption of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit:

House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Joint Resolution 109.

Passed the House, January 12th, 2009. Mark Mahoney, Clerk of the House.

A Message from the House by Mr. Mahoney, Clerk.

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, to wit:

House Joint Resolution 131.

Adopted by the House, January 12th, 2009. Mark Mahoney, Clerk of the House. And it is offered by Senator Collins, and it is substantive.

A Message from the House by Mr. Mahoney, Clerk.

I am directed to -- I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed a bill of the following title, the veto of the Governor notwithstanding, in

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the passage of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit:

House Bill 5730.

I am further instructed to deliver to you the objections of the Governor which are contained in the attached copy of his letter to the House of Representatives.

Passed the House, January 12th, 2009, by a three-fifths vote. Mark Mahoney, Clerk of the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

The Associated Press requests leave to take pictures. Is leave granted? Leave is granted. Blake Long from WCIA Channel 3 requests leave to videotape. Is leave granted? Leave is granted. Catie Sheehan from ABC 20 requests leave to videotape. Is leave granted? Leave is granted. Senator Risinger, for what purpose do you seek recognition, sir?

SENATOR RISINGER:

Thank you, Mr. President. Would you let the record show that Senator Hultgren will not be in the Senate today due to business back in his district?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

The record will so reflect. Senator Millner, my good friend, for what purpose do you seek recognition, sir?

SENATOR MILLNER:

Thank you, Mr. President. Today I would like to introduce my hardworking intern from Wayne, Illinois, who goes to Wheaton Academy, Dylan Mooney, and his father, Tom, up in the gallery.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Would you -- our guests please rise and be welcomed to the Senate? Welcome. And welcome, Tom, the proud daddy. The Rules

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Committee will meet in the President's Anteroom immediately. I would appreciate, as the Chairman of Rules - probably my last one - that everyone come on in and let's handle this final Rules Report of my tenure. Rules Committee immediately. Senator Martinez, to the Chair, please. I thank you all for your patience. I know I've been a little rusty. I haven't been in the Chair lately with all the change that's in the air. Senator Martinez.

(SENATE STANDS AT EASE/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Schoenberg, for what purpose do you rise? Senator Schoenberg, for what purpose do you rise again?

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Thank you. I rise on a point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Please state your point.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Thank you. Thank you, Madam President. The colleague to my right and to the Chair's left - you'll see some beautiful roses on her desk - Senator Garrett is celebrating her thirty-seventh wedding anniversary today, and I think we should all wish her a hearty congratulations.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Congratulations, Senator Garrett. Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Thank you. I -- I just want to add that we all know how close a relationship we build with our seatmates and that there

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isn't anything we wouldn't do for our seatmates; however, Senator Garrett is separated from her husband today on her wedding anniversary, but that's where I draw the line. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senator Hendon, Chairman of the Committee on Rules, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Refer to Executive Committee - a Motion to Concur with House Amendment No. 3 to Senate Bill 171, a Motion to Concur with House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 381, a Motion to Concur with House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 761, a Motion to Concur with House Amendments 1, 2 and 3 to Senate Bill 1132, a Motion to Concur with House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2085, a Motion to Concur with House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2173, a Motion to Concur with House Amendments 2 and 3 to Senate Bill 2513, a Motion to Concur with House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2757, Floor Amendment No. 2 to House Bill 5032, and Senate Resolution 981; refer to Pension and Investments Committee - a Motion to Concur with House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1383, a Motion to Concur with House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1985, and a Motion to Concur with House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2362; and Be Approved for Consideration - a Motion to Concur with House Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 1415.

Senator Rickey Hendon, Chairman. January 13th, 2009.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Hendon, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR HENDON:

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Thank -- thank you, Madam President. Point of an announcement. Tomorrow, you all know the Senators who were elected will be installed -- and the new Senate President will be installed. We wanted to announce, because people have been asking, about the inaugural ball, which will take place at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel. 3 o'clock. The media, of course, is welcome. All of the Members are welcome. The "This Is Your Life" presentation for the new President will be at 4:45. The show, starring Kindred The Family Soul, will begin at 5 o'clock. And the second -- afterparty will begin at 6 o'clock at the same hotel on the second floor and all are welcome to all the events. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Silverstein, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR SILVERSTEIN:

Thank you, Madam President. For a motion - and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate - I move that we waive all posting requirements so that Senate Resolution 981 can be heard in the Senate Executive Committee on -- sometime today, on January 13th, 2009.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Silverstein moves to waive all posting requirements so that Senate Resolution 981 can be heard in the Senate Committee -- in Executive Committee on -- on January 13, 2009. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the motion is adopted. Ladies and Gentlemen, can I have your attention? For committees today: The Committee on Pensions will meet in Room 400 at 12:45. The -- the Executive Committee will meet in Room 212 at 1:10. Pensions and Executive

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Committee will be meeting today. Ladies and Gentlemen, we will now go to Supplemental Calendar No. 1, which was printed and distributed to all the Members. We will move to the Order of Secretary's Desk, Resolutions. House Joint Resolution No. 88. Senator Sullivan, do you wish to proceed? Madam Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

House Joint Resolution 88, offered by Senator Sullivan.
No committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Sullivan.

SENATOR SULLIVAN:

Thank you, Madam Chairman {sic}, Members of the Senate. The resolution simply designates a portion of Interstate 172, which runs around the south and -- south side of Quincy as "The Veterans Medal of Honor Highway".

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, Senator Sullivan moves the adoption of House Joint Resolution 88. All those -- it is the opinion of the Chair that this resolution requires the expenditure of State funds, and therefore a roll call must be taken. The voting is now open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On the question, there are 55 voting Aye, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. The resolution is adopted. On the Order of House Joint Resolution 130. Senator Righter. Madam Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Joint -- I'm sorry, House Joint Resolution 130,

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offered by Senator Righter.

No committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Chamber. House Joint Resolution 130 would rename a stretch of what is currently State Route 150 through the Village of Mahomet, in my district, between Prairie View and Turkey Farm Road as Veterans Parkway. The request emanates from the folks in the Village of Mahomet, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Is there discussion? Seeing none, Senator Righter moves the adoption of House Joint Resolution 130. It is the opinion of the Chair this resolution requires the expenditure of State funds, and therefore a roll call must be taken. The voting is now open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. There are 56 voting Aye, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. The -- the resolution is adopted. Moving on the Supplemental Calendar, we will now move to Concurrence on State -- Senate Bills. Senate Bill 100. Senator Cullerton. Out of the record. Moving on to Senate Bill 101. Senator Crotty. Madam Secretary, please read the bill -- please read the motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendments 1 and 4 to Senate Bill 101.

Filed by Senator Maggie Crotty.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Crotty, to explain your motion.

SENATOR CROTTY:

Thank you very much. I'd ask that we're going to adopt both Amendment No. 1 and No. 4, but Amendment No. 4 becomes the bill. In Senate Bill 101, it is identical to Senate Bill 2499, which mandated insurance coverage for the treatment of children under nineteen years of age with congenital, genetic, or early acquired disorder as long as a licensed physician diagnosed the child, the treatment is administered by a licensed specialist, and the treatment must be medically necessary and therapeutic and not experimental. It also provides that the coverage required by this legislation is subject to other general exclusions and limitations of the policy. And upon request of the insurer, the provider must furnish medical records, clinical notes, or other necessary data to allow the insurer to substantiate the treatment as medically necessary. Most importantly, and the big change in this piece of legislation, is it imposes certain conditions on the rulemaking, requiring that any rulemaking be conditioned on the rules being adopted in accordance with all provisions of the Illinois Administrative Procedures {sic} (Procedure) Act and the procedures of JCAR. And the rule -- any rule not so adopted would be unauthorized.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, this is final action. The question is, shall Senate concur in House -- House Amendments No. 1 and 4 to Senate Bill 101. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is now open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who

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wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 voting Aye, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendments No. 1 and 4 to Senate Bill 101; having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. With leave of the Body, we'll return back to Senate Bill 100. Senator Cullerton, do you wish to proceed? He indicates he will. Madam Secretary, please read the motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 100.

Filed by Senator John Cullerton.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Cullerton, to -- to explain your motion.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President, Members of the Senate. We passed Senate Bill 100, which was a comprehensive recodification and realignment of the provisions -- of the sentencing provisions in the criminal area. We passed this as a recommendation of the CLEAR Commission. Senator Dillard and I served on that. And all the House did with their amendment was to update it based on new Criminal Code laws that we have passed during the 95th General Assembly. So, it's really technical in that regard, but it's a very important bill. Be happy to answer any questions and ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Millner, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR MILLNER:

Thank you, Madam Chairman. To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

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To the bill.

SENATOR MILLNER:

This was a lot of hard work by Senator Cullerton and others. And it was unanimously passed through committee and I just wanted our Body to know that.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Any further discussion? Seeing none, this is final action. The question is, shall Senate concur in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 100. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is now open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted -- have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. There are 57 voting Aye, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 100, and having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Hendon in the Chair.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senate Bill 801. Senator Link. Madam Secretary, please read the motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 4 to Senate Bill 20 -- I'm sorry, Senate Bill 801. Filed by Senator Terry Link.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Mr. President. This basically becomes the bill and it restores the -- the amendment imposes conditions on rulemaking, expanding the definition of contraband cigarettes, and deletes civil penalties for manufacturers and distribution

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{sic} (distributors) and retailers. Be more than happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Is there any discussion? Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Thank you, Mr. President. I just rise in support of the bill. It passed out of Revenue Committee yesterday unanimously.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Link, to close.

SENATOR LINK:

Just ask for a favorable vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

This is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendments {sic} No. 4 to Senate Bill 801. Those in favor, vote Aye. Opposed, vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 voting Aye, none voting Nay, none voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendment No. 4 to Senate Bill 801. And the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senate Bill 826. Senator Noland. Madam Secretary, please read the motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 826.

Filed by Senator Mike Noland.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Noland, to explain.

SENATOR NOLAND:

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Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. This bill simply extends a current provision in our Municipal Code that allows our local officials to purchase properties in TIF districts so long as the member -- if this is the member's primary residence, that the member discloses the -- the acquisition to -- to the local municipal clerk, it's purchased at the fair market value at publicly advertised sale, and that the member, of course, refrains from any communication with other members on the -- on the body regarding the transaction. And that there is no undue influence with respect to the transaction, as well. This passed in committee unanimously. I know of no opposition. Happy to take any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, this is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendments {sic} No. 2 to Senate Bill 826. All those in favor, vote Aye. Opposed, vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 voting Aye, none voting Nay, none voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendments No. -- 2 to Senate Bill 826. And the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senate Bill 1013. Senator Steans. Madam Secretary, read the lady's motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1013.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

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Senator Steans.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Offered by Senator Steans.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Steans.

SENATOR STEANS:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President. This amendment simply changes the rulemaking language that went on the original bill to the new acceptable rulemaking language. And it's done on to Senate Bill 1013. Underneath, it was the Redeploy Illinois bill, which was passed unanimously in the House and the Senate, both in May.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, this is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendments {sic} No. 1 to Senate Bill 1013. All those in favor, vote Aye. Opposed, vote Nay. And the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 voting Aye, none voting Nay, none voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendments {sic} No. 1 to Senate Bill 1013. And the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. With leave of the Body, we're going to turn to Senate Bill 1174. And we're going to go right now to Senate Bill 2348. Senator Clayborne. 2348, sir. Just a moment, Senator Clayborne. Just one moment, please. All right, we're going to return to Senate Bill 2348. Senator Clayborne. Madam Secretary, read the motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

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I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendments 1, 2 and 6 to Senate Bill 2348.

Offered by Senator James Clayborne.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Clayborne.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

Thank you, Mr. President. House Amendment No. 6 deletes Senate Bill 2348 as amended by House Amendment No. 1 and No. 2 and becomes the bill. House Amendment No. 6 corrects a drafting error in Senate Bill 773, Public Act. 95-744, the FY'09 Budget Implementation Act. This Act required DPH to increase the income eligibility guidelines for AIDS Drug Assistance Program from four hundred percent to five hundred percent of federal poverty level without taking in consideration the appropriation to the Department. House Amendment No. 6 makes it clear that the Department of Public Health can increase the income eligibility standard for the AIDS Drugs Assistance Dependency Program -- Assistance Program up to five hundred percent if adequate financial resources exist. I would ask for your...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, this is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendments No. 1, 2 and 6 to Senate Bill 2348. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 51 voting Aye, none voting Nay, none voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendments No. 1, 2 and 6 to Senate Bill 2348. And the bill, having received the required constitutional

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majority, is declared passed. Senate Bill 2603. Senator Hunter. Madam Secretary, please read the motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendments 1 and 3 to Senate Bill 2603.

Offered by Senator Mattie Hunter.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Hunter.

SENATOR HUNTER:

Thank you, Mr. President. I move to adopt Amendments 1 and 3, with 3 becoming the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Hunter moves to concur in House Amendments 1 and 3 to Senate Bill 2603. Is that correct, Senator? That is correct. Is there any discussion? Seeing none, this is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendments No. 1 and 3 to Senate Bill 2603. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 voting Aye, none voting Nay, none voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendments No. 1 and 3 to Senate Bill 2603. And the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. With leave of the Body, we're going to now return to Senate Bill 1174. Senator Koehler. Madam Secretary, please read the gentleman's motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1174.

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Offered by Senator David Koehler.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Koehler.

SENATOR KOEHLER:

Thank you, Mr. President. Let me explain to you, this is not the private sewage disposal bill. This is actually Senator Collins' bill on breast cancer and mammography. And with my apologies, 'cause I should have really turned it over to her initially, I'm going to let her address this issue.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Collins.

SENATOR COLLINS:

Thank you, Senator Koehler. Basically House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1174 seeks to improve State healthcare programs with respect to mammography and breast cancer treatment. Originally, it appeared in the Senate as House Bill 5192 that was passed out of the Senate unanimously with a vote of 55 to 0. The only difference with the House Amendment No. 1 is that it deals with the degree of rulemaking. So, I enthusiastically ask for the support of my colleagues in the concurrence with the motion. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Is there any discussion? Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Just a question for the sponsor, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

She indicates she will yield. Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Senator, happy new year. I think I just heard that on an

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underlying bill that the vote was something like 55 to 0. Yet, on my screen here, it had it 45 Yeas, 9 Nays. And there were a number of people who chose not to vote. And so could you clear up that misunderstanding I might have?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Collins.

SENATOR COLLINS:

I believe you're talking about the underlying bill dealing with sewage disposal. This is completely different. This is House Bill 5192, the language dealing with mammography.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Okay, so the construction of this bill is that all of that more controversial is off; it's not added to. And then for my - my benefit and perhaps other people who have made the same mistake that I did, can you just briefly describe what the amendment that becomes the bill and then was concurred with, what that issue was?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Collins.

SENATOR COLLINS:

Basically, the issue was that before we had the -- the arguments going back between the Senate and the House on the rulemaking restrictions. This bill with House Amendment No. 1 stripped out the language dealing with -- it gutted the language dealing with -- the controversial underlying bill dealt with sewage removal and disposal. House Amendment No. 1 replaces -- becomes the bill with the language from House Bill 5192 that

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basically puts in place programs with respect to mammography and breast cancer treatment. That came out of the House and out of the Senate unanimously under the form of House Bill 5192. All this does is it's more lenient with the rulemaking and it asks that the rulemaking be in accordance with the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

There any further discussion? Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Okay, thank you very much. As I take a look at that, so are rates for reimbursement going up? It's certainly a worthy goal, but in describing this, are rates for reimbursement going up and is it requiring private insurance companies to cover a -- maybe make additions to what's covered?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Collins.

SENATOR COLLINS:

The original bill did not address rates.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Any further...

SENATOR COLLINS:

The amendment does not address rates.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Any further questions? Seeing none, this is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendments {sic} No. 1 to Senate Bill 1174. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 voting

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Aye, none voting Nay, none voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendments {sic) No. 1 to Senate Bill 1174. And the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Please turn to the last page of your Supplemental Calendar. We're going to return to the matter of Total Vetoes. Senator -- Senate -- House Bill 5730. Senator Noland. Madam -- do you wish to proceed, sir? Madam Secretary, please read the motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move that House Bill 5730 do pass, notwithstanding the veto of the Governor.

Filed by Senator Mike Noland.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Noland.

SENATOR NOLAND:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. House Bill 5730, as you may recall, it passed out of here unanimously. It's passed out of the House twice. Yet, amends the Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act in the Municipal Code to extend from twenty-three to thirty-five years the time in which the Village of Hoffman Estates is required to complete and retire obligations related to its TIF district for the purposes of city redevelopment. Noncontroversial. Not aware of any opposition. Ask an -- ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Is there any -- just a moment, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. There's a technical error on your Supplemental Calendar. This is a total veto. Any discussion? Senator Lauzen.

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SENATOR LAUZEN:

Thank you, Mr. President. A question for the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

He indicates he will yield. Senator -- Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Senator, I -- if I recall correctly, there was an initial confusion of -- at least on my part, about whether there was a letter of support from Township High School District 211 on this. Has that come through?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Noland.

SENATOR NOLAND:

Yes, it has. I'm holding it in my hand. You should have received a copy.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Is there any further discussion? Seeing none, the question is, shall the Senate pass House Bill 5730, notwithstanding the total veto of the Governor. All those in favor, vote Aye. Opposed, vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 voting Aye, none voting Nay, none voting Present. The bill, having received the three-fifths majority, is declared passed, notwithstanding the veto of the Governor. Mr. President, for what purpose do you rise, sir?

SENATOR E. JONES:

Yeah. Thank you, Mr. President. This is the time of year -- this is the time of year when change come about every two years. As I leave this Chamber, my most able Chief of Staff,

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whom I've had the pleasure of knowing for more than twenty years, is also leaving. When I chaired the Insurance, License and Pension Committee, I asked for her to be my staff person. I'm talking about Jill Rock. She worked with me back in 1988. She left for a brief tenure to go work with the Illinois Municipal Fund -- Retirement Fund. Then she came back in 1993 to be my special assistant. She worked with me for a number of years, then she tried to leave, but she -- and she left, but she came back again. And she returned to the staff in year 2002. She served as my Deputy Chief of Staff. She was the Director of Senate Operations -- Staff Operations, and since the year 2005, she's been my most able, trusted Chief of Staff. She's done an outstanding job, and in her honor, we will be serving lunch in my office as she leave and I will leave. I would love to be here tomorrow, but my son told me he's not going to step down. But in honor of Jill Rock, a very, very professional person, very capable. So as I leave, and she'll be leaving equally as well. So let's give her a -- a great send-off, and... So -- and so, in my office, we have lunch to be served in her honor. So, everyone is welcome to join. The staff is also welcome to join us for lunch in honor of Jill Rock.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Thank you, Mr. President. Jill Rock, we salute you. Just a reminder of Members, the Pension Committee will meet in Room 400 at 12:45 and the Executive Committee will meet in Room 212 at 1:10. The Senate will stand in recess until the call of the Chair and we will be returning to further business. The Senate stands in recess.

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(SENATE STANDS IN RECESS/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

The Senate will come to order. Would all Members under the sound of my voice please come to the Senate Floor? We're about to go to substantial Senate action. Would all administrative assistants please send your Senator or direct them to the Senate Floor? We're about to go to substantial Senate action. And the sooner we get started, the sooner we can be finished with the business of the day. Would all Senators under the sound of my voice please come to the Senate Floor? Be greatly appreciated. Senators, please come to the Senate Floor. Will all Senators under the sound of my voice please come to the Senate Floor? We're about to go to substantial Senate action. Would all administrative assistants, if your Senator is in his office or her office, would you please direct them to the Senate Floor? Thank you. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senator Raoul, Chairperson of the Committee on Pensions and Investments, reports Motions to Concur with House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 719, House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1383, House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1985, and House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2362 recommend Do Adopt.

Senator Silverstein, Chairperson of the Committee on Executive, reports Senate Resolution 981 Be Adopted; and Senate Amendment No. 2 to House Bill 5032, and Motions to Concur with House Amendment No. 3 to Senate Bill 171, House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 381, House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 761, House Amendments 1, 2 and 3 to Senate Bill 1132, House Amendment

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No. 1 to Senate Bill 2085, House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2173, House Amendments 2 and 3 to Senate Bill 2513, and House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2757 recommend Do Adopt.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Will all Senators under the sound of my voice please come to the Senate Floor? The Senate is back in Session. Would all the able-bodied administrative assistants, who are doing a fine job, direct your Senator that we are back in Session and they need to come to the Senate Floor immediately? Will all Senators please come to the Senate Floor immediately? If you have a bill, you need to be on the Senate Floor so we can pass your legislation, or we will skip your legislation. Will all Senators please come to the Senate Floor for immediate business of the Senate? This is your last call. This is your last call. Senator Hendon is currently the Presiding Officer and you know I am serious. Will all Senators come to the Senate Floor? We are about to go to Senate action. Will all Senators come to the Senate Floor? Will all administrative assistants please kindly suggest to your Senator that they come to the Senate Floor? We're about to go to substantial Senate action immediately. T.J. Salsman from The State Journal-Register, one of the most fine -- the finest newspaper in Illinois, seeks leave to take still photographs. Leave is granted? Of course, leave is granted. Will all Senators under the sound of my voice please come to the Senate Floor? I appreciate the fact that many of you have responded. Some of you have not. We're about to go to substantial Senate action. House Bills 3rd Reading. ...going to begin on the top of page 2 of your Senate Calendar. It's House Bills 3rd Reading. House Bill 260. Senator Jacobs. Out of the

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record. House Bill 611. Senator Link. 611. Out of the record. House Bill 4215. Senator Trotter. Senator Trotter. Out of the record. House Bill 5032. Senator Raoul. Senator Raoul seeks leave of the Body to return House Bill 5032 to the Order of 2nd Reading for the purposes of an amendment. Hearing no objection, leave is granted. Now on the Order of 2nd Reading is House Bill 5032. Madam Secretary, are there any amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Yes, Mr. President. Floor Amendment No. 2, offered by Senator Raoul.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Raoul, to explain your amendment, sir.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Floor Amendment 2 was -- addresses concerns from the Illinois Press Association that the Commission that would be formed by the underlying bill would meet the requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Are there any questions? Are there any questions? Seeing none, Senator Raoul moves adoption of Amendment No. 2 to House Bill 5032. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed will say 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 HENDON)

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading is House Bill 5032. Senator Raoul, do you wish to proceed, sir? Madam

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Secretary, read the bill.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

House Bill 5032.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. House Bill 5032, as amendment {sic}, creates the Illinois Torture Injury {sic} (Inquiry) and Relief Commission Act. It establishes an eight-member commission to investigate and determine the factual claims of torture committed by Chicago Police Commander Jon Burge or any officer under his supervision. The Commission will review claims accepted and make a determination based on the evidence obtained. And if a majority of the Commission members find that a claim is sufficient, the Commission shall be referred to -- the matter shall be referred to the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County with supported -- supporting findings of fact for appropriate action by the court.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Is there any discussion? Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

He indicates he will yield. Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Well, Senator Raoul, I support the legislation and will be

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proud to vote for it. I -- I have some questions though about your thoughts, first, on, have you given consideration to what kind of... Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator is speaking. We need quiet in the Chamber. Senator Righter, sorry about that, sir. Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Raoul, have you given some consideration to what kind of recommendations - not specific recommendations, but general description of what kind of recommendations - you think that this task force could make, and what would be the result of those?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Certainly. The task force could make recommendations to the Circuit Court that they reopen proceedings. You know, there -- there may have been post-conviction proceedings or there may not have been post-conviction proceedings in specific cases, but there may be evidence that would be brought forth that the court had not looked at historically that would reopen proceedings within the Circuit Court.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator -- anything further? Senator Righter. Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you. Thank you, Senator Raoul. The last question I have is -- I mean, there are unfortunately, in this State and -- and across the country, acts of brutality, inappropriate conduct

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that happen more often than all of us would like them to happen. Does this particular incidence or set of incidents rise to a level that you think warrants a legislative Act appointing a commission? And -- and here's where I'm going with that, Senator. I mean, do we want to go down a path, or do you think this is the start of going down a path, where there is something significant that happens in one of our communities, we're going to legislatively create a commission and do an investigation and make recommendations to a court? Is there something about this particular incidence that sets it apart from what might be others down the road?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Well, it -- there are a couple of things. One, in most of these instances, these people have no other remedy. Secondly, there was a special prosecutor assigned to -- to investigate the allegations with this particular police district, and as a result of the investigation of the special prosecutor, it was allegations of torture, multiple allegations of torture were substantiated under this particular police commander. I do realize that police abuse exists beyond this particular police station and -- and beyond the supervision of this particular police commander, but there -- there have not been other instances of a special prosecutor having done a specific investigation of a commander like this that I know. And so, that -- this distinguishes this particular case from other -- other instances.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

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Anything further? Seeing none, this is final action. The question is, shall House Bill 5032 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 voting Aye, none voting Nay, none voting Present. House Bill 5032, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. House Bill 5141. Senator Lightford. 5141. Out of the record. The Chair would appreciate succinct questions and answers to the bills that are about to come up. Greg Lipe from the Illinois Information Service seeks leave to videotape. Is leave granted? Of course, leave is granted. The Illinois Information Service seeks permission to videotape. Is leave granted? Leave is granted. Senator Forby, for what purpose do you seek recognition, my friend?

SENATOR FORBY:

That last bill, I want to be quoted as an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

The record will so reflect on the last bill that Senator Forby will be recorded as voting Aye. We're about to go to Supplemental Calendar No. 2. Senator -- we're going to start at the beginning of your Supplemental Calendar No. 2. It's been printed and distributed. Senate Resolution 981. Senator Silverstein. Now on -- on page {sic} 2 of your Calendar is the Order of Secretary's Desk, Resolutions. Senator Silverstein, do you wish your resolution considered? Madam Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Resolution 981, offered by Senator Silverstein.

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No committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Silverstein.

SENATOR SILVERSTEIN:

Thank you, Mr. President. We'll travel six thousand miles to the Mideast right now. About three weeks ago, I was in Israel for my nephew's wedding, and it was that Saturday evening I found out that Israel unfortunately went into Gaza to stop the attacks and the rocket attacks that were -- have been placed against the citizens of Israel by Hamas. This resolution just supports the State of Israel for its efforts to protect its citizens in the face of hostility. And I'd ask for a favorable Aye roll call.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, Senator Silverstein moves adoption of Senate Resolution 981. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. Michael Tercha from the fine Chicago Tribune seeks leave to -- take still photographs. Is leave granted? Of course, leave is granted. Now we're on the matter of Concurrences, is Senate Bill 171. Senator Harmon. Madam Secretary, please read the motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 3 to Senate Bill 171.

Filed by Senator Don Harmon.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

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Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. In April of last year, the Senate passed Senate Bill 2783 by a vote of 55 to nothing. It was our first attempt at regulating the marketing practices of the alternative gas suppliers. We've been working since then -- well, we passed it out of the house knowing that there was work left to be done. It went over to the House. I'm pleased to report that work is just about completed. And the amendment to Senate Bill 171 that is now before us reflects those negotiations. It's supported by the Attorney General's Office and the Illinois Commerce Commission. And none of the former opponents in the industry are -- are now opposed. In very short order, it provides consumer protections relating to cancellation opportunities and cancellation fees. Again, I'm not aware of any opposition and I ask you to support my motion to concur with the House amendment.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Is there any discussion? This is final action. Seeing none, the question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendments {sic} No. 3 to Senate Bill 171. All those in favor, vote Aye. Opposed, vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 55 voting Aye, none voting Nay, none voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendments No. 3 to Senate Bill 171. And the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senate Bill 381. Senator Collins. Madam Secretary, please read the motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their

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Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 381.

Filed by Senator Jacqueline Collins.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Collins.

SENATOR COLLINS:

Thank you -- thank you, Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 381 basically replicates House Bill 4212, which passed out of the Senate with a vote of 58 to 0 in May of 2008. That bill, that we renamed the Lou Jones Grandparent Child Care, just set forth provisions for elderly caregivers to provide in the case of the caregiver's death or incapacitation. The only change with this is the less restrictive rulemaking language. I would ask for support for the concurrence -- motion to..

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, this is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendments {sic} No. 1 to Senate Bill 381. All those in favor, vote Aye. Opposed, vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 voting Aye, none voting Nay, none voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendments {sic} No. 1 to Senate Bill 381. And the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senate Bill 719. Senator Wilhelmi. Out of the record. Senate Bill 761. Senator Harmon. Madam Secretary, please read the gentleman's motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their

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Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 761.

Filed by Senator Don Harmon.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Senate Bill -- 761, as amended in the House, is a trailer bill to House Bill 824, our pay-to-play ethics bill. Shortly after we passed the ethics bill, there were two issues identified. This attempts to respond to both. The first, given the lengthy process by which it took us to pass the ethics bill, we did not give the State Board of Elections lead time to implement the electronic disclosure for contractors. They have since adopted emergency rules to provide for paper filing for six months until the system is up and running. The amendment from the House will codify that. Second, the Federal Highway Administration indicated, in an opinion to the State, that our pay-to-play ban on highway contracts could run contrary to federal law and jeopardize federal funding. Given that we are looking for much federal funding over the -- the next months and years, the House elected to amend the -- the Act in the way found in this amendment, which simply exempts out those contracts. It is not as narrow as I would like it, but it is both clear and certain, and I believe it would protect our right to get that money. So, I would be happy to take questions, but would urge you to join me in supporting the motion to concur.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Is there any discussion? Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

He -- he indicates he'll yield, sir.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator -- Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

It's an important piece of legislation. I know you appreciate that, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Absolutely, sir. Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Senator Harmon, I have had conversations with officials with the Department of Transportation and others regarding the second issue that you mentioned that's addressed in Senate Bill 761, that having to do with federal highway dollars. Is it your understanding, Senator, that without this amendatory language, Illinois faces the -- quite frankly, certain risks of losing federal matching dollars for highway projects here in our State?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

Yes, Senator. That is how it has been explained to me, and in the face of that, I think it's the prudent thing to do.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

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Based on your knowledge of this issue generally, Senator Harmon, your experience with this particular piece of legislation in the last several months, is there another way to do this that you're aware of other than amending the statute that we passed this spring?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

We -- we've been struggling for a better way to do this, a more narrow way to do this. I have not yet found one. But I'd be very open to working with you to see if we can identify a better path. In the interim though, I think we should adopt this and -- and ensure that we don't jeopardize those federal funds.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Radogno.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to reiterate the comments I made in committee. And I do believe that Senator Harmon has been an honest broker in trying to bring forth ethics legislation. This is a very real potential problem for us, and with a -- a federal stimulus package coming forward and hopefully a capital bill, we cannot jeopardize the potential to get any federal highway dollars. I think that we will continue to work on ethics legislation. I think that we have a lot of cause to do so. Hopefully we continue -- can continue to work together and craft something even more narrow as time goes on. But I would advise everyone that this is a reasonable amendment to this bill. Thank you.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Further discussion? Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Thank you, Mr. President. A question for the sponsor. I -
- you know, Senator, I do recognize the practical dilemma that
we face and that you face because you've invested so -- so much
into the ethics reform. But isn't it true that this, for
practical purposes, negates ethics reform for road contractors?
Road contractors - where, in some states, the worst abuses have
taken place because road contractors do not only State but also
federal. Doesn't this just cancel the value of ethics reform
for road contractors?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator -- Senator Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Mr. President. No, Senator, I don't -- I don't
think that's a fair characterization and -- and for really the
reason the Federal Highway Administration identified. For their
purposes, for these contracts that are funded from federal
sources, the -- the bidders are the lowest bidders. There's --
there's really no discretion exercised by the Administration.
The -- the reason the feds are concerned is -- that we might
limit the pool is that we might not get the lowest bid if we
tell certain people they may not bid on these contracts. So,
again, it -- it -- it may appear optically to be a broad
exemption, but it really is limited to those lowest-bidder
contracts.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Risinger. Senator Lauzen, you were done, right?

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Correct? Senator Risinger.

SENATOR RISINGER:

Thank you, Mr. President. The Federal Highway Administration really wants to make sure that we do not put restrictions on bidders, whether they give or not give to campaign funds. And this bill, Senator Harmon, I'm -- I appreciate you bringing it forward, because it needs to pass and it needs to pass now, because we have a letting in three days and it can -- affect jobs that are on that letting right now, that would have to be pulled off because we can't get federal funds. So, I urge everybody to vote for this, and if we want to do something after this, then we can work on it.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Harmon, to close. Are you -- Senator Harmon, to close.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen. I appreciate your support on this. I do pledge to you, if this turns out to be a loophole rather than a correction, we'll be back to fix it. I urge your Aye votes.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

This is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 761. All those in favor, vote Aye. Opposed, vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 voting Aye, 1 voting Nay, and none voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendments {sic} No. 1 to Senate Bill 761. The bill, having received the required constitutional

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majority, is declared passed. Brian Canaday from WAND-TV seeks leave to videotape. Is leave granted? Of course leave is granted. Senator Viverito, for what purpose do you seek recognition, sir?

SENATOR VIVERITO:

Point of personal privilege, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

State your point, my seatmate.

SENATOR VIVERITO:

I -- Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I have a very special thing for you to hear -- hear something about. I think it's rather unique. This young lady that I have standing next to me has served in the capacities of -- with the Secretary of State's Office. She worked in operations in the Senate. She worked for Vince Demuzio for thirty years. She worked for Deanna Demuzio for six months. And she's worked for almost three years with me. She is -- she is completing, believe it or not, thirty-eight years of devotion to this Body. And I think that's a very special person that can give thirty-eight years. Not only is she a marvelous gardener, she makes the best cookies in town. And devoted family person. And she's decided to stay with me a little while to work once in a while when I need help, 'cause she knows I'm the kind of guy that needs help. How about a nice round of applause for Joan Withers.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Joan. Congratulations, Joan, for a fine, fine job. Fine job. Excellent. Senator Viverito.

SENATOR VIVERITO:

...President, we had a party for her last night and I'm not

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kidding you, there were over a hundred people there, and I think that's a testimony to how people felt about Joan. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Absolutely. Joan, we appreciate your years and years of dedication, especially the ones you had to work with. Takes a heck of a woman. Senator Luechtefeld, for what purpose do you seek recognition, sir?

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. A -- point of personal privilege. I have with me today a young man that I'm -- I'm so impressed with. You know -- and -- and believe it or not, he thinks he wants to go into politics. And I'm -- I've -- I've worked at it. I've tried to talk him out of it, but so far he just wants to at least take a look. He's getting his master's degree in public administration at SIU. Got his undergraduate work at the University of Illinois. And I am extremely impressed with him, and if you get to know him, I'm sure you would be, too. Darren Bailey. Darren.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Will our guest please rise? And welcome to the Illinois Senate. Welcome. Moving on to your Senate Calendar. We are on Senate Bill 1132. Senator Trotter. Madam Secretary, please read the gentleman's motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Madam Secretary, please read the gentleman's motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their

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Amendments 1, 2 and 3 to Senate Bill 1132.

Filed by Senator Donne Trotter.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. House Amendment -- well, Senate Bill 1132 has House Amendment 1 and 2 and 3. House -- the Amendments 1 and 2 will be shelved; 3 becomes the bill. This third amendment contains 68.3 million dollars in our supplemental budget. Hopefully the final budget, and I'm certain the final budget of -- of this 95th General Assembly. In that would be two million dollars, which will come from the Relief Fund, for the Illinois Rural HealthNet; another 3.1 million dollars from GRF for the Employment Opportunities Grant Program; another six hundred and ninety-six thousand dollars for Job Training and Economic Development Grant Program; thirty-five million dollars from OSF for facility costs for -- in the coal development; another eleven million dollars will be restored to the Secretary of State's Office for ordinary and contingent expenses; another 6.7 million dollars to the Attorney General's Office will be restored; one -- one million dollars will be restored to the Treasurer's Office; and the cumulative of 9.25 million will be restored to {sic} the relief funds to the various funds under the Department of Natural Resources.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Is there any discussion? Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in support of Senate Bill 1132. And I brought it up in committee and there's a lesson,

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not that any side of the aisle is better than the other, but last September Senator Luechtefeld on this Floor, and myself, questioned the sweeping of about nine million dollars of monies from the Department of Natural Resources. Many of those funds would go to legitimate hunters. And we asked whether you were sure you could sweep those funds and we were told, quote - and I'm look at the transcripts from last September - "due diligence was done" and we can certainly sweep these funds. And I'm just happy that somebody on that side of the aisle is putting these monies back in there. What's the lesson? I think the lesson is - and we're on the last thirty seconds of this biennial Session - when we do things rapidly around here, we make mistakes. And I think we need to remember this ten-million-dollar mistake that was made and make sure that when somebody questions and says - and there were multiple groups outside of we legislators - that this was illegal, that we listen to these people and we just don't sweep ten million dollars away from legitimate hunters and sportsmen of the State of Illinois. So, I only do "I told you so's" with my kids. I never do it with my wife. And I'm not doing it with you Democrats, 'cause you can retaliate like my wife. But the lesson for the Body is, when people from the outside tell us that something is illegal -- and we just did it with the Road Fund. It's not your fault; it's the Governor of our State's fault. We need to start following the laws of the federal government, whether we like 'em or not, of this country. And repeatedly we're crossways with the feds and we should not be. And we just need to do our homework a little more carefully. But I rise in support of this, thank Senator Trotter and -- it wasn't he who said that due diligence was done. It

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wasn't you, Donne. It was somebody else. But I thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Thank you, Senator Dillard. We're not going to rush, but we -- Chair would appreciate succinct questions and answers and statements. Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. A question of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Indicates he will yield. Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

There has been discussions that there would be -- the ETIP money would be restored. Is -- did those fundings get put back into this proposal?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Trotter. ETIP dollars? Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

We put -- not the ETIP dollars specifically, but we did put another six hundred and ninety-six thousand dollars into DECO {sic} (DCEO) and the JTED Program, which is the job training program as well.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you. I guess that's different than the ETIP Program. I think we've all heard from -- especially those manufacturers. At a time when Illinois' economy is struggling, I guess the one thing that we shouldn't be cutting out are those things that's - that's helping manufacturing. I know there was discussions over the last couple weeks about restoring those dollars that

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were cut. And it may not have been your decision, but do you know at what point -- as of a few days ago that was supposed to be in. Do you know how that was taken out or whose decision that was to remove those job training dollars?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

I was -- Yes, those conversations did go on and we were of the frame of mind that it would be there. However, this bill was sent over from the House and it did not have the dollars into it. There are another three million dollars, of course, which will go for Employment Opportunities Grant Program. But specifically, no, those dollars are not in this legislation. And hopefully - and I'm with you; I've received those calls as well - that we can address that very soon.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Trotter, to close.

SENATOR TROTTER:

This is...(microphone cutoff)...bill. One, the two million dollars that goes to Illinois Rural HealthNet allows our universities to leverage another twenty-one million dollars from feds -- from the federal government. These dollars, again, are restoring those dollars that we wrongly transferred out and it has some dollars in here for training. All in all, it's a good bill. It's a responsible bill and I ask for its..

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

This is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendment No. 3 to Senate Bill 1132 - 1, 2 and 3, even though 3 becomes the bill. Those in favor will vote

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Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. And the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 voting Aye, none voting Nay, none voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendments No. 1, 2 and 3 to Senate Bill 1132. And the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senate Bill 1383. Senator Raoul. Madam Secretary, read the gentleman's motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1383.

Filed by Senator Kwame Raoul.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the -- the Senate. Senate Bill 1383, as amended by the House, has been negotiated by the CTA, RTA and the ATU to make changes to the CTA's Retiree Health Care Trust. There are five components. It clarifies the retiree health care plan limitations on PPOs to show that does not exclude the Board from offering a hundred percent HMO plan. It removes that -- the -- the requirement of age fifty-five with ten years of service for employees hired before September 5th, 2001, and provides for retirement for individuals with at least twenty-five years of continued service. It coordinates the Retiree Health Care Trust beginning with the exhaustion of the 401(h) account that is currently providing health care benefits. It rewords a section for assessing trust funding level and other plan changes. And finally, the bill allows the Board to adopt

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rules concerning refunds of contributions from members not eligible for health care benefits. There is no cost - no cost - to the State or any unit of local government for any of these changes.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Any discussion? Senator Burzynski. Senator Burzynski, sir. I can come back to you if you'd like. Senator Burzynski.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you, Mr. President, for your understanding. Just had a question to ask staff. You know, I just think it's important that we point out that last year we had an RTA sales tax hike. We had CTA bond authorization. This Body did that partially as a condition that the CTA pension and -- and RTA have some health care reforms and revisions. And here we are less than a year later and we're reversing some of those decisions that have been made. And I would just question whether or not this is the appropriate time. Is it fiscally responsible? Is it responsible for us as the State of Illinois to keep doing this, while the CTA keeps the extra sales tax and bond funds? If we keep reversing these reforms, are we going to be requested to bail out the CTA again in future years? So, I would just indicate to you that I think in committee we were opposed to this bill and for those very reasons. I would urge a No vote. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Cronin.

SENATOR CRONIN:

Would the sponsor yield for a couple questions?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

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He indicates he will. Senator Cronin. And ask all the questions you want; you haven't been one of the talkative ones. Senator Cronin.

SENATOR CRONIN:

Thank you. Senator Raoul, my colleague just pointed out moments ago that what is sought in this legislation is to undo a very critical part of the legislation that I and a few on this side of the aisle voted for as a condition for that vote, for that rather difficult vote that we cast coming together in a bipartisanship fashion last year. Is this bill the result of a negotiation between the CTA and the union?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Yes, this is a codification of that collective bargaining agreement.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Cronin.

SENATOR CRONIN:

Are you aware that this does undermine and delete a very important provision that was part of the whole agreement, part of why that bill merited support, at least on this side of the aisle? Are you aware that now that provision -- this legislation is removing that reform from what the president, the -- the director, the -- the leadership, the management of CTA insisted was critically important to the future of their financial security at the CTA?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Raoul. And if you could explain what that was.

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Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

It -- it does. However, it's important to note that the employees themselves will bear the cost of this.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Cronin.

SENATOR CRONIN:

To -- to the bill: You know, this is an outrage. I'm sorry. It's a shame. We're on the last day of the 95th General Assembly. You know, this was part and parcel of a bill that was a monumentally significant bipartisan effort last Session. And -- and I'm offended. I'm offended that no one came and talked to us. I'm offended that the CTA management that was down here on bended knee and needed their vote before, I'm offended that they're -- that they're -- they're unrefarming or dereforming or they're taking away a rather significant part of the legislation that was passed here last year. I'm offended. And I'm going to first ask the sponsor to pull the bill out of the record and go at it next Session. And if he's not willing to do that, I'm asking everyone on both sides of the aisle to vote No.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Thank you, Mr. President. Our analysis has -- I think that Senator Cronin sums it up pretty well. The idea -- it says that this reverses some of the CTA pension and health care reforms enacted one year ago in exchange for the two billion dollars of bonding to cover the bad management/labor decisions that are being made. Just to give you an idea about what this does, it

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allows any CTA employee who -- who was hired before 2001 to retire at any age if they have at least twenty-five years of work service. So, that means at forty-five, that means forty-eight years old retire. And remember that their benefit -- it used to be after three years, you had lifetime hospitalization. Now I think that's been moved up to either eight or ten years. You only have to work for three to ten years for the CTA, retire under this, if you were hired before 2001, and you get lifetime hospitalization. How can a person say -- and I -- I have deep affection and respect for you, Senator, but how can you say that there is no cost when you're doing something that dramatic? And that's just one of at least ten examples. It's kind of like what Senator Dillard just said. How many times do we have to be suckered before we wise up and say, "just say no"? So how can we say -- and -- and -- and we respect you. We have deep affection for you, but how can you say that something like this has no cost?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

And I have affection for you all as well. I -- I'm not expressing there is no cost; I'm saying that the cost -- the employees will bear the fiscal impact of these -- of these measures.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

...you have any estimate, Senator, how much it costs to give lifetime, from let's say forty-five -- let's say a person

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started -- one of my -- one of my high school classmates drove one of those buses while he was going through either DePaul or one of the Chicago schools for three years. Let's say -- and -- and he was at -- he was twenty years old. Let's say twenty-five years later, at forty-five, expected life -- or, life expectancy is seventy-six, I think, for a male these days. That's thirty years of hospitalization, free hospitalization for the rest of your life. Now, tell me how any human being, any of us, even financially successful, of any of the people in this Chamber, could match that. Impossible. Impossible. Could you describe how a person at forty-five years old could match enough money to cover that benefit for the rest of their lives?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Again, these costs were to be -- have to be born by the -- by -- by the employees. There would be no cost to the State or to any local unit of government. This is the codification of a collective bargaining agreement. And, you know, I don't know how I can go into a description as to how an individual would -- would -- would bear the cost other than saying that the agreement is that the employees bear the cost of the -- of the fiscal impact of this.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Lauzen, to close.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Just -- just a comment then on the bill: I trust that the sponsor believes in his heart what he's being told, that these costs will be born by someone else. But what he is being told

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and then passing on to all of us is inaccurate. It's not true. And we have to have the discernment to just say no. So, I advise a No vote. If we're going to do any reform of pension that -- we have the worst record in the United States. If we're going to have any type of reform, we cannot do this. I ask for a No vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Sandoval.

SENATOR SANDOVAL:

Thank you, Mr. President. You would never usually find a Chicago Democrat stand up and not support a bill for the CTA. I have been supportive of infrastructure needs of the great City of Chicago since I've been here in the Illinois Senate. Just the other day I was reading a paper, heard that the Chicago Transit Authority lost out on a hundred fifty-three million dollar of federal funding for major infrastructure for the City of Chicago because it was not able to fill out the appropriate paperwork. In fact, they apparently had made some efforts to get an extension to their application, but even failed to get an extension. If Ron Huberman at the CTA cannot keep track of deadlines set by the federal government for federal funding that's rightly deserved of -- for the Chicago Transit Authority and the great people of the City of Chicago, then perhaps we need to take a better look at currently Senate Bill 1383 that continues and -- and undoes the -- the reform that is much needed at the Chicago Transit Authority. It isn't news to anyone that there is a shake-and-bake attitude over at the CTA, that reform hasn't taken place, and that much more needs to be done to make sure that people's tax dollars from the City of

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Chicago and the people of Illinois get the proper use. I also stand in support with colleagues from the other side of the aisle to vote No for Senate Bill 1383.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Link in the Chair, so I can speak on this bill. Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR LINK)

Sponsor indicates he will yield.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Senator, you had mentioned a couple times that the cost will be bore by the employees. Is that -- the legislation is spelled out that the employees only are the ones that will pick up the -- the -- the cost of this program? And if so, where is that in the..

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR LINK)

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

You know, any -- my statement with regards to the employees bearing the cost is that any shortfall will have to be compensated for by increased contributions from the employees or decreased benefits.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR LINK)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Okay, so it's spelled out that the -- any increased cost to this -- these changes are bore by an increased contribution by the employee and there is not an employer component at all in

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that? And if it is, we can't find it anywhere in the bill where it says that. So, can you -- can you or your staff has -- direct us where in the bill that it -- it -- this'll be covered?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR LINK)

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

It's -- it's my understanding, the previous reform package had that provision, and this does nothing to undo that provision in the previous reform package.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR LINK)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Well, I think in looking at the bill, if I can read it here, lines 6 and 7, it says, "in accordance with the {sic} (any) rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Trustees". So, in here, it's not saying the employees are going to cover it. It says the trustees will decide how that's being covered. Now that's a significant difference from the employees covering that. So, I am -- I'm concerned that it's not specifically spelled out in here that -- that the employees are going to cover the full cost of this program, especially when we don't even know what the cost is yet for that. I guess I'll wait for that answer. Then one more follow-up question.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR LINK)

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Again, this as it has been pointed out, undoes some components and does not undo other components of the previous reform package. One of the components that it does not undo is

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that the employees would bear the cost of any -- of any such changes. So, like any law, if you don't change something, it's still there. And so, as a result of that, the employees bear the -- bear the cost.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR LINK)

Senator Syverson, to close.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Okay. One, I would -- I would, I guess, ask you to check that, 'cause I am not sure. I don't think that's the language in the previous reform package. So, I'd ask you to check that. But second of all, we have not gotten -- we have not heard back from COGFA yet. And if you remember last year, we had legislation in this Chamber where the sponsor was told emphatically that there'd be no cost to this pension reform; COGFA came out and said, no, that's wrong, it would be seventy-five million dollars. If you remember that bill from last year. COGFA has already request of the CTA this -- this report and this information so they can report to us. Wouldn't it make sense for us to wait a short period of time, until at least we can hear back from COGFA, so we can make a knowledgeable decision on this -- on this reform? That's what we have COGFA for - that's what we have the experts for, to verify this. Before we put taxpayers in this kind of a bind, I guess I would ask that we just put this on hold until COGFA finishes their report and reports back to us. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR LINK)

Senator Raoul, respond if you want.

SENATOR RAOUL:

It was a statement, so I appreciate the...

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR LINK)

Senator Delgado.

SENATOR DELGADO:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR LINK)

Sponsor indicates he will.

SENATOR DELGADO:

First of all, I want to point out that I stand in -- in strong support of this legislation, because we have to -- and -- and with that in mind, the sponsor is yielding. Senator Raoul, isn't it true, once again, that the employees are going to share cost in this? This is management and labor involved in this particular legislation. Is that correct?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR LINK)

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

The -- the employees will bear the costs -- will bear the cost of the fiscal impact of this.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR LINK)

Senator Delgado.

SENATOR DELGADO:

...you. Mr. President -- so -- so, Senator, as a former 241 bus driver with the Chicago Transit Authority, which helped put me through four years of my undergrad and then took care of my family for one full year, and driving from Seventy-seventh and Vincennes to the Skokie Swift to the 201 Evanston, I know exactly what these drivers have to go through and what they went through. But, please, Ladies and Gentlemen, separate the dynamic of labor and -- and workers. The CTA came down here

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with their hands out. But for many, many years, they -- they left many drivers on the roads with conditions and buses that were -- that you wouldn't even put your family on. So let's separate that first. But my second question, if the sponsor will yield, is with the employees in 241 and 308 putting in from their pockets from -- or giving up all the things they're doing, this isn't about CTA, the management side - is that correct in your mind?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR LINK)

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

With regards to bearing the cost of this, the cost would be compensated for by either increased contributions by the employees or reduced benefits to the employees.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR LINK)

Senator Raoul -- Senator Delgado.

SENATOR DELGADO:

To the bill, Mr. President: Once again, I just want to point out to the Ladies and Gentlemen of the Chamber the distinction between labor and management. I also want to point out, as the two labor unions, in 241 and 308, who are diligently trying, they've been attacked to the point of creating tears in terms of having part-times and full-timers and they're slowly picking at the parasitic approach to -- to the labor movement of this great State. So, I would ask you to please indulge into -- into what you have in front of you, in your analysis, and look at this carefully. So that way you don't go ahead and punish the Illinois taxpaying citizen who is also your bus driver, train riders -- train drivers, et cetera, that can safely get

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our people up and forth. Our ability to deal with CTA as the management should continue. And we would hope that in the future that this can be a protracted process and hopefully get back to where the employees are whole again, as we enjoy many benefits as legislators. So I would ask for a strong Aye vote and let's support our working men and women at the Chicago Transit Authority and the Amalgamated Transit Union. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR LINK)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you, Mr. President. I'm sure you all noticed that I did the unusual move of coming out of the Chair to speak on this bill because it's that important. I love Senator Delgado. And by way of disclosure, the unions have supported me financially. But I am going to vote against this bill. I had a resolution condemning actions by the CTA recently. What did they do? They came down here begging President Jones, begging our new President-elect Cullerton for a bailout. Begged all of us for a bailout. We need you to bail us out. I was sponsor of the bill; we bailed them out. And I asked CTA, Huberman and his whole crew, about this very issue with the pensions. They said no fare increases, no change in the pension. But, yet, here they are. Now, I took my resolution and I held it on good faith that the CTA would not come with something else ridiculous. And I asked the lobbyist for the CTA, who I have great respect for, who asked me to hold the resolution which would have caused CTA to come down here and explain their fare hike, and I held it. But now here they are, want something different. This is not

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against the union. The union should go back and negotiate with CTA. And I will support you, Willie, to say any fare increase, any fare increase has to go for the workers and for the pension. But CTA, January 1, raised the fares, and what did they say? They beat up that easy target, Governor Blagojevich, and said, "Oh, it's his fault because the seniors are getting to ride free." CTA is at fault, Senator Raoul. We need to send a clear message to CTA. Not just on that side of the aisle. I'm with Senator Sandoval. I'm with Senator Lauzen. And God knows, I never thought I'd say that. But I'm with Senator Lauzen. We need to send CTA a clear message: stop raising the fares, stop mistreating the drivers, stop mistreating the workers, stop gouging. What happened to the money that they got from the fare increase, the tax increase that Senator Cullerton fought hard and -- and then had me carry the ball across the goal line for the Chicago Transit Authority? We should vote this down despite the sponsor and despite Senator Delgado, who is a fine man. But this is wrong for CTA. They need to man up. They need to pay for these pensions and not come here changing the rules after the game is over. I urge a resounding No vote on both sides of the aisle.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR LINK)

Is there any more discussion? Seeing none, Senator Raoul, to close.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Well, seeing how I'm loved by all my colleagues, I -- I urge a -- that you vote this bill up. Vote this bill up. I need your support on behalf of all of the drivers and the -- of the CTA. I need your support for the drivers who'll bear the

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cost of the fiscal impact of this. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR LINK)

This is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur with House Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 1383. 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 13 Ayes, 38 Nays, 5 voting Present. The motion fails. The Chair would now... The -- the motion fails. Senator Hendon back in the Chair.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Thank you, Mr. President. We'll now go to Senate Bill 1415. Senator Clayborne. 1415, sir. Madam Secretary, please read the gentleman's motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 1415.

Filed by Senator James Clayborne.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Clayborne.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

Thank you, Mr. President. House Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 1415 is designed to clarify under the statute the eligibility of parents under the Family Care program at one hundred and eight-five percent of federal poverty level. This is not a new eligibility standard. This is a clarification of what has been current practice. There are over eighty-five thousand parents currently receiving services over the ninety percent federal poverty standard. These families have

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longstanding eligibility. I would ask -- and -- and to -- to answer one of the questions proposed yesterday or -- or asked was that there are standards of eligibility, including income levels, residency, documentation of citizenship, or legal immigration status. So, this -- this is already in effect. We're just clarifying an existing rule by incorporating it into our statutes. I would ask for your favorable vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Any discussion? Senator Burzynski, sir.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you, Mr. President. To the bill: I'm not going to go into some of the debate we had yesterday on this particular motion, but I do want to point out that the arguments that we had yesterday are just as legitimate today as they were yesterday. And I also want to point out that the sponsor of this legislation and myself are similarly attired today. But having said that, tremendous respect, but I would encourage a No vote on this bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Further discussion? Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. Couple questions. Does this legislation -- does it still have the fifteen-percent increase in the program -- the grant program?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Clayborne.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

Yes, subject to appropriation.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

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Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

And what would that estimated cost be? Do we have that listed?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Clayborne.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

Going from nine percent -- they're already -- they've already received nine percent. Going from nine percent to -- to fifteen percent is five million dollars.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

So this program is subject to appropriation, so it's not mandated and the only other thing it's doing is clarifying what is already the law. So -- so this bill is only clarifying what's already the law, but it's -- and it's not funding any increase at all. So, I guess the question is, what does the bill do?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Clayborne.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

It -- it maintains the Family Care program that we've been operating under for about the last three years. But what it was, the -- the one-eighty-five was created by rule, not by statute. We -- we've already funded it. It's been funded the last few years at one-eighty-five -- one hundred eighty-five percent of poverty level. So, now we're just incorporating it by statute.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Syverson, at -- Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Yes. Thank you. One more clarification you can help me with. TANF is an entitlement program. And so, if we have this fifteen percent in here, can you tell me where in the statute that we are going to be protected, that that fifteen percent isn't required? Because if it's a -- if it's a -- if it's an entitlement program, we may not have that authority to say we're not going to fund it. And so, can you show me where it's under that?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Clayborne.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

On -- on line 2 of -- I mean, on page 2 of the bill, line 7, it states, "Subject to appropriation, beginning on July 1st, 2008, the Department of Human Services shall increase TANF grant amounts in effect on June 30th, 2008 by fifteen percent."

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Syverson, if you would, wrap it up, sir. Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you. These are -- these are some important costly issues. The legislation says that, Senator, but my question is, does -- we've already been dealing - just earlier today - dealing with the problem of superseding federal law. Where does the federal entitlement program -- where does the law say that we can do this if, under the federal entitlement program, it says that if it's passed it has to be funded. Do we -- have we

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gotten some clarification from the federal government that this, being an entitlement program, is not mandated that it be funded. Just because your bill says it's not, doesn't the federal law supersede the State law, and then will this end up costing us five million dollars?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Clayborne.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

As far as I know, Senator, it's subject to appropriation. We have not -- the first part of the question that you asked, I don't know the answer to. So, I'm not sure. But -- but right now, for clarification purposes, it's not being funded because we don't have the money.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator John Jones.

SENATOR J. JONES:

Thank you, Mr. President. To the motion: Senator -- Senator Clayborne, I've -- I've sponsored and cosponsored legislation with you over the years that I've been here in the Senate and sometimes been controversially recognized on my side of the aisle. In fact, Leader Watson -- I cosponsored a bill with you a few years ago on -- on a mobile home tax and he -- he came to me and said, "What in the world are you doing?" But we finally got him on board with that. But I -- I think with the financial situation that the State of Illinois has, Senator Clayborne, that, you know, we're going to see a lot of bills. We do every year. In the past, we've seen numerous bills come through this Body that says, "subject to appropriations". In the last year or so, I've especially made an exerted effort to

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be sure that I vote No on those, because I don't want to send people false hopes back home that we're going to fund something when maybe we're not going to. And quite frankly, the -- the financial shape that this State's in right now, we can't -- we can't finance anything right now. We can't pay our bills. I think we need to send a clear message today. We're going to have a new General Assembly tomorrow, starting the 96th General Assembly with some new leadership here in the Senate, and I think we need to send a message to the people of Illinois that, hey, we're ready to tighten our belts, we're ready to do the right thing, we're ready to get this -- this situation back under control in the State of Illinois, get our budget under control. So, I would just not only encourage you not for a No vote today, but I would just encourage you to pull the bill out of the record and let's address this issue at another time. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Clayborne, to close.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

Thank you and I appreciate all your comments. And -- and as bills have been sponsored on both sides of the -- the aisle, sometimes when they come over from the House, they're not perfect. But I do want to reiterate the fact that over one hundred million dollars in federal match funding is waiting for Family Care situation to be resolved and -- and this motion to concur is just one piece of it. So, we -- we have one hundred million dollars that's waiting. The Department -- to answer one of the questions on the other side, the -- the Department just sent a note saying that we do have discretion not to increase

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the TANF amount up to fifteen percent, subject to -- to appropriation.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

This is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendments {sic} No. 2 to Senate Bill 1415. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 37 voting Aye, 16 voting Nay, none voting Present. The Senate concurs to House Amendments No. 2 to Senate Bill 1415. And the bill, having received the required -- three-fifths -- the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Evelyn Pierrio from Univision Network seeks leave to videotape. Is leave granted? Leave is granted. Senator Harmon, for what purpose do you seek recognition, sir?

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Mr. President. For purposes of an introduction. Thank you. We're joined in the Chamber today by my -- my district office staff. Cara Caldbeck and Rob Barren are sitting in the back with our staff. I just wanted to thank them for their work in the district office, and ask you to help me welcome them to Springfield.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Will our guests please rise from Senator Harmon's district office and be welcomed? Welcome to Springfield. Senator Lauzen, for what purpose do you seek recognition, sir?

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Thank you, Mr. President. On the previous bill, I pressed the button, didn't go off. So, I'd like to have my vote -- or

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my intention to vote recorded as a No vote, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

The record will so reflect your intention. Senator Lightford, for what purpose do you seek recognition, ma'am?

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you, Mr. President. Point of an announcement, please. I'd like for you all to also welcome my Senate staff. Her name is Letichia Collins. We actually have been friends since -- for thirty-two years, believe it or not. But she does a fine job in my district office and I'd like for you to welcome her here.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Welcome to the Illinois Senate, Letichia Collins. You barely look thirty-two years old. Welcome, both of you. From the day you were born. Okay. Senate Bill 1985. Senator Raoul, do you -- Madam Secretary, read the gentleman's motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1985.

Filed by Senator Kwame Raoul.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Thank you, Mr...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

And I won't come down from the Chair this time.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Thank you, Mr. President. This is a kinder, gentler bill. Senate Bill 1985 amends the State Employee Article of the

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Pension Code to remove the Social Security offset for widow and survivor annuities. Retired employees can opt to reduce their annuities by 3.825 percent in exchange for having the offset removed for their survivors. The original bill passed with 56 votes, but we discovered that the 3.6-percent rate was not completely cost-neutral. So, it has been replaced with a 3.825 rate so that there -- will be no fiscal impact.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Further discussion? Senator Bomke.

SENATOR BOMKE:

Thank you, Mr. President. To the bill: I rise in support of the bill. It corrects an injustice that -- gone on for far too long for widows and widowers. And as Senator Raoul indicated, it is cost-neutral with the 3.825-percent volunteer contribution. Senator Sullivan had this earlier and he took it out of the record as we -- as we realized the 3.6 wasn't adequate. Anyway, it -- the -- the cost will be covered and I rise in strong support, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

This is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendments {sic} No. 1 to Senate Bill 1985. All those in favor, vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 55 voting Aye, 1 voting Nay, none voting Present. House -- the Senate concurs in House Amendments No. 1 to Senate Bill 1985. And the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senate Bill 2085. And the pace is picking up, Ladies and Gentlemen. Senator Silverstein.

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Madam Secretary, 2085, please read the gentleman's motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their -- of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2085.

Filed by Senator Ira Silverstein.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Silverstein.

SENATOR SILVERSTEIN:

Thank you, Mr. President. This -- House Amendment 1 deletes and becomes the bill. It amends the Revised City and Village {sic} (Cities and Villages) Act of 1941, correcting a cross-reference to a statutory provision regarding filling -- filling vacancies in the offices of Chicago aldermen. It's just a technical change. There was an error in drafting.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Any discussion? Senator Righter. Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

To the bill, if I could, Mr. President: First of all, after a vigorous discussion in the Executive Committee earlier today on Senator Silverstein's bill - and quite frankly, a number of us on this side of the aisle were moved by your, quite frankly, very moving words, Mr. President - since then, we've have a chance to have a conversation with several Members, a few on your side of the aisle, and seeing that -- while you didn't do it intentionally, you did lead us astray, Mr. President. So, I now rise in support of Senate Bill 2085. I'm sure you'll join your colleague in voting for it as well. And congratulate Senator Silverstein on his hard work on this bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

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Guess I'll change from a Present to a Yes. This is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2085. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 voting Aye, none voting Nay, none voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendments {sic} No. 1 to Senate Bill 2085, and the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senate Bill 2173. Senator Delgado. Madam Secretary, please read my good friend's bill -- motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2173.

Filed by Senator William Delgado.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Delgado.

SENATOR DELGADO:

Thank you, Mr. President. House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2173 creates the provisions regarding infertility treatment that are included in the Illinois Insurance Code to the State employees group insurance. And currently the State employees group insurance policy provides for four retrievals, which is not stated in statute; it is just current policy. House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2173 would place the State Employees Group Insurance Act in line with the Illinois Insurance Code which provided four retrievals, plus two more are provided if a live birth follows the initial four retrievals. If a birth doesn't occur, then they won't -- then they would go

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out and have the extra two retrievals. But if a birth occurs within the four, then the other two may not -- be necessary. And I'm open for any questions and would ask for an adoption.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Discussion? Senator Radogno.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to share some of the discussion that we had in Executive Committee on this bill. We're talking about insurance coverage for infertility treatment, which is a mandate that was adopted by this State several years ago and probably not a wise one. Not many states have that mandate. It's very, very expensive. But nonetheless, it was adopted by this Body before I came. I happen to know because it was my predecessor that is the one that actually promoted it. So that mandate applies to insurance companies that do business in this State. Of course, it doesn't apply to the ERISA companies and all the other ones that we typically exclude. But it is expensive coverage. What's going on here today is that apparently the State covers some infertility treatment by policy and we're trying to put it in statute. I think that's a bad idea, number one, because it's much more flexible if we choose and need to withdraw that coverage at some point if it remains in policy. But there're some other issues here too as well. Already the HMO coverage for State employees does cover six tries at infertility. The Quality Care Program, which is the more expensive one, covers four. We're trying to incentivize people into HMOs. I have the map here. We have HMO coverage in every single county. So, every employee currently does have the ability to receive six tries at infertility

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treatment. So, we're taking away an incentive to incentivize our employees into a more cost effective program. That doesn't make any policy sense right now at all. I think this is an ill-advised idea. If, in fact, the State is doing it, maybe we ought to reevaluate the policy that's in place as it is rather than expand this into statute where we don't need to go. So, I would urge a No vote on this.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. I hate to keep rising on all these things, but every time we do this, it costs the taxpayers more money. Do we know what the cost of implementing this -- what the cost to the taxpayers of Illinois would be? Because the employees already have a contractual payment, so what they're paying doesn't change, and so any increased benefits is bore solely then by the State of Illinois.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Delgado, on the cost, sir.

SENATOR DELGADO:

Right. Thank you. It would be about fifteen thousand per retrieval. However, there's a safe -- there's a safeguard in place, where the patient has to give birth the initial four retrievals. And this is about woman's health. And I would intelligently assume that we're also more concerned about the health of our citizens and know that if we're going to spend money, it should be on the number one thing that keeps us all going. And especially in the area of woman health care.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

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Senator Syverson. Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

So -- yeah, so we don't know -- fifteen thousand dollars, but we don't know how many people are going to take advantage of that. So, at a time when we're telling our human service providers that haven't been paid for six months that they're going to have to wait longer because we want to expand the benefit program even more for State employees to add something that the employee under open enrollment could go under the HMO and get this coverage as well. So, if we don't even know how many people are going to take advantage of it or how big the problem is, I guess, why are we doing this?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Delgado.

SENATOR DELGADO:

Because at this time, at the same motion, not everyone's going to require it. So, that's why we can't put a number to it. But to make it available to the -- to the -- to the woman to be able to do so is just a policy. They're doing it already, Senator. So, we just want to codify it to give them the opportunity to make sure that it's in line with the Illinois Insurance Code. And this would frame it.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Martinez.

SENATOR MARTINEZ:

Thank you, Mr. President. I stand in strong support, and I want to commend the sponsor of this bill. I really believe that when we look at the fact that many women have problems with infertility, I think this -- this is another step in creating

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families. I really believe that right now it is in policy and I think that we need to continue to move forward on -- on -- on -- on policies and on bills that really make a difference in the woman's life. I mean, there's so many -- there's so many legislations that are out there that sometimes we oppose when it comes to women, but I think it's important that in a case like this, where there is such a disease like infertility, that we are able to expend whatever money we can in order to make a family come true. So, I commend the sponsor in taking such interest in women health cares and I ask an Aye vote for all -- from all my colleagues here in the Senate.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Mr. President. To the bill, please: Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, doesn't this sound familiar? Not just for what's happened maybe in the last few days or even the last couple years, but really for the last six years. What we have before us is a bill that will cost us more money. We don't know how much, but it will cost us more money and it will drive us away from a policy that helps us be more efficient and save the taxpayers money. Right now, there is a built-in incentive in the law to join part of the State employees plan that saves the taxpayers more money. Those -- that's those that have HMOs or managed care. This would do away with that. This would see our policy run away from the notion that we want to save the taxpayers money. Now, that would be okay if we were making an informed choice, but by the sponsor's, and really CMS's, own testimony, they don't know how many people this affects. They

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don't know how many people take advantage of this. So, we're going to spend more money and we don't even know how much money. You know, it's -- it's the day before the 96th General Assembly, Mr. President. This is an opportunity. We should look at this as an opportunity to begin 2009 recognizing that we cannot continue to expand programs when we don't know how much they cost and go away from incentives that save us money. Let's vote No. Let's start with a new plan to get our handle on these fiscal problems. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Delgado, to close.

SENATOR DELGADO:

Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Chamber, let's be very clear. Thank you, Mr. President, because this is a very, very important issue to women and to families across this great State. And let's be very clear that when we're talking about women's health care, and as the former Chairman of Human Services for six years and the Vice-Chairman of Public Health, I did not pull this out of a hat. We are clearly understanding the -- we need to prioritize government and I agree. But where should we be spending our money? On the health care of our humans of our -- of our great State, on the education of our children, on the public safety. Yes. This is prioritizing and I have been working diligently for years in trying to make sure we have that priority. And I share your frustrations with all of the other collateral issues that have impacted that State. But in spite of this -- this -- this albatross we've had around our neck, we -- some of us continue to try to move this State forward and protect the health and

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well being of our citizens and our taxpayer. And I would ask for strong, strong support to make sure that families are able to continue to raise the beautiful children we see in our great State. And I would ask for your support.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

This is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2173. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. And the voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On this motion, there are 37 -- 36 voting Aye, 19 voting Nay, and none voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendments {sic} No. 1 to Senate Bill 2173. And the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senate Bill 2362. Senator Cronin. Madam Secretary, read the gentleman's motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2362.

Filed by Senator Dan Cronin.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Cronin.

SENATOR CRONIN:

Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. President. The underlying bill seeks to reward active military duty service prior to service with a fire department by allowing an employee to purchase up to twenty-four months of credible {sic} (creditable) service at no cost to the pension fund. There was a couple technical amendments with respect to interest and the window. I filed a motion to concur and I ask for your favorable vote.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

This is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendments {sic} No. 1 to Senate Bill 2362. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 voting Aye, none voting Nay, none voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2362. And the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senate Bill 2513. Senator Link. Madam Secretary, read the gentleman's motions.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendments -- House Amendment 2 and 3 to Senate Bill 2513.

Filed by Senator Terry Link.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Mr. President. On House Amendment 2 is the final solution to the settlement between the Governor's Office and the bank -- and the financial institutions, which will give approximately twenty-five million back to the financial institutions in the State of Illinois and fifty million dollars to the State of Illinois' general fund to be used for Medicaid. Amendment No. 3, I will yield to Senator Collins to explain because it originally was her bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Is there -- Senator Collins, on Amendment No 3.

SENATOR COLLINS:

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Thank you, Mr. President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. House Amendment No. 3 to Senate Bill 2513, as Senator Link indicate -- indicated, retains a proposed settlement agreement regarding financial institution fund sweeps. But more importantly to me is that House Amendment No. 3 to Senate Bill 2513 retains the agreed-upon language that we had in the historic and, I think, landmark legislation known as the Homeowners Protection Act, House Bill 2973 that passed out of this Senate unanimously. And I just want to say that while President-elect Barack Obama works for the release of the second half of the seven-hundred-billion financial bailout fund to aid struggling homeowners, I am proud to say that here in Illinois we are setting the standard for a national model that illustrates how legislators can successfully come together in a bipartisan effort to assist homeowners facing foreclosure. This legislation allows struggling homeowners a ninety-day grace period to work with counselors to, in fact, stymie any foreclosure. So, again, I want to thank the banking community, my colleagues, especially my committee Co-chair Dan Rutherford, for their support in helping Illinois families avert foreclosure. So, I enthusiastically endorse the motion to concur with House Amendment No. 2 and 3.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Rutherford.

SENATOR RUTHERFORD:

Thank you, Mr. President. I stand in support of the legislation on two notes. The underlying legislation that Senator Link had talked about actually comes as part of a resolution to a court settlement. But I think we should also

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remember what brought us here to -- to even have to go to that, and that was the fund sweeps that took place a few years ago wound up in litigation. We're now bringing this about to resolve it. So, forewarned ahead of time in regards to future funds sweeps, all of us here. And, Senator Link, I'm glad we were able to bring this to resolution. I also want to stand in support of what Senator Collins had said on the legislation that she had worked extremely hard on. Jacqui, congratulations. This is a good -- a good bit of legislation. We passed it out of here unanimously. I know it got caught up in some of the processing that took place over in the House. So, I'm glad to see it had a home and will eventually become law. I also think it's appropriate, Senator Collins, if you and I also accolade Secretary Martinez, who is now the new Deputy Governor, and his coming forward from the administration, working very closely with the industry into late nights in that conference room, trying to iron this thing out. And I think this is testimony, once again, if you bring people together with like mind to get good things done for people, it can happen. So, congratulations to you to have this come out of this Chamber. And, Ladies and Gentlemen, I stand in full support of Senator Link's bill, as amended.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Link, to close.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Mr. President. This is two years of hard work that's come together and I would just ask for a affirmative vote that's a win-win for all the citizens of Illinois.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

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This is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendments No. 2 and 3 to Senate Bill 2513. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 voting Aye, none voting Nay, none voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendments No. 2 and 3 to Senate Bill 2513. And the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senate Bill -- I mean, 2757. Senator Cullerton. Madam Secretary, please read the gentleman's motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2757.

Filed by Senator John Cullerton.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. Last year -- in fact, it's been a year now since we passed Senator Link's bill, the Smoke Free Illinois Act. This bill is a trailer bill for that bill. And it actually enacts provisions that were contained in two other bills -- two other Senate bills that we passed. One was Senator Sullivan's bill and another Senator Link bill. And what it does is to provide certain exemptions to the Smoke Free Illinois Act. Again, these are measures which we have already passed. It also clarifies the due process provisions that would be afforded an owner if they were ticketed and provide them with hearings pursuant to the Administrative

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Procedure Act and be administered by the Department of Public Health. We also have a provision there that authorizes the Department to provide a location within the county where a citation may have been issued. That is not mandated, but it's allowed for. It clarifies that the first offense is a hundred dollars. Second offense is two-fifty. And it covers the owner of the establishment that knew that the violations were taking place. Be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, this is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendments {sic) No. 1 to Senate Bill 2757. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed will vote Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 voting Aye, none voting Nay, none voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendments No. 1 to Senate Bill 2757. And the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Now, on the motion of nonconcurrency. On the Order of Concurrence, Resolutions, is Senate Joint Resolution 109. Senator Lightford. Do you wish to continue? Madam Secretary, please read the lady's motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to nonconcur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Joint Resolution 109.

Filed by Senator Kimberly Lightford.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Lightford.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

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Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Senate Joint Resolution 109 is the legislation that we sent over to the House that addressed seventy school waiver requests. The area here that I am in nonconcurrency with, and I'm hoping that you will join me, is an area that we'd worked on for years. It's the driver's education fee, of capping the request at two hundred and fifty dollars. We received twenty-five requests and eighteen of those requests were just renewals that exceeded the two-hundred-and-fifty-dollar cap. But there were many other school districts that had increased from fifty dollars to four hundred and fifty dollars or a hundred fifty to seven and eight hundred dollars. And we just believe that that's just too much of an increase to put on parents and students to have an opportunity to have driver's ed. And we're also in the midst of addressing the drivers' behind the wheel and -- and simulators and trying to come up with how best to address this concern. So, it was agreed-upon bill by all of us in committee. It took us a couple years to get to the point of capping the fee at two hundred and fifty dollars. This request is that we remove the fee altogether, have no limit, and school districts are able to charge kids a thousand dollars if they like. And I think that's something we shouldn't agree with. And I hope that you will -- join me with a nonconcurrency.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, Senator Lightford moves to nonconcur in House Amendments {sic} No. 1 to Senate Bill 109. All those -- Senate Joint Resolution 109. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the motion carries, and the Secretary shall so inform the House.

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

SENATOR RISINGER:

Thank you, Mr. President. The Republicans would like to request a caucus immediately after adjournment in Leader Watson's Office.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

That request is in order. The Republicans will have a caucus immediately upon adjournment in Leader Watson's Office. Madam Secretary, Messages.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I have a Message for the Governor by Larry O'Brien, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative Affairs, dated January 12th, 2009.

Mr. President - The Governor directs me to lay before the Senate the following Message:

To the Honorable Members of the Senate, 95th General Assembly - I have nominated and appointed the following named persons to the offices enumerated below and respectfully ask concurrence in and confirmation of these appointments of your Honorable Body.

Rob Blagojevich, Governor.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Resolution 984, offered by Senator Frerichs. It's a death resolution, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Madam Secretary, Consent Calendar.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

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And Senate Resolution 985, offered by Senator Clayborne.
It is substantive.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Madam Secretary, do you have any resolutions on file?

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Resolution 985 offered by Senator Clayborne.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Madam Secretary, please read the resolution. Resolution
bill number.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Resolution 985.

(Secretary reads SR No. 985)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Clayborne moves to suspend the rules for the
purpose of immediate consideration and adoption of Senate
Resolution 985. Those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, say Nay.
The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator
Clayborne now moves for the adoption of Senate Resolution 985.
All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, say Nay. The Ayes
have it, and the resolution is adopted. Madam Secretary,
Consent Calendar. We will now proceed to the Order of
Resolutions Consent Calendar. With leave of the Body, all those
resolutions read in today will be added to the Consent Calendar.
Madam Secretary, have there been any objections filed to any
resolution on the Consent Calendar?

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

No objections filed.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall

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the resolutions on the Consent Calendar be adopted. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed will say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the motion carries. The resolutions are adopted. Senator Martinez in the Chair.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Can I please have your attention? Will all Members please be at -- in their desk, and may all the staff please retire to the rear of the Chamber? We are going to the Order of Retirement Resolutions. Madam Secretary -- Mr. Secretary. Mr. Secretary - sorry - do you have any -- do you have any resolutions on file?

ACTING SECRETARY KAISER:

Senate Resolution 982, offered by Senators Watson, Radogno, Emil Jones, Jr., and all Members.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

ACTING SECRETARY KAISER:

(Secretary reads SR No. 982)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Radogno moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of the immediate consideration and adoption of Senate Resolution 982. Those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Radogno moves for the adoption of Senate Resolution 982. Is there any discussion? Senator Bomke, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR BOMKE:

Thank you, Madam President. I had the privilege of having Bill Peterson as my seatmate for a number of years and -- and I learned a lot from him. I vividly recall one particular day,

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however, when Bill was either in the telephone booth in the back or he went to the men's room. And not unlike many of us when we leave our seats, we asked our seatmates to vote our switches and he asked me to do that this particular day. And little did I know that The State Journal-Register photographer was up in the gallery taking pictures, and I vividly remember sitting down in my seat with my arms stretched and simultaneously I hit both buttons. The next day on the front page, that was front page picture. Somewhat embarrassing, but I couldn't -- I couldn't have done it for a better guy. We're going to miss you, Bill. I know Senator Cullerton has a number of ways you can leave this Chamber. I have a few of my own. You can retire; that's the best way. Or you can be elected to another office and leave. You can be carried out. You can be voted out. Or you can be indicted out. And fortunately, you're going the best way, Bill. We're all going to miss you dearly. And I know -- I spoke with you the other day when you said that you probably won't come down here. You might tune us in on the Internet and -- and get a taste of what's going on and that'll be enough. But we really are going to miss you, Bill, and wish you the very best.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Burzynski.

SENATOR BURZYNSKI:

Thank you, Madam President. You know, every time we have one of these retirement resolutions, it gets a little bit tougher on me. I've seen a lot of my friends and colleagues leave here over the last few years. And certainly as I reflect back when I came into the Senate in 1993, it was with Bill Peterson and -- well, I started to list all of us. There were

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about thirteen altogether and eight of us were Republicans, and now there's only going to be two of us left, Senator Cronin and myself. But these are people that are hard to replace. They're people that have an institutional knowledge. They're people that respect the Chamber, that respect the process, the institution of the General Assembly. And I think more importantly, respect others and their constituents. And I think sometimes we lose a little bit of that. We forget what we're here for. And Bill Peterson doesn't forget that and hasn't forgotten that. And if you take a look and listen to the resolution that was read, you can tell that his life has been full of public service - the Army, serving as a teacher, a school principal, township supervisor, House of Representatives, the Senate - dedicating his life to service to his community for his family. And I -- I say for his family because I think that's why a lot of us are driven to public service, because we take a look at our families. We say what can we do to make this better. And, you know, Bill is very proud of his family - his kids, his grandkids - and their accomplishments, and certainly that means a lot to -- to him. You know, I found something out about Bill that I didn't know and I've -- I've known Bill for years and -- and -- but I found out -- and -- and you can correct me if I'm wrong, but you camp. And you started out with a little pop-up tent camper and went all over the place. And, you know, you -- you take a look at this guy. He's refined. You wouldn't think of him going out in a tent camper, you know. But certainly, you know, that speaks to his love for this country, because I found out as well that Bill and his family would spend vacations traveling the country, seeing sights and

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really learning about the history of this great country that -- and nation that we live in. You know, I served on the Senate Insurance Committee when I first came to the Senate with guys like Bob Madigan, Peter Fitzgerald, Pat O'Malley, Ed Petka and Bill Peterson. And, you know, we talk about those that have -- have left this Chamber and leave it honorably. And, of course, all of those individuals have, and Bill certainly as well. Bill, I'm going to miss you. I consider you to be a great friend, a great mentor, a great colleague and a great public servant. Thank you for your years of service. Thank you, Pat, for allowing him to be here with us. And we wish you the best.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Madam President. I guess I get the rebuttal. No. Seriously, I was trying to think of the outstanding things that Bill Peterson did in his career and I came up with probably the most important thing. He married Pat. And that is, seriously, Pat, the most important thing that he ever did. But I've got to say, you know, I've had the privilege of knowing Bill Peterson for a number of years, long before I came in the Senate. But as a person who came into the Senate and was not supposed to be here, as I keep saying, and came in, in the minority and was the -- the unwanted kid in Lake County in the Senate at that time, Bill Peterson embraced me and he said, "Here's the things you're going to do that are going to help Lake County." He wasn't worried about Republican or Democrat. He was worried about the area we represent and what was going to happen to the people that -- up there. And he told me, "This is

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not a bill you should be voting for. This is not a bill that you should be around." And Senator Burzynski said about this institutional knowledge - Bill Peterson has a lot of that. But it's a lot of life knowledge. And it's knowledge that he's given his children and his grandchildren. He's given one of his children the greatest knowledge, they live in my district. So I thank him for that. But he's given knowledge to a lot of people. He's served his constituent well. And I say that sincerely, because it's evident that his reelections are mostly unopposed. And as someone who's a party chairman, I have to say this - and it's going to be on the record - I sincerely don't ever go out and look for an opponent against Bill Peterson when he was running, because there's no reason to replace something that works. And when you work for your constituents, why replace it? Do we philosophically disagree on certain issues? Yes. But when it's for the betterment of the people, Senator Peterson is alongside all of us. I'm going to miss him dearly in this Chamber. But I think it's time that Pat gets full attention and gets to enjoy him in Florida and other vacation spots that they like to be at. But also the saddest part is, he now makes me the senior person in Lake County, which I don't like. But, Bill, thank you for your guidance. Thank you for your friendship. But most of all, thank you for being the person that needs -- that I think we should all emulate as not only a legislator, but a public servant. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY:

Thank you, Madam President. That was quite an impressive

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list of life accomplishments, probably enough to fill the front of maybe even two mausoleums. You know, as -- as Bill's last seatmate as it turns out, it -- in the -- in the well-honored Senate tradition of putting the rambunctious freshman next to somebody who's reasonable and knows what the heck's going on before they ruin their career in the first week, I had the -- the real privilege to spend my first two years here in the Senate sitting next to Bill and -- and gaining the wisdom and -- and the -- the sort of modifying influence of his experience. I suspect that a lot of the people on our side of the aisle have benefitted from that over the years. He's been a great friend to me. He's been a great mentor. I'm going to miss having him here. I'm going to miss having him take me under his wing, take me out to dinner - which I guess I'm on my own. Pat's gain is truly our loss. Thank you for your help. For me personally, thank you for your service to this State. And take the time to enjoy your grandkids now. I know how much they mean to you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Viverito.

SENATOR VIVERITO:

Thank you very much, Madam President. I, too, want to say a few words, Bill. And you know it's rare that I want to get up and say too much. But I can say that when we were in the minority, I remember I had some very important issues that I wanted to pass and I really didn't know exactly how to do it. It was some difficulties in the unincorporated areas of having a referendum. So, I think Pate Philip was the President at the time and Bill always his quiet way. I walked over to him, knowing that he was a township official for many years. And one

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year I remember Bill came out to our township and was our main speaker. We were very much impressed with Bill Peterson. And I can tell you this, it was a good feeling as a minority member to be able to walk on the other side of the aisle and to be able to talk to somebody about a need that we had in our particular township, and it was Bill Peterson that lended that hand. I never forgot that kindness. And I do know the people in township government, Bill, support you unbelievably for the great things that you've accomplished. I know of your family. I know your son and I know your lovely wife, how she loves to go to Italy and other places. And I can tell you, it was an honor for me to consider you as a friend. And I hope that we always will be and I hope someday we will get together again. Thank you for sharing yourself over these many years in this Senate, giving of yourself and making a minority Democrat feel important. Thank you very much, Bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Final speaker, Senator Radogno.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

Thank you, Madam President. You know, oftentimes we meet people in our lives and they're important. They're famous people. And when I first came to the Senate, I thought every Senator in here was very important and very famous, and of course we really are. But when you meet people that are important and -- you expect them and your vision is -- and oftentimes we're very impressed by them. We just -- we just project that onto them. But then when you get to know people better and their warts and their wrinkles start to show, you really kind of say, eh, they're really not quite as great as I

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thought they were. Well, my experience with Bill Peterson was just exactly the opposite. The fact is, when I first met him, I was like, hum, he's not really very impressive. He didn't have much to say. He hardly said a word to me. He had this very offhanded style. When I went to ask him a question about something that was pending in the Revenue Committee of which he was Chairman, he goes, "Eh, just file some shell bills." It was very offhand. And I thought, gosh, what's wrong with this guy, you know? But, as I got to know him, you know, I got to find that offhanded style, that understatement really is a wonderful asset. And then the more you get to know Bill, even though he doesn't -- he's not one of those people that talks constantly. When he does talk, he's very engaging. I don't know anybody that can tell a joke better than Bill Peterson, that knows as many people as Bill Peterson knows, that's been as many places as Bill Peterson has been. He is a delightful, entertaining person. But unless you have the chance to really get to know him, you wouldn't necessarily see that. But the thing that I think I will miss the most about Bill is his just kind of commonsense approach to things, his perspective. We often get so overwrought with the details of legislation, think it's life and death. And -- and Bill just has a great way - just like he just said, eh, file some shell bills - he often goes, eh, that doesn't matter, you know, what the heck. And -- and that's been a great modifying influence, as Senator Murphy said, on me and I think in our caucus. And now that I have the chance to be leader, I'm really going to miss that, Bill, because I think as we sat together in leadership many times, you and I often thought the same way about things. You know, that perspective -

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what matters, what's worth going to the mat for - and I will really personally miss that and this Body will miss that. So, I wish you nothing but the best. It's been just wonderful to get to know you. Every day I've gotten to know you more, it's been better. So it's probably a good thing we cut it off now. Have a -- have a -- a wonderful retirement and -- and keep in touch and -- and keep -- keep visiting with us. We will all miss you. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

The question is, shall Senate Resolution 982 be adopted. All those in favor will say Aye. Those opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. And the resolution is adopted. Congratulations, Senator Peterson. We'll miss you. Senator Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON:

Thank you, Madam President. Well, it was certainly very touching to hear the comments that were made. I have made so many friends in both Chambers. And I -- I appreciate the -- the comments you made, but we worked together because we had a common interest. And I know, Senator Viverito, we sat down. In fact, we got legislation passed that worked for your situation. And I remember one of the times I saw Senator Link. He was working for one of the Constitutional Officers and he -- we were at a county fair and he was way in the back sitting at some table and I said, "Hey, I know you're a Democrat, but we've got water and cool drinks. Why don't you come up -- up here?" I don't know if you remember that, Terry. But anyway, it's -- it's been great and it's -- it's something that's very rewarding that -- to take with you. Certainly, my colleagues and our staff, both sides, I mean we've had people that have gone up

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into agencies and who have gone to be lobbyists, who've gone into the private sector, who've done great jobs, and they got their experience right here in this Chamber or in the House Chamber. And that's really gratifying for me and I know it is for you to see these younger people progress up the ladder and stay involved in politics. I know we're -- we have a shadow over this State right now. And people talk to me, as they do talk to you. But I say, hey, the folks that are trying to do the best for you, there's ninety-nine percent of the people who are trying to do the right thing. Unfortunately, you know, we've got one shadow that's hanging over all of us, but we have to continue to do our good job for the people to make them proud that they do elect you in your respective place. You know, I have to thank my wife who put up with me going to Springfield all these years, my wife Pat, and she knows where the circuit breakers are and how to turn off the water at the valve and all those other things. She became kind of a mechanic and jack-of-all-trades over the years. I can't tell you some of the -- the calamities we had at home when I was down here that she was able to solve. And my -- I have my two grandchildren here, are Pages today, Cameron and Sami. And their mother was here earlier, but she had to take my other grandchild back home because she's involved in a gymnastics tournament. In fact, she's going to be in Peoria, Senator Koehler, over the weekend for a gymnastics meet. So I'll be in your -- your district checking up on you. Some of the things that I worked on that I'm very proud of in my legislative career and was mentioned - the Round Lake School District. Round Lake School District is a unit district that's primarily -- primary Latino. They were in an awful financial

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dilemma. And at the time, I was the -- the Chairman of the Senate Revenue Committee. And I, along with Senator Link, Senator Geo-Karis and some guy who is in Washington - I forget his name; I think it's Obama - put this bill together and the bill became law and it established a -- the State Finance Authority for this district. And this just came out in the paper not too long ago. And it basically says that when the legislation was passed, the district was fourteen million dollars in short-term debt; it ran up to seventeen million dollars. And as of today, they have paid off all their debt and they will be applying to the State Board of Education to get full financial recognition. And I think that bodes well, because it was a tough bill. It gave the -- the Finance Authority kind of martial law to raise taxes without referendum. Lot of people didn't want to vote for it, but we were able to put together a coalition of people to get the bill passed. And it has done well for our young people, who deserve it. The other bill was the early voting bill. Back in the 1980s, the only way you could vote absentee is either go to the county clerk's office or do it by mail. And I put a bill in when I was in the House, and at that time, there was a gentleman by the name of Stan Kusper, who was the County Clerk in Cook County, and we worked together. He wasn't too sure if he liked the bill. The other clerks were pretty much supportive of it. And so finally, after a lot of negotiations, he said, "If you make it optional, I'll support it. I -- I won't oppose it. I won't have the word out that I don't want the bill." Anyway, it passed, and just about all the clerks immediately went -- they took the option, and I think a year later Cook County went to

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it. At that time, it was early voting if you had a reason, just like you did when you mailed in your application. So that has come now to the point where you can go in without having any reason in the thirty-day period and just say, I want to vote early. And I think that's done well for the citizens to give them a chance to cast their vote. Affordable housing tax credit, the first one we had, it's gone to a lot of good housing development. Chicago got twenty-nine percent of thirteen million dollars of the bill that I sponsored. And the other gentleman who sponsored the bill with me was somebody, once again, who is in Washington by the name of Obama. So -- and the earned income tax credit. When you come to a Body like this, no cell phones back in 1982, no fax machines, no Internet, and then you see where we are today. It's been kind of amazing to watch things develop. Some of the dramatic Sessions that -- participated in and there's some of you that were here. John Cullerton. In the House, when we had the first income tax increase, when Governor Thompson proposed it in '83, they did it during the news hour. There were people hanging off the rafters in the gallery. We took an oral vote, not a board vote. You had to get up at your chair and say if you were Yes or No for the bill. It's probably one of the most dramatic times I've spent in the Chamber. The other one was the White Sox bill, which I did support. That's why Senator Link has, you know, a little, you know, caring feeling for me, 'cause he's a -- I don't know why, but he's a Sox Fan. But anyway, as you know, all the press was here from Florida. They thought the ball team was going to go down there to St. Petersburg. And I still remember the interview afterwards, when the press went to the

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Governor, who was standing on the side, and they said, "But the -- the clock went after twelve o'clock." And the Governor looked at 'em, he said, "The time is whatever the Clerk says it is." And it was before twelve o'clock and the bill passed. And that -- that was certainly an interesting night. So I will -- will end my little comments with the -- the quote that you're all familiar with by John Gideon Tucker {sic} (Gideon J. Tucker). Anybody know who John Gideon Tucker was? Who said in 19 -- in 1866, "No man's life, liberty or property are safe while the Legislature is in session." So, remember that and make sure that you not only take care of -- of those who are -- are poor and destitute, but also make sure that you are able to create and make it possible for those people who generate the tax revenues that help the downtrodden. Make sure that they're able to provide those funds so we have a balance. Thank you very much for your comments. Thank you for being my comrade in arms, so to speak. And I wish you well in the 96th General Assembly. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Thank you, Senator Peterson. We will miss you. Ladies and Gentlemen, we -- we have one more retirement -- retirement resolution. Madam Secretary, do you have any resolutions on file?

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Yes. I have Senate Resolution 983, offered by Senator DeLeo and all Senators.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Madam Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

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(Secretary reads SR No. 983)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator DeLeo moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediate consideration and adoption of Senate Resolution 983. Those in favor will say Aye. Those opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. And the rules are suspended. Senator DeLeo moves for the adoption of Senate Resolution 983. Is there any discussion? Senator DeLeo.

SENATOR DeLEO:

Thank you very much, Madam President. And, Deb -- Deb Shipley, you did a great job. And a lot of people share your emotion here this morning -- this afternoon - this late afternoon. As said, some of you were able to come over to the celebration last night for President Jones over at the Hilton. I was asked to go up and say a few words and introduce him. And I said to the people that were there last night -- people were there celebrating and having a cocktail and going up to congratulate President Jones about his tenure here in the Illinois Senate. I wanted people to know a little bit about Emil Jones, the man; Emil Jones, the person; Emil Jones, the father; Emil Jones, the grandfather; Emil Jones, the husband. Because what you see here in this Chamber is what you see all the time. I've never met a man that was more loyal to his family and his extended family. His extended family were the men and women in this Democratic Caucus. When people went to Emil Jones, they looked for strength and support. We had a young staff person here, Rudy Braud, who was a lawyer, went on to become a judge here in Sangamon County. We had a gentleman that sat right next to me here. He wanted to go on to become

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the City Clerk in Chicago and he looked for support from Emil Jones, Miguel del Valle. Wanted him, Emil Jones, to talk to the Mayor of the City of Chicago and say -- talk about his work ethics and about his work down here in Springfield. Emil Jones did it. Had a lady who was sitting right here. She wanted to go to Congress. She was the Majority Leader, Debbie Halvorson. And Emil Jones helped her become a United States Congressman from that district. And you had a young man that sat in the back row over here who wanted to go to the United States Senate. Senator Peterson mentioned him. We're all very proud that we served and worked with Barack Obama. But before he got to this -- to be the nominee, the President-elect, he had to get elected as the junior Senator from Illinois. And who did he turn to for a mentor? Who did he turn to for help? Who did he turn to in a crucial primary? And if he lost the primary for United States Senate, he'd still be here in this Chamber sharing his wisdom with us today. But Emil Jones -- he went to Emil Jones and said, "I need your help. I need your help. I want to run for United States Senate." He said, and as -- you know how the story goes. He said, "You're a powerful man, Mr. President." And Emil, in his humility, said, "Well, what do you mean I'm powerful? What can I do for you?" If you're an incumbent, if you're an incumbent Senator in this caucus, there's nobody better to have behind you than Emil Jones. I had the pleasure - it was in 2005 or 2006 - of getting up and making the nominating speech for -- for Emil Jones for seconding speech for -- for President of this Body. And I told the story about what happened just a few months prior to that. We were here, and I know this is hard to believe for some of you freshmen or some

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people that haven't been around here too long, but we were in a budget stalemate. We were in a budget fight downstairs, and I know it's shocking, and we were here for days and days, days through the summer - overtime. And we were approaching -- we were approaching the date for the Democratic National Convention. And it was actually hours away from the gavel opening in Boston. We were downstairs on the second floor, and you know what? Emil -- I know -- Emil Jones is fighting for more money for education - more money. He wanted nine hundred million dollars more appropriated to education over the foundation of last year - nine hundred million dollars. So they're in these intense negotiations downstairs and Governor's Office thought money should be spent some way. The House thought money... And Emil wasn't budging. Emil was not going to get off that -- that nine hundred million for education. And everybody said -- everybody said, they'll give in. They'll... The Democratic National Convention is starting in a couple days. The Leaders downstairs were saying, "He'll -- he'll fold." I walked downstairs and Emil stood up in the middle of the meeting and said, "To hell with the convention. We'll stay here the rest of the summer." And he stomped out of the Governor's Office. And I looked at him in disbelief. I'm thinking, we have to be in Boston. Barack... I -- I had to write the speech for Barack Obama that -- that time. And -- no, I made that part up, Madam Chairman. But we were all excited about going to -- to Boston for the Democratic National Convention and Emil said, "To hell with the convention. We will stay here." And twelve hours later you know what we got? Eight hundred and fifty million dollars to education because of his desire, his

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willfulness to stay here and fight for the children, the schoolchildren of Illinois. That's what Emil Jones is about. When he became the Leader, he wanted fairness. He wanted to make sure things got done for the State. I've never seen anybody fight for the right causes. When people would say - and I mentioned this last night, for those of you who were there - people would say, well, he's an ally - or the media would report - he's a close ally of the Governor. No, he wasn't a close ally of the Governor. He believed in the same thing - pay equality, health care for children - the right thing - more money for education and the things that he believed in. That's why he fought so hard. I'm going to feel like Deb in a couple moments because I reflect back of all the good times and the bad times and the hard times and the overtimes that we spent here together. There is -- Senator Peterson, there is -- is a certain bond. There's a -- there's a -- there's a wall in the middle of that center aisle sometimes. Well, now, the wall's extended a little bit. We have some -- some -- some seats over there. The wall kind of zigzags. But at the end of the day, in which you praised your beautiful wife, Pat, and -- and Emil's wonderful wife, Lorrie, we share the same common denominator. And the same common denominator is that we go through elections, the same butterflies on election night. Am I going to get reelected? And I really believe at the end of the day that all of us come down here to do the right thing and help our constituents and help this State become a better place. And I can tell you that I know in my heart that this man made this State a better place. President Jones, I applaud you and your beautiful family, and Godspeed to you, and I love you very much.

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Congratulations on your retirement, sir. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Clayborne.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

Thank you, Madam President. And -- and to my friend and mentor, President Jones: First of all, I -- I want to -- because I understand and -- and many of us here understand the commitment that -- and sacrifice that your family makes, I want to thank your family for sharing us with you for the many years that we've been here or the few years that we've been here, because that's -- that's very important. You know, I -- I've come to know President Jones. I came here - it's hard to believe - about fourteen years ago and -- and was naïve about a lot of things. And one of the things that I learned immediately, that President Jones, Emil Jones, was a man of his word. If he told you something was going to happen, he stuck to it. He made sure that you understood that he was committed to the cause and he did everything that he could to -- to keep his word and to move that particular agenda forward. I've carried some very controversial bills since I've been here. And there was one in particular, and we would -- Bill Haine and I had been negotiating for about four or five days, and -- and the other side had taken an opportunity to send - seems like almost every day - three or four new -- new people at us, and we constantly changed and -- and gave in. And -- and so on the final day -- we were a day from -- from finishing up the Session, a person who had been very involved, as I understood it, in the campaign to elect many Members here during that particular time,

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supporting the caucus, went to see President Jones and -- and to talk about this issue. And -- and to his credit, he kept his word and told the individual that he had to go see Senator Clayborne or Senator Haine to address that. And that meant a whole lot, because we had spent many hours - many hours - trying to resolve the issue and he stepped forward to make sure that his word meant something. I remember getting a call one Saturday morning and -- and Emil - one Saturday night, rather - Emil says, "I'll be in your area tomorrow morning and be prepared. We're going down to Cairo." And sure enough, he showed up. I think Donne Trotter and -- and someone else. I can't think who the other person was. We went down to Cairo and we went to about five churches on behalf of Gary Forby. And Emil would get up and he said, "You know, I need my homeboy to come back to -- to Springfield, because we have an agenda set forward and we need the support of Gary Forby." And -- and Emil was committed. And -- and, you know, it was very impressive, because he understood not just what was happening in Chicago or the central part of the State; he knew how important it was to make sure that Members throughout his caucus and throughout the State of Illinois received his support, received his time, received the resources that he had raised to make sure that he had the caucus that he desired. And -- and if you look at the numbers that we have and the Members sitting on the other side of the aisle, that was truly a reflection - truly a reflection - of a man committed to his Members and committed to the agenda of -- of the Democratic Party. You know, I -- I had an opportunity to spend some personal time with -- with Emil. And I've told this story before, but I'm going to tell it again. You know, I

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-- I -- Emil and I went to the Super Bowl together and -- and the Rams -- I'm not a big Rams fan, but I was supporting the Rams that day, you know, and -- and -- and Emil -- I paid for the tickets. Tickets were rather expensive. You know, I got Emil in a couple of parties and he had a great time, and this guy is sitting next to me cheering against my team. And -- and I -- you know, at first I was a little upset, but then I -- I adjusted, because, you know, he had just gone through something very difficult with losing his wife and -- and he was smiling. He was having a great time, and -- and we ended up losing at the end of the game by a field goal. But I truly enjoyed Emil that day. We got a chance to talk very candidly. Learned a lot from him. And -- and truly a -- an experience that I'll -- I'll never forget. You know, I -- I -- we -- we -- we, a lot of times, look at the end of life and -- and we see a date of a beginning and a date of the end, but the true story is the dash. And I remember an e-mail going around talking about what the dash truly meant and how we take that dash for granted and -- and we don't see the significance of it. But, truly, the Jones family, I appreciate the opportunity, having shared my dash -- or -- or your father having shared his dash with me and those of us here in this Chamber. Emil, I will always appreciate all the things that you've done for me, given me an opportunity to lead certain committees, to be a part of so many opportunities here that have allowed me to grow and develop as a person and as a -- as a legislator. I will never forget the things that you've done for this State. And, you know, I -- I -- I said this the night that -- that John Cullerton was elected President, that we won't really understand all the things and the impact that you

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have made on the State of Illinois until you're gone. And I want to thank you right here and now while you can hear me making this statement. I want to thank you, President Jones, for your commitment to this State, to this caucus and -- and, obviously, to our colleague who will be sworn in as the next President of the United States - your commitment to making this country and this world a better place. God bless you and Godspeed.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Madam President. I was going to start out by saying something nice, but after listening to Senator DeLeo say the list of accomplishments of people that Senator Jones was directly -- or President Jones was directly involved with, you know, somebody became a judge, somebody became the City Clerk of Chicago, somebody became a Congresswoman, somebody became a U.S. Senator and then the next President of the United States. I became Emil's driver to Peoria. So I meant -- you know, I guess there's rankings in everything you do. Yeah, I -- I had the better job. Lorrie, honestly, I never kidnapped him. It was self-inflicted. Senator Clayborne, I think, described something when he said the story will be told later. Because as I was telling reporters yesterday, Emil Jones is probably the most underestimated Leader ever in Springfield. I've seen him in action. I made a statement when he became President of the Senate and some people kind of took it wrong at first and I think they appreciate it now - when I said he's a hundred percent better President than he was a minority leader - because

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he took a diverse caucus and he was able to take a leadership role and get an agenda passed. And if you look at this caucus and you look at the backgrounds of every individual here, getting the time of day passed is not the easiest thing to do sometimes. But he was able to do it. I just was in the sunny State of Florida and they're going through a 2.3-billion-dollar deficit. And you know how they resolved it? They cut school funding by a hundred and forty dollars per child. They cut Medicaid funding and they swept - swept - six hundred million dollars from an endowment fund - something that President Jones would never have allowed to do, of taking away from the children and the elderly and the sick in this State. And I think every one of us in this Chamber should be proud of that, because that's a legacy that we can all be extremely proud of - that we were led by a President that had the foresight to fight for those types of issues. When they say that a bunch of us were just followers of Emil Jones and we voted the way he wanted us to vote, well, I got to tell you one thing, it's contagious; because when Emil would come and talk to you and he would explain an issue, it was hard to say no when he explained the pros and cons of an issue and what the benefits were for the State of Illinois - not just for a little area, not just for one segment, but for the State. He looked at the big picture. I had the opportunity, as Senator DeLeo did, when I was sitting in that back row one year of nominating President Jones. And when I said that statement that he looked at the entire State, Emil Jones didn't represent a Senate district, Emil Jones didn't represent the litany I went through of about four hundred caucuses that we have, he represented the State of Illinois and

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he could see the problems that we all have in our districts and throughout the State. It's not surprising for him to be down there helping Gary Forby, because there's not one of us that could not go into his office and talk to him and say, "I have a problem in my district", be it a road, be it a social agency, be it anything that we could talk to him about. He was there to help us resolve it. Emil Jones was a true leader, but most of all, he was a true friend. He is sorely going to be missed. I'm going to miss my friend. And, Emil, anytime you want a ride, I'm available. God bless you and your family and have a great journey.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Well, what can I say about my father? Emil was like, and still is like, my dad. Sterling, and the rest - Renee, Emil, Little Emil - they just got to share him with me. My dad, Jimmy Hendon, died when I was three and I've never had anybody that I followed as a leader until I started following Emil Jones. And you know, I'm from the west side and we don't have a lot, and I remember the first time I asked Emil for some money for my district and he said, "What you all going to do with a million dollars on the west side?" I said, "The same thing you all going to do with it on the south side. We're going to spend it." And he gave us the money we needed. Throughout the years, he became an honorary west-sider, because they love Emil over there, just straight-out love him, because he's a genuine person. I was thinking about a few of his sayings. Emil used to always say to me and to others, "You never fatten frogs for

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snakes." I'd say, "What did he mean by that?" He wouldn't explain it to you, but he'd just say it and you had to figure it out. He'd also say, "You got to kill a snake while they're young." That was them bad bills coming over from the House. Don't even give 'em a chance. Kill 'em in Rules. And that's what he did. One of my favorite memories of Emil was when I bumped into him by accident. Emil is solid as a rock to this day. The man is just a hard mass. And that's part of his personality. Anybody who would stand up to Pate Philip was fine with me. Anyone who would stand up to Michael Madigan is fine with me. When Emil made me leader, a lot of people called him and told him he was crazy. They said, "How could you make Rickey Hendon leader, 'cause he crazy. So you got to be crazy for making Rickey Hendon a leader." And he called me into his office and he made me a leader and he made me sign a paper resigning the same day that he made me leader. But he made me leader and he stuck with me and I'm not easy to get along with. I am a little crazy. That's true. But he stuck with me. One of my greatest memories is when I got here, and you know how I love softball, and the Senate had lost to the House fifty years in a row - fifty years in a row. And we finally had a chance to win and we had one pinch hitter, who hadn't got in the game. And we looked over there and it was Emil Jones. And I had told -- I told Frank, I said, "Frank, Emil is hard as a rock. We got to let him swing that bat." And Frank was like, "But he can't run." So we got Ira Silverstein, all the way from Israel. Said, "Ira, we're going to let Emil hit." 'Cause Ira can't hit, you know, he... So we said, "We're going to let Emil hit and you got to run for him." So, Ira was like, "Well, I want to hit

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myself." "Ira, you want to get in the game, right?" He said, "Okay." Emil Jones -- that ball came. I saw it like floating over there. Emil hit that ball so hard, Ira's still running. He just got back from Israel, you all know - it's still gone. So he came up again. So we cheated the House a little bit, 'cause they was cheating us. We let Emil hit again. Emil got three hits in that game and we beat the House for the first time in fifty years. He's solid as a rock, mentally, spiritually, physically. We ain't always seen eye to eye. Like that time - Jimmy, you remember - we were all downtown and we said, "Doggone it, Mike Madigan has power that Emil Jones don't have." He said, "What is it?" He say, "Madigan can take somebody's chairmanship if they don't vote the right way." And me, being an Emil Jones loyalist by then, I said, "Doggone it, we got to give Emil Jones that power." First one - Chairman - he took was mine. Woo! About three weeks later, had Courtney Nottage call me up. I wanted to beat Courtney up, but then I knew I had to deal with Emil. I probably could have took Courtney, but I know I couldn't have took Emil Jones. Emil, I'll always love you as a Dad. I might get mad at you now and then as a politician, but I love you, my brother.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Demuzio.

SENATOR DEMUZIO:

Emil, I am going to mention here today that the first time the Jones family and the Demuzio family met, was at the Hilton in Springfield back in the seventies. And here is the -- Emil was going into the House and Vince was coming into the Senate at that time, and we became instant friends. It's kind of odd when

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you think about here's Emil from Chicago and here's a little old guy coming out of Carlinville, Illinois. And the Jones family and the Demuzio family spent a wonderful couple days at the Hilton here, as we were getting ready to celebrate the swearing in of both of -- both of these guys. We became instant friends. We traveled. We -- we had lots of occasions where we would go and -- at conventions. And Pat and I and Emil's children and my children, we all kind of grew up together. Over the years, of course, as they got involved more in politics, it became a -- a wonderful tradition in terms of every time we would go to Chicago or every time that Emil would come downstate here, why, he would come to Carlinville or visit the district. And so over the time, and particularly at a very difficult time in my life, Emil was there and he came to see me during -- several days there when I was having some -- and the Demuzio family was having some very difficult times. He called. He came to the house and he was there. He's steady as a rock. And he was a very strong confidant. And the same in earlier years, when he had -- he had a very difficult time. And here was a man that understood what it meant to be a dear friend. And he understood what my family was going through, as I understood what his family was going through. When I arrived here at the Senate in May 2004, May 11th, he was one of my strongest supporters. He and I had many hours of talk. I could go into his office and he understood. And so -- over the years, I can't say that he and I have always agreed. That's the way it always is in terms of politics, but he was always there. And as Senator Link said or as all -- all the other testimony, you could always feel free to go into his office. And you could always discuss it. And he

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always had a reason as to why he may be asking you to vote or asking your support on a certain bill. Never a time had he -- has he ever not asked me about my mother. My mother and he -- she always -- as I go into the nursing home today, she'll say, "How is Jones? How is he doing? How is President Jones?" And he always made reference because he had an opportunity to share some fish at a -- at a fundraiser back in 2004, when Barack Obama was running for President -- or was running -- was running for U.S. Senate, and he and my mother shared some fish and they became instant friends. And he always took the time, almost all the time here, to ask me how my mother is. And she in return has asked about him. So today, Senator Jones, President Jones - I always called him El Presidente - okay - as you start your new retirement life, you and Lorrie and your friends and -- and your family, and as you take on a new journey, I want to personally say on my -- for me and for my family and for all the Demuzios, thank you for being a true friend and thank you for being there. And when you talk about institutional knowledge, as he leaves this Chamber, he will be taking with him some -- some very wise things that have happened over the years - the institutional knowledge that he has acquired, like many of our other colleagues here. Senator Peterson, I wish you well as you start your retirement. Again, institutional knowledge is hard to come by. A lot of long years and a lot of long hours, but that give you that institutional knowledge. I know. And so I wish all of you well. And, again, also to Joan Withers, as she leaves today - after a long stay with Vince. And I know she always used to get a tip-off. As he came off the elevator, he used to sing, and everybody on third floor could hear him as he would start

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his song, and so -- I think even Emil knew. And so, again, I wish all of you, as we start a new chapter today, many years of wonderful retirement. And, again, my love to you, Senator, President Jones. Thank you for being there for me.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Trotter.

SENATOR TROTTER:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. One thing for certain, I will not cry today because you're leaving. I don't have one of them Jesse Jackson onions to make me cry out here today. So... But, just want to add a few words. You know, President Jones is -- is a true man, real man. He's unashamedly black. He's a man of the community, man of the people, and mostly he's my man. He's -- he's -- he's been there for me. Unlike our new appointed junior Senator, to my knowledge there's no mausoleum with all his accomplishments already detailed on it. But if it was one, I guess this is what you can tell your children, tell Jonathan and them to spend some of that money, get you one of those little tablets and put down there that you were, as pointed out by Jimmy DeLeo, a good father; great grandfather; loving, dutiful husband; you were Central State Committeeman, State Representative, State Senator, Senate Democratic Leader, President of the Senate. I mean -- and the list can go on and on. Your accomplishments certainly outshines - many accomplishments - of anyone that I know. And -- and I'm just so very proud of you and what you've done. Oh, and I've left out, of course, the one that everyone likes to refer to you as, and that's the godfather. That, too, needs to be on that -- that little tombstone that they have for you. You know, you talk

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about -- and if you had one single word to define this man, in my thinking, that is principled. Emil Jones is principled. He will fight you to the death in something that he believes in. And if you're willing to ball up your fist, he's the best man you can ever have watching your back. Emil Jones is there for you. Pointed out, again, by one of the speakers, he -- he's a man of his word. He's a man you can trust. You know, when I first got here in the Senate -- you know, my -- my background is in health care. So when the opportunity came up to be chosen for the new chairmanships or at least for the Democratic leader, I wanted to be the leader of the health committee. I got a call from Courtney Nottage, telling me that I would be the new spokesperson on Appropriations. I went ballistic, but I knew I couldn't take it out on -- on Courtney. And I'm -- I'm with you, Rickey, I think I could probably take Courtney, but... I was a little younger then. You know, I probably... You know. Yeah. But the -- the thing is I knew I had to talk to -- to big daddy. So I -- I went downtown. Had a discussion with him and told him, said, "You know, I -- I really wanted the health committee." He literally grabbed me by my throat and asked me was I crazy? There were some other words in there that he called me when he was calling me crazy. But the main thing was, "Are you crazy? Aren't you tired of just begging for money, begging for resources? Don't you want to sit at that table and be able to find it?" 'Cause Emil Jones believed and, as he said - and he has all these great sayings - that, "If you're not sitting at the table, then you must be on the menu." So... And I took it that that was -- I needed to be sitting at the table so I could put some of you all on the menu and make sure that my

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community got what it deserved. Of course, and working on the behalf of everyone else, 'cause we all believe in fairness. But the thing is, is Emil is there and the true -- as a true leader - it wasn't just me, as also pointed out - that this leader, he knows how to identify the leadership qualities of all of us. He identifies 'em and then he really nurtures you, as in my case. He didn't just put me on Approp; he made sure that we knew how - - or I knew how we raise that money. He put me on Revenue. He made sure that I knew that -- the people were spending it correctly. He put me on the Audit Commission. Then he said, "You know something? You really know; you need to be able to forecast what's going on." So then he put me on COGFA, you know, our forecasting arm here. So he prepares us, and he does that for each and every one of us when he puts you on it. He doesn't just put you out there. That's a true leader. President Jones, you are truly that -- that test of a man, that you have proven that you have not only led this Chamber, but you've led this State. And as you go forward in -- in your life, trying to spend time with your family, you know, we, who are back here, still going to be toiling, still be working on the interest of people. We should not only admire the work of this man, but we also should find a way to emulate it. Thank you so very much, my friend, my brother, my man. I know I'm not going to miss you, 'cause I'm going to see you in the neighborhood, right down 87th Street having breakfast, and I'm looking forward to it.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

Senator Martinez.

SENATOR MARTINEZ:

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Thank you, Mr. President, and I -- I -- I wanted to -- I want to first thank Senator Hendon for allowing me to come down here, 'cause I -- I could not help but be able to express so many things that I'm feeling today. I'm feeling happy, but at the same time, I'm feeling very -- very sad, because I am -- we're losing a great man, a man who believes, you know, in each one of us - a person who's been there for me for a long time. I've known Emil for many, many, many years, and one of the -- the -- the memories that I have was just recent that I think means so much to me, was when I became ill, the night that I ended up having emergency surgery and ended up in the intensive care. My daughter didn't know who to call and she called President Jones. And President Jones responded so quickly. I mean, he was at my bedside that morning after I came out of surgery. And I remember waking up in the intensive care and I felt him holding my hand, and when I looked up to him, somehow my heart rate started going up and they weren't sure if they were going to ask him to leave, because he was -- he was going to cause me my death. But -- but I think it was because of the fact that I felt that I had the -- that person that I care so much about there to really lend me his strength to come out of it, because I wasn't sure if I was going to come out. And he was there to be very supportive to my daughter, who was there practically alone, 'cause my family all lives in Florida. And while my daughter was there, President Jones was at my bedside and I really did get excited. I wasn't sure if I had died and gone to heaven. I wasn't sure what I was feeling, but I just know that this man caused my heart rate to go up. So, I have to say thank you for being there for my daughter. Thank you for

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being there for me during those hard times. But I also want to say to everyone here, he's a man of his word. And I want to thank him on behalf of the Latino community, because, you know, as you all know - I think it's been mentioned here before - Senator del Valle, now our clerk, was in this Chamber. He was a leader here with us and today he is our clerk. And Senator Jones -- President Jones never gave his back to Miguel when Miguel needed help, and I think we have seen that with all of our other colleagues that have gone to bigger and -- and -- bigger and better places than we are today. But I know that I personally have a -- a gratitude in my heart, because he stood by me during this past primary, which was a very tough primary for me. But he gave his word to me that he would be there for me and he was in every inch of the word and every -- and every part of -- giving me the resources that I needed to survive that -- that primary. And I got to say that on behalf of the Latino community, on behalf of Latina women, I got to say, thank you, Mr. President, for allowing me the opportunity to be a leader, to be a someone who is able to be in this Chamber representing women, Latina women, out there, the opportunity to be a President when I would -- when you turned the gavel over. And I want to say thank you, because I think for a personal -- personally for me, it was wonderful, and personally for all the -- the Latina women out there, we love you very much. The Latino community thanks you for everything you do for us too in being able to provide all those resources that we need to continue to move a lot of our -- our programs forward. So, I'm going miss you, my friend, but I know that I'm not going to stop seeing you. And when I do call you, answer your calls, 'cause

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you're not answering me lately - so I don't know what's up with that. So, thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for being my friend and I'm going to miss you and I love you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

The Chair recognizes Illinois' Comptroller, Dan Hynes. Comptroller Hynes. And Senator Dillard.

SENATOR DILLARD:

Thank you, Mr. President. I will be brief. But Emil Jones is a giant and deserves the time we are taking here to talk about him. Just a little different perspective, when Emil came to the Senate -- it's hard to imagine him not being the Leader or the Senate President, but I was Governor Thompson's legislative director and Emil was a new Member of this Body. I didn't know him very well and he said, "Dillard, I want go down and see the Governor on the second floor." So, in those days, regular rank-and-file Members regularly met with the Governor, believe it or not. And I walked Emil Jones down the stairwell and went in to see Big Jim Thompson, and it was about the 1983 temporary income tax increase that Senator Peterson had referenced earlier. And, Emil, I'll never forget the meeting. It was the shortest meeting we ever had in Jim Thompson's administration for people talking about the income tax. He said, "Big Jim," he said, "this bill ain't going to leave the -- leave or pass until Emil Jones' cargo is on board in the harbor." And Jim Thompson looked at him and he said, "What do you mean, Emil?" And he said, "My cargo is schoolchildren and the truly indigent, the poor people. And I'll help you pass your temporary income tax increase if you promise me that Emil Jones' cargo for schoolchildren and the truly poor is going to

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be on that ship." And I still remember that and, Emil, it was about a forty-five-second meeting. It was the quickest meeting we had. But certainly Emil Jones, for his entire career, has been putting the cargo on board for those people who are truly the most needed and schoolchildren in the State. I've always believed and I've always pointed to it when I went into Emil's office back here -- when Emil, before he was sworn in as the Senate President, I remember Crain's Chicago Business called me and they said, "What do we need to know about Emil Jones, the new incoming Senate President?" And I said, "Emil Jones is probably one of the most underestimated legislators or gentlemen that is in the Capitol building." And I always pointed to that article when I went in to see Emil. And said, "Emil" -- you know, I pride myself on being able to pick out superstars around this place. I've been around a few. I've seen 'em. And, you know, I know good legislators from the pretenders. And, you know, I knew that Emil Jones would -- you know, would -- would -- would be underestimated as the Senate President. And, you know, maybe some day we won't have as many people on our side of the aisle from your party. But, Emil, you've always been underestimated and I got to watch you early on in your career. Last but not least, there was a time -- I remember one time I made a vote that upset Emil, and he had a son that lived out in my area, and he said, "Dillard, you better be careful or I'll run my son against you for the State Senate." So, Emil, I know how proud you are to have your son following you in your seat. And I guess just to close, I very much appreciate the kindness that you have always shown me personally. You know, we're the minority party. I was a young staffer. But in two different

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roles - as a staff member to Governors, as well as a minority Member during your tenure as the Senate President - your door's always been open to me and you've always been kind. And you have left an indelible mark on the General Assembly of the State of Illinois and we are all better because we have known you. And I wish you very, very well in your retirement, and I know you'll be back around here to -- to see your son. So come over and visit. God bless you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HENDON)

The Chair recognizes the Auditor General of the State of Illinois, Bill Holland. Auditor General. Senator Lou Viverito.

SENATOR VIVERITO:

Thank you, Mr. President. And I'm going to talk just a little bit different perhaps than some of you. I go back with Emil Jones, of course, and I've said it on numerous occasions. I remember in high school a little - couple years apart. And I think I was a year or two ahead of you, Emil. I'll admit to that. Never would 'til now. But in all -- in all due respect, I remember going to the 34th Ward when Emil Jones was really a soldier and president of the organization. I was running for the Water Reclamation District, and won by the way. Emil was a loyal individual to the 34th Ward and to Wilson Frost. He was a man that you knew where he stood. And obviously when I came to the Senate and obviously when Emil Jones was so kind to make me the Assistant Majority Leader in 2001, I was deeply honored and deeply touched. But, of course, there's been times I've been in and there's been times when I've been out. I think, Emil, you can attest to that. But one thing I can say is what Emil Jones has accomplished from a humble beginning. Tilden Tech was not

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exactly Northwestern University. It was a technical high school. And when you didn't have all the money in the world, that's the school that Emil and I went to. We learned a lot there. And of course, he became the alumni and the favorite of Tilden Tech because of all of his accomplishments. But what's the most important thing in life is when you have a name and you're passing it on to your children. The name Jones is so renowned in the State of Illinois and his children will have that beautiful name of Jones. He's accomplished more -- when I came here, as I talked before, when we were in the minority position, I've seen him, time after time, go out into the suburban areas and different areas and recruit candidates. I know what it's like to be a soldier. I've been a soldier and a committeeman for thirty-seven years. And Emil Jones was loyal to his leaders. And today, he probably ended up being one of the most special leaders in the State of Illinois. Whether you agree with him or not, you knew that Emil Jones was in charge. And the great thing about Emil is he's got a wonderful family. He's got a -- he's leaving a great heritage - and he's walking out and that's very important. I wish you and your family, Emil, all the best to come in the future. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Sullivan.

SENATOR SULLIVAN:

Thank you, Madam President. You know, we can -- we could all tell many, many, many stories about President Jones. And I'd like to tell you just a short story about an event and I think it reflects one of Emil's many talents, and that's the ability to work with and relate to people from all over the

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State and different walks of life. But Deb mentioned it in the resolution. I think it was in 2004, the Governor had a proposal to remove the sales tax exemption from -- from ag inputs from seed and fertilizer and chemicals. And this was a huge, huge issue in the ag community. And after a number of conversations many of us had with the President, the President agreed to take this proposal off the table. He said that he would not support it, which effectively killed the proposal. So then the question was, how were we going to get that message out to the ag community? This was a big issue to 'em. We wanted to make sure that they knew about it. So, the President and I agreed that we would meet early in the morning with a group of farmers. Actually, at 6 a.m., we met in a little café west of Springfield over in Virginia, Illinois. And we were going to meet with this group of farmers and we were going to announce that the sales tax -- removal of the sales tax exemption would be off the table. So, he and I met that morning, 6 a.m. We walk into this café, a little café. There's a group of farmers, probably twenty or thirty farmers in there. And -- and I had two -- I was pretty apprehensive because there was two issues I was very concerned about. First of all, I was concerned what he was going to say to this group of downstate farmers and also what their reaction would be to this Chicago politician. So, we had breakfast. I stood up and I introduced the President and he stood up and he started to speak and he said, "Now, I understand why it was necessary for us to meet at 6 a.m. in the morning." You have to realize he had to get up probably at 5 o'clock to get to Springfield by 6. He said, "I understand that -- that the farmers -- that you need to get up early before dawn 'cause

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you have to get your work done during the daylight. You have livestock that you have to take care of. You know, you need to do your work and you need to -- it takes all day to do that." And he said, "I know that because when I was a young man -- when I was a boy, my parents had chickens. And every -- it was my responsibility to go out every morning before school, early in the morning, and take care of those chickens - to feed those chickens and to collect the eggs." And by saying that statement, those farmers were able to understand that he, Emil Jones, somebody who's probably never spent a -- very much time on a farm, but he understood and he could relate to what they did and why their job was important. And that was just like the icebreaker. And then he proceeded to tell the group why -- how this proposal was a bad idea and that he was not going to support it. But I tell you, that is just a -- that -- that -- that just was a tremendous reflection to me about this man's ability to relate to each of us. You look around this Body, you look at the faces, you look at the diverse backgrounds of each and every one of us, you look at the regions that we represent - but the President has the ability to understand, to look at the State of Illinois in its entirety, not in its -- not in just our district or his district or somebody else's district. I think that's a great quality. And, Mr. President, Emil, I want to say, just from a personal standpoint, thank you for having the confidence in me when I came to see you back in 2001. And I think every one of us could say the same story, but to have the confidence in each and every one of us that allowed us to be where we are today. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

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Senator Forby.

SENATOR FORBY:

Well, as you know, in Springfield, when somebody mentions your name, you get to say something. I wasn't going to say nothing. So I heard my name several times. President Jones, I'm going to get to say what I want to now, 'cause you aren't going to be here. I know you won't be here tomorrow. Anybody ever tell you, you don't talk very plain? Well, I guess after tomorrow, I'll be the only one here. You know, they talked about Barack Obama -- Barack. You know, you helping him. I know exactly how Barack feels, 'cause that's what President Jones done to me. When I first -- my first election in the Senate, I had a person come over from the other side and said, "Gary, we're going to spend a million dollars against you this time." Well, for a little country boy like me, that's out of the -- big figure. It scared me a little bit. So I went to talk to President Jones. I said, "You know what? They're going to spend a million dollars against me, get me beat." He said, "Gary, they can spend whatever they want to, but they're not going to beat you." He said, "I'll guarantee you that." And he did that. So, in my campaign this time - you talk about money - so on TV every day they showed a picture of President Jones, had three great big bags of money carrying around for me in my election. So, four more years, I'm going to look for them three big bags again. You know, you -- you've been great to me. Your staff has been fantastic to me. And I just want to thank you, because -- as everybody else in this room, we won't forget you and I know you won't forget us. Especially, you know, as everybody said - I'm not going to bring up what all you said -

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but I know the number one issue is education and I do believe the schools will see that when we leave, because there's no doubt about it in Springfield, I don't think you got a better voice for the people when it comes to education. Another thing that we was talking about. This row here, coal brothers. You talked about that several times, haven't you? Well, we took a vote, the row here. In case you want to come back, you can sit on this row. And doing that, with our voting, we got a little pin here that says "coal" on it. So you're always going to be a coal brother. And you'll -- and we're always going to think about you and we appreciate everything you've done. Good luck.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

You know, I heard the last two speakers, Senator Forby and Senator Sullivan, tell good stories about how they would not be here but for Emil Jones. And I think that they're -- that's something that -- for many Members within this Chamber to reflect upon. As we're in a period of transition, it's easy for folks to forget that fact. And I think it's something to remember going forward, notwithstanding the fact that President Jones won't -- won't be here anymore. And Senator DeLeo talked about the speech he wrote for President-elect Obama. I thought it was President Jones that might have written that speech, because many -- much of what he has done reflects his acknowledgement. You know, Barack spoke about the red states and the blue states and how there was commonality in red states and blue states. And our State is a diverse State. And that's something that President Jones has recognized in his

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policymaking and the way he supported each and every one of us throughout his tenure. He realized that -- the regional diversity that exists, the economic diversity that exists and the racial diversity that exists, and the importance of taking all of those things into account in policymaking. The term "underestimated" has been used by several speakers to -- to -- to talk about President Jones, and -- and I'd like to be a little bit more candid and a little bit more blunt. There's been a double standard applied to President Jones. There's been a double standard. And my father would always tell me, you know, "When you're subject to prejudice, don't waste your time complaining about it, just work hard to plug your way through it." And that's what I've witnessed President Jones doing during his tenure. He hasn't wasted his time complaining about the, you know, crusading and name-calling editorial pages, you know, that sought to just ally him with the Governor in a manner that ignored the public policy behind a position that he was taking. They reduced it to just, "Oh, he's with the Governor." They didn't talk about the differences between education funding proposals. They didn't talk about the different -- the -- the needs of -- for health care in various communities throughout the State in each and every one of our districts. They wanted to reduce it to finger-pointing and name-calling. Yet, at no time, at no time did President Jones invest himself - and some of this to my dismay - in trying to correct the public relations behind things. Instead, he focused on the task in front of him. And I think that's admirable. You know, you -- I've heard Chicago State University mentioned, and I, myself, was -- I was formerly on the staff of City Colleges of Chicago. And those

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two institutions are safety net institutions for those who otherwise would not have an -- have access to higher education. And but for one man, the -- the type of investment that has gone on -- that has been put into those institutions to make sure that many people - that most of the Members of this Body will never meet - have access to higher education. Yet, it would be reduced in newspapers as unfairness and favoritism towards Chicago State. You know, I've historically been unfair to President Jones. I actually worked against him in a 1995 campaign for Congress. But we're even because he wasn't exactly on my campaign committee to replace Barack Obama in this Chamber. Yet, I remember on the day that I was appointed at -- at -- at McCormick Place, Courtney handed me a - you're a star today, man - handed me the telephone and said, "You need to call President Jones. I think it would be a good idea for you to call President Jones." I said, "I think that you're right." And I called President Jones and I -- and I said, you know - I don't know -- remember my exact words - I said, I know I wasn't your favorite, but, you know, I want you to know that I -- striving to work under your leadership, I never -- I never thought of myself as running against you. He says, "Oh, no, don't worry about that." But he did say, "The reason I was supporting who I was supporting is because they have demonstrated for me their competence." And he enumerated a number of things that Will Burns, who I was competing against, had done over the years and how he had demonstrated his loyalty. And he talked about how loyalty was so important to him. And as we go forward, I think it's important that - again, I want to reiterate - that we don't forget, that we keep President Jones

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in this Chamber though his body may not be here. We keep him in this Chamber and we don't forget how he helped each and every one of us individually. And -- and I have sat down with President Cullerton and -- and I've told him what, you know, my policy concerns are, and they grow out of what I've learned from sitting and listening to President Jones. He told me shortly after I came -- I -- I was appointed, as I expressed interest in various social committees and social issues, he says, "You know, these social concerns are important, whether it's education or health care or affordable housing." He said, "But if you look at communities who have access to economic opportunity, there's less of a education challenge. There's less of a health care challenge. There's less of a housing crisis. And so you need to think about, in lieu of band-aid measures to address social concerns" - I remember his words were - "follow the dollar, follow the dollar, because it's access to economic opportunity for all that will, in the end, lead to sustainable changes on social issues." And I will never forget that and I thank you for mentoring me.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

And the final two speakers, Senator Radogno.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

Thank you. Mr. President, it's my honor to congratulate you on thirty-five years in public service. Anyone that survives thirty-five years in this atmosphere and is as successful as you are is obviously very smart, very talented and probably a little bit lucky. So, congratulations on your tenure. You know, one of the things that was mentioned in the resolution was your commitment to social justice. And I truly

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believe that about you. Everything that you've championed has been about social justice. I think we all agree that social justice is ultimately the goal that we want to achieve. We don't always agree about how to get to that place. And for me today, it's been great to hear all these stories about how caring and wonderful and personal you have been with different people, because, frankly, that's not always the side of you that we got to see. In fact, when you disagree about the end result, sometimes it's -- what you see is a little bit gruff and rough and not very pretty. So, I never really believed that that was truly you and it's nice to have it reinforced that -- that, in fact, you have a softer side. I suspected that, being a social worker. And I know one of the things that you championed that meant a lot to me personally, as well as the social workers in this State, is the licensure and the access that people would have to clinical social workers. So we really appreciate that. So that gave me a little bit of a clue that there might be something more there than -- than what we typically see. I'm hoping now that you leave office, you come back and visit and we all get to see that side of you that we know is there. It's late right now. I know we've been going on for a long time with all your accolades - well-deserved. They definitely are well-deserved. I just want to say that on behalf of Frank Watson and all the Senate Republicans, we wish you the very best in your retirement and hope that you have a long and happy retirement in the years to come. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Final speaker, Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

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Thank you, Madam President, Members of the Senate. I think all of us here who are elected officials have to be just a little bit jealous and a little bit envious of a -- a man who has been able to serve - I -- I believe it's thirty-six years, Emil - thirty-six years and to be able to accomplish what you've accomplished. I've only been here thirty years in the General Assembly. You've -- your leaving, I think, leaves me the one, along with Frank Watson, who's been here the longest. And I've been able to see, over the years that I've been here, the different -- kind of the different eras that you've served under. Lou Viverito mentioned Wilson Frost. Wilson Frost was an elegant man, an unbelievably competent ward committeeman. And I wasn't around, of course, when Emil first got elected State Representative, but to be able to work through the ward organization to get the -- to be slated to be the State Representative in -- in that era, you had to be really, really good and competent in that ward organization. You had to be the top to be able to get to be in that position. And I served with Emil over in the House. And I don't know if there's anybody else here who -- who's done this, but we were there in this incredible situation where they had three State Reps for every Senator. And Emil came from a -- an area - it was racially changing. And he represented white and black, and I'm sure that that's when he first learned his incredible talent of appreciating the racial politics and being able to -- to overcome that and to be able to represent white and black and Hispanic in his district. The -- he -- he came to the Senate. I can -- I can just tell you that he was a phenomenal committee chairman, legendary Chairman on the Insurance Committee. He --

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he ran that committee. He ran that committee. And I'll just leave it at that. He was a very good Chairman of the Insurance Committee. And then -- you know, when Emil got to be elected President of the Senate, that wasn't the tough election; the tough election was in 1992 when he ran for the Minority Leader. And he did it brilliantly. I had only been here a year and, I would have to say, I wasn't on the first wave of people that Emil sought for his support. But he came up to me on the Floor of the Senate - and I was kind of wondering nobody's been asking me, you know, about their support - but he came up to me on the Floor of the Senate, right here, and he said, "Cullerton, the train is leaving. You better get on, 'cause it's leaving. It's pulling out of the..." So I said, "Okay. Let me see if I can find out if I can get on the train." He grew our caucus, much to your dismay, to a supermajority and, along the way, made education, obviously, his number one priority. That's his legacy. And to be able to do that and to leave by having your own son take your seat, that's what makes all of us, I think, a little jealous and a little envious. And, Emil, you're leaving the best way. We talked about this whenever we do this at this time of year. You're undefeated. You're walking out on your own two feet with a full pension. Now, let me just finish by saying, Emil, I -- even though I've been here thirty years, I'm about to take a job that's not going to be that easy. And so it's going to be new for me too. And I'm going to need your counsel. I'm going to need your advice and I'm going to need your help. So, congratulations. You're going out on top. Thank you, Emil.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

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REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

183rd Legislative Day

1/13/2009

The question is, shall Senate Resolution 983 be adopted. All those in favor will say Aye. Those opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. And the resolution is unanimously adopted. Ladies -- Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to invite two of President Jones' grandchildren to the podium to share some words with us. First, Jonathan Sterling.

JONATHAN STERLING:

(Poem "Anyway" recited by Jonathan Sterling)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Thank you, Jonathan. Now, Alexandria Sterling.

ALEXANDRIA STERLING:

("The Road" written and recited by Alexandria Sterling)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Thank you, Alexandria. Ladies and Gentlemen, Senate President Emil Jones.

SENATOR E. JONES:

Well, often -- I often wondered what this day would be like. When my wife asked me over the weekend, said, "You look rather pensive." You -- you said, "How you feel?" I said, "I feel great. You know once you make your mind up your going to do something, you know, you accept the decision." But listening to all the remarks of everyone, I may change my mind. But I often thought about this day. I've been through so many resolutions for Members leaving and often thought, how am I going to respond when my day come? First, I'd just like to thank all of you for enriching my life - for giving me the opportunity to get to know each and every one of you, for making my life much, much better, and educating me on your world, your community and your various interests. There were those who

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would say to me, "Are you going to miss it?" But there are those I've been -- I miss every day, each and every day. I miss Adeline Geo-Karis. I miss Stan Weaver. I miss Bill Shaw. I miss Vince Demuzio. I miss Kenny Hall - those who have gone on to glory. So I miss them. There's hardly a day go by that doesn't -- that I don't think about them in some form, some shape, manner. I think about them. Then I think about all those who I serve with here, who are still around, and one thing you can say for the Legislature, you make friends and acquaintances that last a lifetime, throughout this entire State. I love my friends from central Illinois and downstate Illinois, because you afforded me the opportunity to understand your lifestyle, understand the people who sent you here to represent them. Many years ago when I was a freshman in the House, I was advised, don't sit next to a Chicago legislator, pick your seat next to a downstate legislator and you will learn from that person. You will make a -- a friend and he will make a friend and you both will be able to accomplish many things. And that's what I did, basically. This great, great university has given me a tremendous education. Some of you, I've known members of your family. I -- like Mike Jacobs, for example. I know -- I knew his grandfather, Oral Jacobs; I served with him in the House. I know Mike Jacobs' father, Denny Jacobs. I know Mike Jacobs, the Senator. I know Mike Jacobs' children. Four generations in one family. The gentleman on the other side of the aisle, John Jones, my namesake - I wish I had the opportunity to meet his father. When you get to talking to people, his father was the driver for my great war hero, General Patton. And I could imagine the stories his father could have

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told about Patton. I wish I had really gotten to know his father. But it's that enrichment that you give and that you bring to this Chamber that allow us to remain friends through our life. I want to thank all the great staff on both sides of -- of the Chamber for their hard work and their commitment. I particularly want to thank my Chief of Staff, Jill Rock, a young lady who I met in -- around 1988 when we worked together on the Insurance Committee. Senator Cullerton used to call her "The Amendment Queen". But -- but Jill and I have worked together so long, so many, great, great years together. I really want to thank her. I want thank Cindy Huebner. But it -- but she said Davidsmeyer, but it was Huebner when we first met. But we've been working together for many, many years. I want to thank her for all that she's done to help make things much, much better. And how can I ever forget the great Secretary of the Senate, my right arm, the one who -- when the -- when the position opened up as Secretary of the Senate, and I was thinking, who in the heck could fill that, and she asked about it and I really hated to let her go, because she was so good. I met her when she worked with Joyce Holmberg. I saw how dedicated she was working with Joyce Holmberg. I really hated to let her go, 'cause she's that good. And I didn't have to worry about anything when I had Deb -- Deb Shipley at that desk. So, Debbie, I'm going to miss you tremendously - outstanding young lady. But -- but this university, as I indicated that, has educated me and I love each and every one of you. Some of you I may have rubbed the wrong way and I understand that. That's all part of doing business. I love my coal brothers. I thought when Bill O'Daniel and Jim Rea left that the coal brothers was -- was -- was gone, but I

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see they've been reincarnated, they're back here again, strong as ever. And my good friend, Ed Maloney, he has the only caucus where he's the only member - single white, male caucus. He's doing great. And all the caucuses within the caucus, which makes this place such a great institution. You got the Hispanic Caucus and then you got caucuses inside the Hispanic Caucus. You got the Ethnic Caucus. You got the Jewish Caucus. They only had two members at one time. They keep trying to expand. This is a great, great place. I've enjoyed all the things that we worked together on. Thirty-six years ago when I came to this Body, came to the General Assembly, they were debating education, the funding of education, the resource equalizer formula that funds education throughout the State of Illinois. That was the big debate in 1973. And here we are, in the year 2009, and we still haven't solved that problem. I trust as I watch you on television and read about you in the upcoming Sessions, Senator Cullerton, Mr. President, the issue will get resolved once and for all. We in this Chamber did pass legislation that would make education an entitlement for all children throughout the State of Illinois - an entitlement. It passed in this Chamber. Perhaps it can be passed in the next Chamber in the months to come and education could be funded at the proper level for all children. And in the words of Frank Sinatra, "Regrets, I have a few." But very few to really mention that really make a big difference. It is the successes that I've had in working with each and every one of you that has made me feel good about being here. But I knew this day would come. I was looking at that group picture one day of all the Members. You know the picture we take, I was looking at the

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first one, and I said, this one's gone, this one's gone, that one's gone, that one's gone, and practically everyone was gone. I said, well, I guess it's time for me to leave. And I feel good about it. I'll miss each and every one of you, but I do recognize one thing. I will travel the State. I will visit your towns. And when I visit your towns, I know I have a friend for life in that particular town. I want to thank Bill Haine for his kind, warm friendship. And we're all going to be -- many of us will be in Washington next Tuesday for the swearing in of the Forty-fourth President of the United States. Deanna Demuzio mentioned her mother. When I was in Gillespie, Illinois, eating fish that Sunday across the table from her mother, her mother told me then that this young man, Barack Obama, was going to be the next President of the United States. She said, "One day, and I want to be around to vote for him." This is what her mother said in the year 2004. So I knew way back then. I didn't want Barack to get a big head, so I didn't tell him. I didn't tell him what Deanna's mother told me that Sunday afternoon. So, next Tuesday, we look to Deanna's mother. She is the one -- she's the one that said it to me. And you heard the media thrashing out all this stuff about the godfather of Barack Obama - let me tell you how all of that came about. When I became the Leader in this -- for the Democrats in 1993, I went out and recruited a lot of young professionals. Some are sitting in the -- the gallery. I see Citseko. I see Barbara Staples. I see Elgie, who is a powerful lobbyist. I see Courtney, sitting up there. There's quite a few of 'em - nice, young people who wanted to work very hard. So, a lot like a father figure, I looked out for them. And I didn't know they

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were calling me their godfather until I was watching CNN television. And another young man - he used to work on staff here - named Dan Shoman, and he was assigned to Barack Obama. And Barack wanted to do something and Dan Shoman said to Barack, he said he told Barack, "No, I can't do that. If you want that done, you got to go talk to the godfather." And that's when I realized why Barack called me the godfather, because the staff was saying that, you know. And I didn't want to make any of you an offer that you could not refuse. But I love each and every one of you. It's been great, really great. And -- and this marks my last official roll -- roll call with you as a Member of this Body. But I'll be back tomorrow to wish the next President Godspeed and good luck. I think John will do a tremendous job. God bless you.

PRESIDENT JONES:

And from the podium, I really want to thank my grandchildren, Alex and Jonathan, for being here with me today. My son, John, and my daughter-in-law, Nikki, and my wife, Lorrie, and my other two grandsons, you know, they're -- they -- they can't talk, but they can make a lot of noise when they get ready, you know, and everything. I'm not going to be doing any babysitting. But as I leave you for the final time, the words that I'm going to really miss, have you voted -- "Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish?" And sometime I wish you had voted the way I wanted you to vote. So there being no further business to come before the Senate, the Senate stands adjourned sine die.