

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

122nd Legislative Day

1/4/2025

Speaker Hernandez, B.: "The House will be in order. Members will be in their chairs. We shall be led in prayer today by Representative Dave Severin. Members and guests are asked to refrain from starting their laptops, turn off all cell phones, and rise for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance."

Severin: "...pray. Lord, I thank you for this day and I thank you for the opportunity to get together and to represent our constituents in the State of Illinois. And I thank you for this new year and time for us to start over in many things in our lives, our families, our friends, and... and even in this room. And I pray that you be with us, give us wisdom and direction. Lord, I thank that you sent a lamb and you're not lame. Lord, I don't know what day you made ice and snow, but I don't know what you were thinking. But I just pray that you keep us to be safe. I thank you again for your blessings. In your name, Amen."

Speaker Hernandez, B.: "We will be led in the Pledge of Allegiance today by Representative Yednock."

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

Speaker Hernandez, B.: "Roll Call for Attendance. Leader Gabel is recognized to report any excused absences on the Democratic side of the aisle."

Gabel: "Speaker, let the record show that Representatives Andrade, Burke, Moylan, Harper, LaPointe, Moeller, Syed, and Tarver are excused today."

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Speaker Hernandez, B.: "Leader Keicher's recognized to report any excused absences on the Republican side of the aisle."

Keicher: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Please let the record reflect that Representatives Hammond, Hauter, Jacobs, Niemerg, McLaughlin, Friess... sorry, David Friess, Sanalidro, Wilhour, and Sosnowski are excused for today. And Chris Miller, Representative Miller. No relation."

Speaker Hernandez, B.: "Have all recorded themselves who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. There being 99 present Members are... 99 Members answering the roll call, the quorum is present. Under the Order of Resolutions, we have House Resolution 966, offered by Representative Severin. Representative Severin is recognized."

Severin: "Thank you, Madam. I appreciate the opportunity to bring before you House Resolution 966. Before I do that, can I introduce a new Representative on our side, or you want to do it two separate things? I don't mean to take over the floor today, but..."

Speaker Hernandez, B.: "We can do it separately, please."

Severin: "Okay. So, House Resolution 966..."

Speaker Hernandez, B.: "Correct."

Severin: "Are we on? Okay, I'll stick with House Resolution 966 first. Thank you. So, I'm honored today to present House Resolution 966 to congratulate Jennifer Arnold. She's a superintendent of a little grade school in my district, Field Grade School. She was the Educator of the Year in the Illinois Agriculture Classroom Administrator Award. So, I want to congratulate her, and I appreciate the opportunity to recognize her on the House Floor. Her name is Jennifer Arnold,

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and she is the Illinois Classroom Administrator Ag in the Classroom Administrator of the Year. So, I wanted to congratulate her. Thank you very much."

Speaker Hernandez, B.: "Representative Severin moves for the adoption of House Resolution 966. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Resolution is adopted. Representative Severin is recognized."

Severin: "Thank you very much. Actually, I appreciate the opportunity to present on the House Floor today, for the first time, Representative Kyle Moore from the 99th District. He's replacing Representative Randy Frese. Actually, Mr. Frese is unreplaceable, but we're sure glad to have Kyle Moore on the House Floor on the Republican side. And we appreciate a... a round of applause. And he has a four-hour presentation he'd like to make some other time."

Speaker Hernandez, B.: "Representative Moore is recognized."

Moore: "Yeah, point of personal privilege. Madam Speaker, it's an honor to be here today and it's an honor to serve my constituents in the 99th District. I've gotten to know many of you as... when I served as mayor of the City of Quincy. And for those that I haven't met yet, I'm getting... looking forward to meeting each and every one of you and doing some good work on behalf of the citizens of Illinois. Thank you very much. It's an honor."

Speaker Hernandez, B.: "Representative Halbbrook, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

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

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Speaker Hernandez, B.: "Please proceed."

Halbrook: "Thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, as we welcome 2025, it's clear that the winds of change are sweeping across our nation when it comes to tax reform. Thirty-nine states starting this year with significant tax changes. Nine states are cutting individual taxes, including two that are adopting flat tax systems. Three states are reducing corporate income taxes and two are embracing first-year expensing provisions to encourage business envelopment. Across America, states are recognizing the power of a stable pro-growth and competitive tax code to attract businesses and improve the lives of their citizens. Unfortunately, here in Illinois, we are not a part of that conversation. While other states are fostering economic opportunity through tax relief and reform, Illinois remains stuck in a cycle of high taxes, heavy regulation, and stagnant growth. The Majority Party in Illinois is even pushing for additional income taxes to make up for their spending. We've become a cautionary tale instead of a shining example. The consequences are clear. We are losing residences, businesses, and economic opportunity to states that understand the importance of competitive tax policy. Take property taxes for instance. Illinois has become the highest property tax states in the nation, burdening homeowners and discouraging new investment. Our personal income tax system is outdated and less competitive as states shift to lower rates and even outright elimination of income taxes. And let's not forget corporate taxes. Illinois businesses face one of the highest combined corporate tax rates in the country, making it harder to compete and thrive.

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Meanwhile, states like Indiana and Iowa are lowering the tax burdens, creating environments where businesses want to grow and families want to stay. This is not a partisan observation. It's a reality that we can't afford to ignore. The evidence is overwhelming. States that prioritize tax reform and fiscal responsibility see results: stronger economies, more job creation, and greater population stability. Illinois must take note of this and take action. I believe it's past time to rewrite Illinois' tax policy to be pro-growth and family friendly. Here are three important key steps that we can take immediately. Number one, we must address our broken property tax system, ensuring homeowners are not taxed out of their homes while providing adequate funding for essential services like public safety and education. Number two, lowering personal and corporate income tax rates will make Illinois more competitive and encourage both individuals and businesses to invest in our state rather than flee to others. Number three, we must streamline and simplify the tax code. A simpler tax code with fewer loopholes and special carve outs. This will reduce administrative burdens and create fairness for all taxpayers. Illinois has become the greatest economic development tool that a neighboring or southern state can have. This needs to change. In closing, Illinois... every Illinoian deserves a chance to thrive. Higher taxes shouldn't stand in the way of the American dream. Our states are showing us... other states are showing us a path forward. Now, it's time for us to follow their lead and make up Illinois a state where opportunity grows again. Thank you."

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Speaker Hernandez, B.: "Representative Benton, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

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

Speaker Hernandez, B.: "Please proceed."

Benton: "Well, first of all, happy new year. Welcome back, everybody. And I just wanted to introduce Emily Shield, who is down here for YMCA Youth and Government. She's from my district, lives in Naperville. And also, eventually wants to run for office one day. She's going for poli sci. She's a senior at Waubonsie High School, and I just want to have everybody give her a Springfield welcome."

Speaker Hernandez, B.: "Leader Mah is recognized."

Mah: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Democrats would request a caucus meeting after adjournment in Room 114."

Speaker Hernandez, B.: "Leader Keicher is recognized."

Keicher: "Thank you... thank you, Madam Speaker. Republicans would request, upon adjournment, a caucus in Room 118, please."

Speaker Hernandez, B.: "Democrats will caucus in Room 114 and Republicans will caucus in Room 118 after adjournment. Mr. Clerk, Agreed Resolutions."

Clerk Bolin: "Agreed Resolutions. House Resolution 958, offered by Representative Mah. House Resolutions 961 and 962, offered by Representative Nichols. House Resolution 964, offered by Representative Meyers-Martin. House Resolution 965, offered by Representative Buckner. House Resolution 967, offered by Representative Mason. House Resolution 968, offered by Representative Hoffman. House Resolution 969, offered by Representative Nichols. House Resolution 971, offered by

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Representative West. House Resolution 972, offered by Representative Nichols. House Resolution 973, offered by Representative Moeller. And House Resolution 975, offered by Representative Jawaharial Williams."

Speaker Hernandez, B.: "Leader Gabel moves for adoption of the Agreed Resolutions. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Agreed Resolutions are adopted. And now, allowing for perfunctory time for the Clerk, Leader Gabel moves that the House stand adjourned until Sunday, January 5, at the hour of noon. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the House stands adjourned."

Clerk Hollman: "House Perfunctory Session will come to order. Introduction and First Reading of Senate Bill. Senate Bill 507, offered by Speaker Welch, a Bill for an Act concerning employment. First Reading of this Senate Bill. Introduction and First Reading of House Bills. House Bill 5918, offered by Representative Morgan, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 5919, offered by Representative Yang Rohr, a Bill for an Act concerning revenue. House Bill 5920, offered by Representative Meier, a Bill for an Act concerning criminal law. House Bill 5921, offered by Representative Yang Rohr, a Bill for an Act concerning business. House Bill 5922, offered by Representative Gong-Gershowitz, a Bill for an Act concerning criminal law. House Bill 5923, offered by Representative Yang Rohr, a Bill for an Act concerning education. House Bill 5924, offered by Representative Ugaste, a Bill for an Act concerning elections. House Bill 5925,

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offered by Representative Mah, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 5926, offered by Representative West, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. House Bill 5927, offered by Representative West, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. House Bill 5928, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 5929, offered by Representative Haas, a Bill for an Act concerning revenue. First Reading of these House Bills. Introduction of Resolutions. House Resolution 959, offered by Representative Ladisch Douglass. House Resolution 960, offered by Representative Miller. House Resolution 963, offered by Representative Walsh. House Resolution 976, offered.. offered by Representative Buckner. These are referred to the Rules Committee. There being no further business, the House Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."