

STATE OF ILLINOIS
104th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE

27th Legislative Day

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

Severin: "Good afternoon. It's good to be with all of you, having been gone for a week. And I just want to share this with you before I pray that, of course, in Southern Illinois, we've had major storms and flooding, and so we are praying for those people in Southern Illinois and throughout the state. I just want to say this that, you know, it's kind of like mom and dad, you don't... you don't only call them when you're in trouble, you call and talk to on a regular basis. And so, we're going to talk to God this morning and... and I encourage each one of you to on a daily basis. Lord, I thank you for this day. I thank you for the opportunity to gather together in this House. I pray you'd be with each one of us. Give us wisdom and grace and patience and peace and all those good adjectives this week as we're working on these bills that we have to... before us. I pray, also, Lord, for those that are in distress as far as their homes or businesses or cars or all the different things that happened with the storms. I pray that you would give those people encouragement this day, cause people around them to help those people. And, Lord, I... again, we don't just call upon you when we're in trouble, but we call upon you daily to thank you, Lord, for the blessings you've bestowed upon us and... and all the good things that you have blessed us with. And we thank you that we can call upon

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you when we do have trouble, when there are trials, and you hear and answer our prayers, and I thank you for that, Lord. And... also, I pray again for my good friend, Larry Walsh."

Speaker Morgan: "We shall be led today in the Pledge of Allegiance by Representative Hirschauer."

Hirschauer - 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 Morgan: "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 Ammons, Benton, Hoffman, Jiménez, Kelly, Kifowit, Mayfield, Scherer, Slaughter, and Hanson are excused today."

Speaker Morgan: "Thank you, Leader Gabel. Leader Keicher is recognized to report any excused absences on the Republican side of the aisle."

Keicher: "Morning, Speaker. Please let the record reflect that all Republicans are here in the House to do the people's business today."

Morgan: "Thank you, Leader Keicher. Have all recorded themselves who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. There being 108 Members answering the roll call, a quorum is present. Leader Spain, for which reason do you seek recognition?"

Spain: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A special point of personal privilege."

Morgan: "Please proceed."

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Spain: "Ladies and gentlemen of the House, one year ago today.. or actually over the weekend, I received a surprise call from Bree Steinacher, who works in my office just a few steps back here off the Capitol, announcing the early arrival of her baby, Amelia. So, on behalf of Ryan and Bree Steinacher, let's please give a special one-year happy birthday round of applause to our little sweetheart here, Amelia."

Speaker Morgan: "Welcome, Amelia. Representative Cassidy, for which reason do you seek recognition?"

Cassidy: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Morgan: "Please proceed, Representative."

Cassidy: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleagues for your indulgence and attention. If I could have the attention of the body, please. I rise today to honor a man who has dedicated his life and career to this place and our state and the people we serve. Bear with me, as some of what you're going to hear may seem more suitable for a memorial resolution, but I'm a big believer in giving someone their flowers while they can still enjoy them. Matt Jones has served the Office of the State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor and Illinois State's Attorneys Association since 2009. For years, he's been the voice of state's attorneys in our Capitol, building relationships across party, ideology, and geography, always focused on crafting the best possible policies for our state. And I want to acknowledge that some of Matt's coworkers are here in the Speaker's Gallery: Pat Delfino, David Robinson, and Shari Smiley are here to honor our friend, Matt, as well. I first met Matt in the '90s. I was as green as can be, a new lobbyist for the Cook County State's Attorney's

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office, and he was Pate Philip's attorney on the Senate Judiciary Committee. So, of course, it was love at first sight. It... it actually really was. We recognized each other's inner policy nerds and commitment to service and operated from a place of honor and respect from that moment forward. Over the years, our relationship grew to include our spouses and kids and pets and our fair share of shared joys and sadness. In other words, an amazing and treasured friendship. Four years ago, I got a call from Senator Elgie Sims. Elgie was on Senate Democratic staff at the same time Matt and I met, and we still have a little crew of folks from those days who are also in the gallery now. Elgie was leaving the hospital in Peoria, where he had detoured on the way to Springfield after learning Matt had been hospitalized. He was diagnosed that week with glioblastoma, a relentless beast of a monster cancer I've already lost people to, and I feared the worst. Never one to take no for an answer, Matt and Sandy and their medical team have been just as relentless, buying us so much time we didn't expect to have with Matt. He's been able to be around to see his kids achieve amazing things, and they've seen their dad fight like hell to be there for them. Recently, we got the news no cancer patient wants to hear, the tumor was growing again. In a cascade of bad luck, Matt was then diagnosed with whooping cough and pneumonia and suffered a series of seizures that have impacted his ability to communicate but not his incredible intellect. Together, Matt and Sandy made the decision to move to hospice care, where Matt has been for a little more than a week. Many of you have contributed to a GoFundMe to help with the costs

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that are not covered by insurance, organized by our pal, Pete Baroni. And I am so thankful to everyone who has tried in any way to provide some support and relief to them. Sandy is livestreaming this special series of points of personal privilege from some of his colleagues in the chamber. Knowing that they also shared a special bond, I reached out to our former colleague, Mary Flowers, and asked her about her relationship with Matt. She immediately responded with, 'We used to argue all the time, but we always loved each other.' She shared stories of debating him over juvenile justice issues and racial bias and policing and said, 'We were always able to speak truthfully to each other. To me, that's what we're missing most here, and it's what I will miss most about him.' Matt, thank you for your friendship, your example of selfless service, and your passion for your positions that you never let get in the way of rational discussion and collaboration, your wicked humor, and your incredibly open heart. I love you, Sandy, Ben, and Emmy to the moon and back. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader Gordon-Booth, for which purpose do you seek recognition?"

Gordon-Booth: "One moment, Mr. Speaker. I should've been better prepared."

Speaker Morgan: "Take your time, leader."

Gordon-Booth: "I met Matt Jones... I met Matt Jones in a precinct in my district. I was running for State Representative, and Matt Jones was there working for my opponent, and he was working like hell to make sure that I did not win. He was very loyal to his candidate, and I didn't like him at the

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time. And he really was irritating me and my election attorney because he was vociferous in his advocacy for his candidate. And, obviously, things worked out well for me and we began to work together down here. And I... at the time, my mother was still living, and I shared with my mother this encounter that happened in the precinct that day. And my mother had few choice words, and she said, 'I know his mother. I should've... I should call his mom.' And, you know, we come from a community that is very close-knit. People where we live, they ask, 'What's your last name? Who are your people?' My mother knew his mother, and I began to know Matt. Not just as a Peorian, but as someone who carried a lot of weight down here in Springfield, someone who carried a big stick when it came to issues related to justice and advocacy. And I share this story in the beginning of our relationship because, as you can tell, that certainly isn't where the relationship ended. Matt and I, over this last 15 years, our professional and personal relationship, our families' relationship, took on an entire other color. The work that we were able to do down here on behalf of people that have sought justice for many years... you know, some people may or may not know it, but there are a lot of pieces of legislation that have advanced justice over the years. I hope I'm not taking away your cred, Matt. But it wouldn't have been possible if Matt had not worked to bring some consensus within his association, I'm sure at times to his own peril professionally. It wasn't easy for him to go back to his association and provide advocacy for bills to the likes that a Representative Cassidy may have been supporting, or Chairman Slaughter, or myself, but he knew that it was the

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right thing to do. And he was willing to go back and advocate for what was right, even when professionally it was incredibly difficult. That's hard to find these days. It's incredibly hard to come by in this place and in the world. And when I think about where we sit in the world today, big and little, Lord, we are in so desperate need of people that can disagree and still have the ability to move forward and find common ground. As difficult as that may seem, like, it's what we have to do. And for those of us that have worked on issues on the opposite sides of people and have been vociferous in our advocacy for those that we care about, we have to find a way. We have to find a way to work together. We cannot allow disagreements or the fact that somebody tried to get you unelected to turn the work that we do into a finite game. This is an infinite game, and we have to center that. And I just thank Sandy and Ben and Emmy. I will never forget that dinner that we had at hibachi six months ago. My family and his family and talking about Ben going to Florida State University. You know, ladies and gentlemen, time is this fleeting thing, and we always think that we have so much of it. Sometimes we do, and sometimes we don't. And I would dare say that we don't know what life has for us. But I will say that if we all lead lives full of purpose, driven by the things that we believe and the values that we hold, we make the difference that we can with the time that we're given, and we love those that love us and even those that don't, I pray that it will sit well with all of our souls at the end. Because whether we know it or not, we are all on that path. And I thank God that I had the ability to build a relationship

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and a friendship with someone like Matt Jones, who I will carry with me for the rest of my days because I know that how a relationship starts does not determine how one will end or continue. Matt, we love you, we cherish you, we honor you, and we uplift you. God bless Matt Jones."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader Spain, for which purpose do you seek recognition?"

Spain: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A point of personal privilege."

Speaker Morgan: "Please state your point."

Spain: "Ladies and gentlemen of the House... and thank you to both previous speakers for their beautiful and eloquent words. You know, Leader Gordon-Booth just talked about time. There are only a few moments in time here in the Illinois House of Representatives where time stands still. Sometimes those have been legendary stopping of the clock at midnight on May 31, but it's today stopping time in dedication to an incredible public servant of Matt Jones on the middle of a final deadline week here in the House. And, Matt, I know that you're watching from your room back in Peoria with Sandy, and I know you'd appreciate how special it is for time to stand still at this moment on this third deadline read... reading week in the Illinois House. And it's so fitting and proper that we should take this time and that you would want to celebrate someone's who unique life has been lived so exquisitely that we're seeing these heartfelt tributes from leaders on both sides of the aisle for a man who has long been a great friend to me in Peoria. I started as a youngster in politics at 23 years old running for the city council and was approached by Matt Jones, a true political genius in every sense of the word and someone

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who was a diehard and dedicated Republican. One hundred percent. And I'm sure, Jehan, he was working very hard against you in 2008. And... and you're exactly right, that from those initial experiences have come these lifetimes of friendships that have emerged as such a special person only could do. And I know many of us have gotten to work with Matt Jones in his work on behalf of appellate prosecutors and state's attorneys and criminal justice reform, but many of you may not have had the chance to know Matt Jones. We need more Matt Jones people in this Capitol, in our world today. If you think about some of the discussions that we've had on this House floor over the last several weeks, they've been tough discussions, back and forth, difficult critiques and criticism, and here we are stopping for this beautiful moment to memorialize someone who has given so much to our state. Matt is... he's experienced these health challenges and bravely fought brain cancer for the last several years, still has not been a stranger to this place he loves so much. I remember when Matt Jones gave me the back-of-the-House tour of the Capitol, teaching me, when I first began working in this building, where to go and who to know and how to get things done, and where to find the secret bathrooms that are sometimes important, or how to get away from people for a moment of quiet reflection. He did all those things to so many of us because he cared about this institution as an Illinois General Assembly, as a state government. And even for the last several years, you may have seen Matt Jones. You would have recognized him as a guy walking around with a battery backpack and a... and an electro durag on, helping with his health conditions, and it didn't

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slow him down a bit. In fact, we tried to get him to slow down around this building, and he was still here wanting to do his work, wanting to maintain relationships. And most importantly and shockingly, you would think, but if you knew Matt Jones, he was here to help you. He wanted to know, what did you need, how could he be of assistance, what were the local issues you were working on, what relationships did you needed help with. And that is Matt Jones to a T, even struggling in the epic struggle of his life with glioblastoma, working hard to just help others and be the public servant that we all know and love. Matt Jones, we appreciate your life. We reach up to you, to Sandy, to Ben, to Emmy. We love your entire family, and we just thank and appreciate you for all that you've given to the State of Illinois. Matt, we love you. God bless."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Weaver, for which reason do you seek recognition?"

Weaver: "Mr.... thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Morgan: "Please state your point."

Weaver: "Wow. Where to begin with a man like Matt? What... what a tremendous honor. You know, I was thinking a little bit just about this kind of ragtag contingency that we have down here of Peorians, and we have some in the House, some in the Senate, some staff, some lobbyists. And I think the... the relationship that we have, it's... it's so much like siblings: fierce competitors, can go toe-to-toe, but also such appreciation, love, and respect because we know that we all care so deeply about this city that we came down here to

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represent. And so, the first day I ever met Matt Jones, we were on the wide staircase coming up here, and he stopped me. 'Hi, I'm Matt Jones. Nice to meet you.' And, you know, any time... probably my first year, any time you meet somebody new, you're kind of like, who's this person? What... what do they... what do they want from me? And he says, 'I'm from Peoria. I live... I live just a mile from your house.' And I was like, oh, all right. Let's go. I got somebody I can trust here. We're in the family together. I know he's going to look out for me. And then ever since then... you know, there's only so many people on this earth that you have a relatively few amount of interactions with, but you still know that they want what is in your best interest to happen and... and what is in the best interest for... for everybody to happen. And... and that's Matt. You know, kind of in this Peoria family, one time one of our local judges, Frank Ierulli, was down. And maybe you don't know Frank. He's kind of... he's a very charismatic man, but he's a little introverted and quiet and thoughtful and a little stoic. And he's down with me, and... and Matt comes around the corner, and Judge Ierulli goes, 'Jonesy, what's up man?' And I was like... this is like the second or third time I met Matt Jones, it's like, wow, this guy is really like a Peorian through and through because Judge Ierulli's like screaming across the... across the lobby to... to get his attention. So, that was a... a really neat memory. And then just most recently when Representative Cassidy reached out to me about this, I think it... it speaks about, well, Matt Jones and Representative Cassidy. You have the prosecutor and Representative Cassidy, they're like... we have this bond, and

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I think it speaks so much about him that, you know, he can have these fierce debates and still appreciate somebody for the reasons why we all appreciate people like Representative Cassidy. So, I guess... well, I guess one other thing I found is that... I was doing just a little research on Matt's bio, and one thing I found is it says, 'Matt is responsible for developing and collaborating on several new training opportunities for Illinois, including "Ethics: The Movie."' So, if anybody wants to have any... any homework, I know the Speaker likes to give out books, maybe if we want to have a... a group homework project of watching Matt Jones' 'Ethics: The Movie' that... that could be something fun to do. So, with that... oh, where's my camera? Matt, I love you, brother. Vince Lombardi said, 'The greatest achievement any man could ever enjoy is exhausted, lying on field of battle victorious,' and that's you, brother. You're victorious. God bless you. We're so proud of you. We're so proud of you, to have you in this Peoria family, and your... your legacy will last generations. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Slaughter, for which purpose do you seek recognition?"

Slaughter: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Morgan: "Please state your point."

Slaughter: "Yeah, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wanted to take a moment here just to recognize our great friend, Matt Jones. Matt and Sandy, I know you're listening right now. Matt, I wanted to thank you just for, you know, what you meant to me in my career. But as you've heard, Matt, you've meant so much to so many here in Springfield and here in the chamber. Just

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chairing Jud - Crim over the last seven years, I've worked a lot with you, Matt. We built a... a special bond, a positive, and, quote-unquote, 'productive bond.' We, all of us, Matt, just really appreciate just how kind and caring of a soul you are, such a hard worker. You represented the state's attorneys association so well. You truly just exemplified what it means to be a collaborative partner and a collaborative stakeholder here in Springfield. Like most of the Dems, my... my relationship with Matt started off rocky. I remember it was my first day of Jud - Crim, not as the chair, but just as a... as a ranking Member, and Matt met me, literally, at the door... at the front door. And I'm like, 'Hey, man, what's... how are you?' You know, 'I'm Rep. Slaughter.' I walk in, and I remember turning over to then-Rep. Sims and Rep. Cassidy, like, so who is this guy? What's... what's up with... what's up with this? And both of them, really, just eloquently articulated to me, 'Hey, if you want to be impactful in this space and on this committee, make sure that you introduce yourself to... to Matt and get a chance to... to talk to him.' So, you know, I'm like, okay. So, I'm getting out of seat and both of them are like, 'Wait, wait, wait. Please know he is going to oppose all of your bills, but he's going to be great to work with.' And I'm like, okay. And they were exactly spot-on. Matt, you and I built a bond. I mean, there was times where, you know, Matt, you and I would talk. You would pretty much rip... rip my bill apart. Like, hey, we don't like this, we don't like that, we don't like this. And I would give him that look like, hey, you know. Hey, bro, I think I'm moving this. And he... he looked back at me, he pulled me to the side,

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and he whispered. He said, 'Well, you know, if you really want to move this, these are the couple points that I would highlight for you.' He was one of one, ladies and gentlemen, one of a kind in how he collaborated with Members. It was just a special professional that we're talking about here, an ability to agree, to disagree, but also to pour in time and energy and effort to reach consensus. That's who you are, Matt. We thank you for your commitment. We thank you for your dedication. A true giant when we talk about our public safety community, our criminal justice community. We want to thank you for everything that you do, Matt. We're proud of you. You've shown... and many of us have been following you over the last... especially over the last four or five years. You've shown tremendous resilience and perseverance, and we just thank you for everything that you've meant to us. Keep fighting the good fight. We love you, brother."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader Windhorst, for which purpose do you seek recognition?"

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I first got to know Matt when I was state's attorney of Massac County and he was hired by the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor's Office. And, of course, I've had the opportunity to work with him since then in my current capacity. One of Matt's roles with the appellate prosecutor's office is to provide training, advice, and assistance to the 102 state's attorneys. And this was particularly important to those state's attorneys' offices that had just a few attorneys, like Massac County where I served. And, yes, Rep. Weaver, I have seen 'Ethics: The Movie.' The assistance and advice Matt would give would prove

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to be invaluable. He would remind us of the awesome responsibilities that come with the position of prosecutor: that we, as states' attorneys, have the greatest client anyone could have, the people of the State of Illinois; that our job is to seek justice, not merely convict; that we as prosecutors should behave ethically and treat people fairly while working to preserve public safety and protect our communities. When I think of what Matt tried to instill in us, I think this quote by former Supreme Court Justice and United States Attorney Robert Jackson explains it well. 'The qualities of a good prosecutor are as elusive and impossible to define as those which mark a gentleman. And those who need to be told would not understand it anyway. A sensitiveness to fair play and sportsmanship is perhaps the best protection against abusive power, and the citizen's safety lies in the prosecutor who tempers zeal with human kindness, who seeks truth and not victims, who serves the law and not factional purposes, and who approaches his task with humility.' Matt not only preaches these values, he lives them. Matt, thank you for all you've done for me, for state's attorneys, and for the people for the State of Illinois."

Speaker Morgan: "Thank you, leader. Members, one more round of applause, please, for Matt Jones. We're rooting for you, Matt. Mr. Clerk, Rules Report."

Clerk Bolin: "Representative Gabel, Chairperson from the Committee on Rules reports the following committee action taken on April 7, 2025: recommends be adopted and referred to the floor is Floor Amendment(s) 2 for House Bill 2658 and Floor Amendment(s) 1 for House Bill 3376. Also, from the

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Committee on Rules, Representative Robyn Gabel, Chairperson from the Committee on Rules reports the following committee action taken on April 7, 2025: recommends be adopted and referred to the floor is House... Floor Amendment(s) 2 for House Bill 2456."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Blair-Sherlock, for which purpose do you seek recognition?"

Blair-Sherlock: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Morgan: "Please state your point."

Blair-Sherlock: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like the House to meet my page for the day. This is Jackson Alfano. Jackson is a young man attending Jackson Middle School in my district, and he's in sixth grade. He's here with his parents, Vito and Carine Alfano, who are up in the balcony. And his activities in school include cadet choir, 'Warriored Up' string ensemble, concert orchestra, and their orchestra recently qualified for the state through IGSMMA contest. He participates in the student union, theater and drama. Community activities includes: swimming with the local swim team in the summer, the Villa Park Mariners; he likes to play chess and has been involved in the community theater; he loves reading and visiting the local library; playing video games. And he would like to be a meteorologist when he grows up and wants to help manage the climate crisis that past generations have left. I'd like you all to give a great Springfield welcome to my page, Jackson Alfano."

Speaker Morgan: "The Chair recognizes Leader Keicher for the purpose of an announcement."

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Keicher: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Republicans would request a caucus in Room 118, please."

Speaker Morgan: "And, Leader Keicher, do you have an approximate time on that?"

Keicher: "I would guess slightly in excess of an hour and a half."

Speaker Morgan: "Thank you, Leader. The Democrats will not caucus. Democrats, please stay on the floor. The Republicans will caucus in Room 118 for about approximately one to one and a half hours unless Leader Keicher can make it shorter. The House stands in recess until 2 o'clock. Members, Members, prepare to present your House Bills on Third Reading. Pursuant to House Rule 52, we will be presenting bills under Standard Debate. The sponsor has up to five minutes, up to five minutes, to present their bill, and no more than two Members in support, three Members in opposition are permitted to respond or ask questions. Leader Guzzardi for an announcement."

Guzzardi: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please excuse Representative Camille Lilly for the remainder of the day."

Speaker Morgan: "Thank you, leader. Proceeding to the Order of House Bills on Second Reading, we have House Bill 3356, Representative Lisa Davis on behalf of the sponsor, Representative Ammons. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3356, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. The bill was read for a second time previously. Amendment #1 is offered by Representative Ammons."

Speaker Morgan: "Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Representative Davis to explain the amendment."

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Davis, L.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What the amendment does is it cleans up a drafting error."

Speaker Morgan: "Thank you, Representative. Representative Davis moves adoption of Floor Amendment #1 to... moves adoption of Floor Amendment #1. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the amendment is adopted. Any further amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Bolin: "No further amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Morgan: "Third Reading. Mr. Clerk, read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3356, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Davis."

Davis, L.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the House, African-style hair braiding is a cultural practice dating back thousands of years and passed down through generations. Currently, Illinois requires 300 hours of expensive training from a licensed braiding instructor in a licensed school. What House Bill 3356 does is it exempts hair braiding from licensure and it gives skilled women the opportunity to earn a living practicing their heritage... their cultural heritage. It is also fully supported by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation as well as the Governor's Office. I ask you guys to vote 'yes' on House Bill 3356. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "Is there any discussion? Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she will."

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Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, you're presenting this on behalf of Representative Ammons. Is that correct?"

Davis, L.: "That is correct."

Windhorst: "Yeah, thank you. The underlying bill had some provisions regarding incarcerated persons, and I believe those were eliminated with the amendment. Is that accurate?"

Davis, L.: "From my understanding, what the amendment initially did was clean up some drafting errors. However, what I will say is that the bill also... yes, sir, it does."

Windhorst: "And this is simply, as you stated, taking those who are... currently have to be licensed out of the licensing process because you, or the sponsor, do not believe that's necessary, the licensing process is not necessary. Is that correct?"

Davis, L.: "Correct. Just to give you example, there might be some young women right now in their homes braiding hair. Me personally, I get my hair braided all the time because for most African American women, it is a protective hairstyle. So, currently, as I stated before, the law requires them to go through school through a licensed trainer for 300 hours, basically preventing some people from earning a living. So, we are just asking for an exemption for hair braiders from licensure."

Windhorst: "And this bill, as well as the amendment, passed committee unanimously. Is that correct?"

Davis, L.: "That is my understanding."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Davis, L.: "Thank you."

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Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Leader Guzzardi is recognized."

Guzzardi: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she will."

Guzzardi: "Representative, thank you for bringing this important measure before us today. I noticed that you yourself, Representative Davis, are a cosponsor and Representative Jed Davis is a cosponsor. Can you speak to the reason why Representative Will Davis was not invited to be a chief cosponsor on this bill? Is it because it's a bill pertaining to hair styling, Representative Davis?"

Davis, L.: "Rep... Representative, what I will tell you is, in the Davis Caucus, when you have one or two Members, it's automatic that the third Member is also a part of that bill."

Guzzardi: "I... I wasn't familiar with the bylaws of the Davis Caucus. Thank you for informing me. Thank you for presenting your first bill on the House floor today. We're very proud to have you on board. This is an important measure."

Davis, L.: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, the Chair recognizes the sponsor, Representative Davis, to close."

Davis, L.: "Members, I just ask that you vote 'yes' on the bill. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "Thank you, Representative. The question is, 'Shall House Bill 3356 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed say (sic-vote) 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 107 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' and 0 voting

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'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. On page 42 of the calendar, we have House Bill 3438 from Representative Andrade. Mr. Clerk, read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House... House Bill 3438, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Andrade is recognized."

Andrade: "Mr. Speaker, House Bill 3438 is initiative of IDOT. It requires IDOT to develop and implement a life-cycle costs analysis for each state new construction, reconstruction, or replacement road project for projects over... exceed 500,000. Also, it allows IDOT employees from Aeronautics Division on the Residential Sound Insulation Program Advisory Committee to cast the breaking vote only and requires a crash report to be submitted in electrical format. That's the gist of the bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Seeing some discussion, Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates that he will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. What brought this bill forward?"

Andrade: "IDOT. IDOT brought the bill forward. It's just... it's updating their... they were going through their... their listing of some of the bills and just... it's to update their construction and reconstruction reduction. IDOT brought the bill themselves. It wasn't... it's not... it's not a... a industry or construction industry."

Windhorst: "And with regard to the life-cycle analysis, those are for projects exceeding 500,000. Is that correct?"

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Andrade: "That is correct."

Windhorst: "And what is hoped to be gained by that analysis?"

Andrade: "It is to see if... which material is better suited, if it's either asphalt or the cement, and that's... that's what it... it's for."

Windhorst: "And the bill also mandates electronic crash reporting. It appears from our analysis that currently 95% of crash reports are electronic and only 5% are filed on paper. Is that correct to your knowledge?"

Andrade: "Yes, that is correct. So, also, IDOT would like to resolve this repeat finding legislatively. That's what it... that's what it's also for, for the... the previous question that you asked."

Windhorst: "And then with regard to the Residential Sound Insulation Committee, there was an issue about the IDOT member appointee having a vote, and now they'll be moved to a nonvoting or a tie-breaking member. Is that correct?"

Andrade: "It's not... it's not a nonvoting. It's that they would only vote when they are needed to break a vote."

Windhorst: "I see."

Andrade: "Break a tie."

Windhorst: "Break a tie. All right."

Andrade: "That's the only reason why."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Andrade: "I respectfully request an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "Almost there, Representative. Leader Keicher is recognized for further discussion."

Keicher: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please excuse Representative Weaver for the remainder of the day."

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Speaker Morgan: "Thank you, Leader Keicher. There being no further discussion, Leader Andrade to close."

Andrade: "I respectfully request an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 3438 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 107 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Proceeding to the... the Order of House Bills on Second Reading again, House Bill 3637, Representative Avelar. Mr. Clerk, read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3637, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. The bill was read for a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #1 is offered by Representative Avelar."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Avelar to explain the amendment."

Avelar: "Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The amendment actually is something that allows for... actually, it was a change that we made due to the OAG's office feedback that... and they were concerned about using the term 'peer-reviewed research' as a standard, so the amendment strikes that term and relies on the World Health Organization instead."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Avelar moves adoption of Floor Amendment #1. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the amendment is adopted. Any further amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

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Clerk Bolin: "No further amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Morgan: "Third Reading. Mr. Clerk, read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3637, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Representative Avelar is recognized."

Avelar: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. HB3637 strengthens Illinois' commitment to protecting health care providers and patients by expanding our shield law protections and reinforcing the Illinois Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to safeguard access to medication abortion. This bill can be broken into two key areas: One of them is amendments to the shield law, the second one being amendments to the Illinois Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. Just as a reminder, Illinois enacted its shield law in 2023 to protect health care professionals who provide lawful care in our state. In 2024, we strengthened its protections by preventing Illinois agencies from assisting out-of-state law enforcement in investigating lawful health care provider... provided here in Illinois. So, what this bill would do is it would expand its protections further by embedding them into various health care practice acts, and this will ensure that all health care professionals authorized to practice in Illinois, not just primary licensed holders, are protected. The second major piece of this bill addresses the looming threat to medication abortion access. We know that Project 2025 has called for the revoking of FDA approval for medication abortion drugs, and we cannot wait to react after the fact. We must take proactive steps to protect Illinois patients and providers now. So, HB3637 includes language that

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would ensure that if the FDA revokes approval of a medication, prescribing it will not be considered a violation of Illinois law as long as it remains recommended by the World Health Organization. And while this won't override federal law, it would ensure that providers in Illinois are not penalized under state law for prescribing necessary care. I'm open to any questions."

Speaker Morgan: "Thank you, Representative. Is there any discussion? Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. The first portion that you mentioned, Representative, is designed to protect those under several licensing acts. It looks like maybe a dozen different licensing acts. Is that correct?"

Avelar: "That... that is correct, Representative. We have here... do you want me to name them? We have the licensed practical nurses, licensed prescribing psychologists, licensed social workers, as well as licensed assistant behavioral analysts."

Windhorst: "And those acts that are added are going to be included with other professionals that have been added in prior years, like you had mentioned, correct?"

Avelar: "Correct."

Windhorst: "And this is only as it relates to involvement in something that is, perhaps, unlawful in another state that is lawful in Illinois. Is that correct?"

Avelar: "That's lawful in Illinois, correct."

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Windhorst: "And I believe in your explanation, primarily regarding abortion, is that the... the driving force behind this legislation coming forward?"

Avelar: "I think overall what this legislation is about is in making sure that when it comes to lawful health care performed in Illinois that we are making sure that we're protecting individuals who are doing that."

Windhorst: "If there is a discipline that is taken in an out-of-state jurisdiction against those under this licensing act or others that is related to abortion, which is legal in this state but perhaps not in another, not necessarily the fact that it was performed, but in the manner it was performed, how would this shield act protect those individuals?"

Avelar: "Yeah, so... so, as I mentioned before when it comes to... while this wouldn't override federal law, it would ensure that providers in Illinois are not penalized under state law. And this is, again, for prescribing necessary care."

Windhorst: "And then the other aspect of it dealing with the FDA, is there any concern or has this been evaluated for federal preemption issues? The FDA regulations are generally federal... they are federal regulations. Generally, we allow the federal government to handle the approval of drugs. That is... typically, when the federal government acts that preempts state action. Have... has this been evaluated to see whether this would violate federal law?"

Avelar: "Well, one of the things that we wanted to make sure is that we were being proactive. And we know that currently at a federal level, there are multiple entities that are being weakened, for the lack of a better word. So, we want to make

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sure that when it comes to this particular issue that FDA approval for medication abortion would not be something... or, actually, if the FDA were to take this medication out of its FDA approval that it would not still ban or limit access to medication abortion in Illinois."

Windhorst: "And we are potentially surrendering our application to whatever the World Health Organization approves versus what the FDA has approved or disapproved. Is that your intention?"

Avelar: "The World Health Organization, to my understanding, is also made up of experienced health care providers as well. So, I'm... I'm confident on their... on what they put out with regards to safety of drugs."

Windhorst: "And the intention behind the bill is to protect the accessibility of the abortion pill. Is that correct?"

Avelar: "Could you repeat that again, Representative?"

Windhorst: "Is it the intention behind the bill to protect access to the abortion pill?"

Avelar: "The intent is to... to protect a lawful health care access here in Illinois."

Windhorst: "Specifically to the abortion pill. Is that accurate?"

Avelar: "Yes. Correct. That's accurate. It will be covered."

Windhorst: "But this would apply beyond the abortion pill, correct? It's not limited just to that."

Avelar: "It's not specific to the abortion pill."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader Haas is recognized."

Haas: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she will."

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Haas: "Thank you so much. Just for a point of clarification on... on some of the questions that my colleague was asking with regard to the amending of the licensure act. If an individual who's licensed in another state is involved with performing medical procedures involving abortion, and the situation, perhaps, may have not gone in the way that one would... would like, and there would be a medical malpractice act... or a medical malpractice claim against that individual, they lose their license in that state. They now come to Illinois and apply to have their license here. This law would now protect them from IDFPR looking into the claim against their license in another state, correct?"

Avelar: "It does not protect against malpractice. What I would say is it would protect for them to be able to provide lawful care here in Illinois, but it... it does not protect against malpractice."

Haas: "It... only in the case if the malpractice claim were found or just a claim in general?"

Avelar: "Could you repeat that again? Sorry, couldn't hear."

Haas: "So, it would... potentially, a person could have lost their license in another state, correct? And typically, they lose their license in another state because of malpractice."

Avelar: "So, if the issue is that the person lost their license because they were providing care that wasn't lawful in another state but it's lawful here in Illinois..."

Haas: "That's not my question. They're providing care that was lawful in the state that they're leaving, but they lost their license because of improper care, which is typically why one would lose a license. They're now coming to Illinois to get

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a license reinstated. Illinois will now, because of this piece of legislation, not be able to find out why it was that they perhaps lost their license or... or what the cause for that was, correct?"

Avelar: "I think what I would reinstate is that this is not... when it comes to malpractice, if there is malpractice issues when it comes to a license, that is not what this bill is about."

Haas: "So, when a person loses their license in another state, can you help me understand what other than malpractice would be the cause for that?"

Avelar: "If it... if it's a violation of that state's statutes to provide care, it would be... yeah, this is... this is what it's getting at."

Haas: "If one is violating a state statute that's against their license, that's cause for malpractice."

Avelar: "Well, but this bill... this bill is not about malpractice, though. What we're..."

Haas: "Someone who loses their license in another state is losing it because they're violating either behavior or practicing beyond their scope, which is malpractice."

Avelar: "I'm trying to understand your questions here and..."

Haas: "To the... to the bill."

Avelar: "Yes."

Haas: "I'll restate what I just said."

Speaker Morgan: "To the bill."

Haas: "If an individual is losing their license in another state, they're losing it because they practiced beyond the scope of their license or they've committed malpractice. I recommend a 'no' vote."

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Speaker Morgan: "Dr. Hauter is recognized."

Hauter: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "Indicates that she will."

Hauter: "Okay, so I get the part where you say that if a drug is not approved by the FDA but is approved by the World Health Organization that it would be then permissible to have this drug prescribed in Illinois. I get that part. How about if a drug is specifically found to be unsafe by the FDA and not approved? So... so, it doesn't have approval yet. In this scenario, it has actively been disapproved for use. Would that be a drug that would be... be able to be prescribed in Illinois?"

Avelar: "I want to make sure that I understand it. If it has been approved by the FDA but not by the World Health Organization? Is that what you're asking?"

Hauter: "No. Let me just state it again. So, it's been approved by the World Health Organization. It has not been approved by the FDA. And, in fact, in this scenario, it has been disproved, meaning it has been rejected from use because it's been found to be unsafe. So, it... it has been found to be unsafe by the FDA, but yet it is approved for use by the World Health Organization. Would that be able to be prescribed in Illinois?"

Avelar: "So, this particular bill, when we're talking about drugs, we're specifically talking about medication abortion. So, if that were the case, I would just say that the language does not cure other federal issues the prescribing health care professional might run into in the event that the FDA does revoke approval of these drugs. It will, however, prevent

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prescribing these drugs from being a violation in Illinois law."

Hauter: "Okay, just to... just to clarify, then. A drug that is found to be unsafe by the FDA but approved by the World Health Organization would be able to be prescribed in Illinois."

Avelar: "What I would say is that FDA approval for medication abortion, if the FDA revokes that, we would still, in Illinois, be able to have these drugs from being able to... to be prescribed in the state."

Hauter: "To the bill."

Speaker Morgan: "To the bill."

Hauter: "Mr. Speaker, this is outrageous. We are saying that approval of a drug by the World Health Organization but active rejection because of safety by the U.S. federal drug administration, would be able to be prescribed in Illinois. We have to stop this fort of breaking down all of the safety mechanisms we have around abortion. There has to be some safety mechanisms, whether it be in the abortion clinic or it would be with abortion medications. Do not reject the authority of the U.S. federal drug administration. This is an important safety mechanism. This bill would reject that. I don't know if this is... this is unprecedented in my mind. I urge a strong 'no' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Avelar to close."

Avelar: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've heard time and time again with regards to some of the... what's been happening at the federal level. What we're doing here with this is we are making fixes to the shield law, as well as making sure that

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when it comes to the FDA... and we've found time and time again that when it comes to departments at the federal level and agencies, we have seen their power weakened, to be quite honest. And we want to make sure that here in Illinois that we are strengthening our laws and make sure that people who are looking for reproductive access to... to reproductive health care access don't find anymore barriers. So, with that, I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 3637 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 67 votes in 'favor,' 39 votes 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Proceeding back to the Order of House Bills on Second Reading, we have House Bill 3095. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3095, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. The bill was read for a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. No Floor Amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Morgan: "Mr. Clerk, are... any further amendments?"

Clerk Bolin: "No further amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Morgan: "Third Reading. Representative Blair-Sherlock, please read the bill. Oh, Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3095, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Blair-Sherlock to present."

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Blair-Sherlock: "Thank you. Okay, this bill is not a super complicated bill. What it does is it lowers the number of people required to be on the regional authorities. This is with respect to the Guardianship and Advocacy Act. It lowers the number of people to a minimum of seven, maximum of nine. And it also resets the quorum requirement to 'the quorum shall consist of the majority of the appointed members' because it will fluctuate. The reason for this bill is that the regional authorities were having difficulty filling their boards and meeting their quorums, and they need to get business done. So, this is our way to address that issue. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "Is there any discussion? Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Why is this bill being brought forward?"

Blair-Sherlock: "Because... well, first of all, I took this bill over, but it was brought forward because the regional authorities were having difficulty meeting quorums and having enough people on their boards. So, we're just lowering the threshold a little bit so they can conduct business."

Windhorst: "And what are some of the things the... the boards do? What... what's their role?"

Blair-Sherlock: "They deal with mental health care availability and accessibility for people with developmental disabilities and vocational rehabilitation."

Windhorst: "And we also show that they are involved with investigation into allegations of rights violations committed against persons with disabilities. Is that accurate?"

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Blair-Sherlock: "Not... not that I'm aware of. I would have to get back to you on that, but I... I do not believe so. I think that there are other authorities that can take care of that."

Windhorst: "And will this involve any issues with the Open Meetings Act by making this change?"

Blair-Sherlock: "No, not at all. It's just reducing the number, which... which makes it easier for them to conduct business on a regular basis."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Blair-Sherlock: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Leader Keicher is recognized."

Keicher: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you could please excuse Representative Haas for the remainder of the day."

Speaker Morgan: "Seeing no further discussion, Representative Blair-Sherlock to close."

Blair-Sherlock: "Thank you. This... this bill passed out of committee unanimously. It's a bipartisan bill. It's really to help make government more effective and enable them to do their job, and I would ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 3095 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. With... on this question, there are 104 voting in 'favor,' 0... 1 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Proceeding to page 39 of the calendar, House Bill

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2754, Representative Briel is recognized. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 2754, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Briel."

Briel: "Thank you. Today, I'm presenting House Bill 2754, which is a two-part change to streamline the ability for local municipalities to make decisions based on their zoning requirements. What this bill does is it gives mayors and local officials the ability to vote in zoning plans. It also removes the threshold from two-thirds to a simple majority."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she will."

Windhorst: "Just so I understand, we're expanding the authority for mayors, village presidents, and chief executive officers to have a right to vote?"

Briel: "In zoning issues, yes."

Windhorst: "And why are we making that change?"

Briel: "There've been multiple situations in different areas that have arisen due to the ability to delay certain social service organizations from establishing in communities. So, in my community, we went through almost two years before a health and wellness halfway house was able to get approval because getting it through the council was so challenging. This also affected Arlington Heights. They had a critical housing project that was delayed for a significant amount of time because it was unlawful for the mayor to vote."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

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Speaker Morgan: "Representative McLaughlin, for which purpose do you rise?"

McLaughlin: "Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got a few questions for the sponsor."

Speaker Morgan: "The sponsor shall yield."

McLaughlin: "Okay, great. Quick question. Does this violate the state constitutional protections for appointed? Because, as you know, zoning boards are not elected, and they're appointed specifically to keep them removed from the political processes that this will entangle them in. Are you... what's your position on that?"

Briel: "I do not believe that it does and neither does research, but we can definitely get back to you on that."

McLaughlin: "Yeah, I can tell you it does. As a former mayor for eight years with 20 years of zoning lawsuits in Barrington Hills, it does. And the thing about zoning boards is that zoning boards are specifically constructed to last beyond the time of mayors being in office, mainly because zoning boards are supposed to have a lot of certainty and longevity so that residents know when they invest money, or whether they buy property, or they buy a... a property that's specifically zoned a certain way that like a windsock, it's not going to change with elections every two years. So, in... in this instance, whether Arlington Heights had an issue or not, the statute is very clear. The reason that planning commissions and zoning boards are not elected is to specifically keep them separate from what you're trying to do on this bill here. So, for those reasons, I would suggest... urge a 'no' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Cassidy is recognized."

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Cassidy: "Question of the sponsor."

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

Cassidy: "Representative, is this your first bill?"

Briel: "Yes, it is."

Cassidy: "I'm glad to hear that. Like a lot of times, and you sometimes get warned about this, but, you know, sometimes there are unintended consequences. And so, I'm just really curious, does this impact any... any of the rights of skateboarders?"

Briel: "Actually, unfortunately..."

Cassidy: "I mean, I know zoning boards tend to hate them."

Briel: "Yes. Yeah, yeah. No, it does not affect skateboarders, but we could put that in there. Maybe..."

Cassidy: "So, it... so, for example, if a municipality was attempting to prevent a skate park from coming in, your theory is that a mayor might be able to push it over the top."

Briel: "Exactly. Right."

Cassidy: "And is this a secret Murri agenda to get more skate parks?"

Briel: "Perhaps. Yeah, it might be. I... I think everyone should have skate and dog parks. But this goes just a little bit more important than that, including homes for people with disabilities, CILAs, the ability to have independent living communities when a zoning board, who has sat there together with longevity for a long time, doesn't want it in their backyard because they're not aware of the need. They're removed from the situation. Those that get elected actually have to talk to people."

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Cassidy: "So, this is very much a YIMBY bill. I love it. I urge an 'aye' vote."

Briel: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Briel to close."

Briel: "I think this is a very important, and I urge an 'aye' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 2754 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 68 voting in 'favor,' 37 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Returning to the Order of House Bills on Second Reading, we have Rep.. Leader Buckner with House Bill 2973. Out of the record. Staying on Orders of House Bills on Second Reading, we have House Bill 2584, Representative Cassidy. Mr. Clerk, read the bill. Sorry, Mr. Clerk, out of the record. House Bill 1538, Representative Chung. Mr. Clerk, read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1538, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Third Reading. Mr. Clerk.. Representative Chung is recognized."

Chung: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm here to present House Bill 1538. It's a very simple bill that helps my lovely community, Bloomington-Normal. What it does, it allows the Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District that they can enter into an agreement to sell, convey, or disburse treated wastewater to

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a private entity located within 50 miles of our district's boundaries and also may accept wastewater for treatment from a private entity within 50 miles of our district's boundaries. It passed unanimously in the Cities &... Cities & Villages Committee, and I ask for your 'aye' vote today."

Speaker Morgan: "Is there any discussion? Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. What brought this bill forward?"

Chung: "Sure. Leader, we... in Bloomington-Normal, we have had... I guess lots... lots of other communities around the state, we've had interest in possible, like, data centers to be coming in and for us to be able to... Bloomington-Normal to be able to use their treated wastewater in this manner to help with data center cooling. I see it as a great way for economic development."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Chung: "Thank you so much."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Chung to close."

Chung: "I ask for your 'aye' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1538 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 106 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed.

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Proceeding to page 31 of the calendar, we have House Bill 42 with Representative Costa Howard. Mr. Clerk, read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 42, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Costa Howard is recognized."

Costa Howard: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 42 is an... an initiative of the Helen Plum Library in my district. What we found is people who live outside of a taxing body for our libraries have to pay their fee all in one fell swoop. And what we know is, people want to use our local libraries. So, what House Bill 42 does is that it authorizes the board of trustees for a library to assess costs of persons residing outside that service area from which their library taxes are generated, and it allows them to actually move that into a system so that they don't have to pay it in one lump sum. It does not change the way the fee is calculated, and it actually is a real help to let our individuals in our communities continue to use our library in an affordable way. I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "Is there any discussion? Representative Halbbrook is recognized."

Halbrook: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the gentlelady yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she will."

Halbrook: "Thank you. Representative, can you explain to us how this installment process works? How does the accounting work in this scenario that you're proposing here?"

Costa Howard: "I'm sorry, Representative. Can you... I'm not exactly sure what you're asking. Accounting is done... I'm not sure what you're asking."

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Halbrook: "Yeah, so you want to move to an installment process to allow the payment of this fee over an annual basis. Is that correct?"

Costa Howard: "It's up for the... it's not statewide, Representative. Just so that you're clear, this allows our library boards to enter a policy that would allow them to do that. It is not something that every library board has to do. It allows... once again, you and I love that local control, it allows that local control to continue."

Halbrook: "Right. And I... and I... I understand that part, and I think we all understand that part. But... but you're setting up a process for this fee to be paid over monthly installments, correct?"

Costa Howard: "It's quarterly or biannually, and that's determined by each individual library board, and they, too, would be required to decide what their accounting process would be. Again, the essence of local control."

Halbrook: "Okay. And that... that's to my question, I think, is... is how will it be accounted for, and... and so, is that provided for in this legislation? I... sounds like we set up quarterly or semiannually payments. And so, you're going to give the local board the authority to account for it however they see fit?"

Costa Howard: "Correct. That's what they do now. If an individual pays, they have to pay in full. And so, we know that in many of our communities that don't actually... are not part of the individual taxing body that can be over \$1,000 for some families. And so, this allows them, to the individual library board, to set that up and make that determination. And so,

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within that individual library, they will decide their accounting process and how they take care of that."

Halbrook: "Yeah, and it... and it makes sense to me. So, is it provided for, in this bill, that they... the payment would be due at the beginning of the quarter or the beginning of the time that way if they become delinquent and don't make that, then the... the services are then cut off? How... how does that factor in?"

Costa Howard: "Again, Representative, we will allow our library boards and each individual library to make that determination, as they know the best needs of their communities."

Halbrook: "Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, I think this bill's fine. I just want to make sure there's protections for the taxpayers in the district that are... are being affected. Hopefully, the local boards will do what they need to do to... to make sure that that continues to be the case. And with that, Mr. Chairman... Mr. Speaker, I have no further questions."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader Keicher is recognized."

Keicher: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she will."

Keicher: "Excellent. Representative, I'm a former president of a local library, and just a couple refining questions. Is this for both public and district libraries?"

Costa Howard: "We did not make that specification in the bill, Representative. I can talk to the Senate sponsor. If we need further clarity, we are happy to do that. Again, this was a piece of legislation that was brought to me directly from my local school board. Yep, municipal and township."

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Keicher: "Okay."

Costa Howard: "Yes, we have clarification. I apologize."

Keicher: "And is there geography parameter around which members of the community can come in and do it? Because we ran into this frequently, and... and especially in a rural area, we needed... had a ton of students who wanted to use it and have that in place. So, I love the idea, love the concept, but we've got a long geography that stretches into other school districts and other communities."

Costa Howard: "We don't have that limitation. And... and I guess I would say this. I know in my area, Representative, that what they do is it's an automatic that a... a student who's in... a school student, a K-12, that they have access to that library for free, no matter what. That... those are policies that we know that we have locally, at least in my community we do. And my school districts take care of that as well. So, I don't believe that that... I would argue that's not an issue. I worked with the Illinois Library Association on this... on this bill language, and this was the recommendation per them."

Keicher: "Okay. Yeah, and my fear is that we'd be closing out some potentially smaller libraries that are just starting out in the community and create a really anti-competitive system in our area."

Costa Howard: "If you have a suggestion, Representative, I'm... I'm happy to entertain that..."

Keicher: "Yeah."

Costa Howard: "...and we can talk to the Senate sponsor. I... I never want to send it to the Senate and say we have to fix it, but I'd be more than happy to work on that because we don't. We

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want the more libraries, the better. If our community can afford to keep that up, that's what we would want to do."

Keicher: "And the dollar amount would still be sessed, though how it's spread.."

Costa Howard: "Absolutely."

Keicher: "...whatever that tax rate would yield for that property where they live?"

Costa Howard: "Correct. Nothing in the bill touches that fee and how that fee is calculated. Only the payment of how that would works, to not have to be done in a lump sum."

Keicher: "And how you...would that treat tenant occupancies?"

Costa Howard: "How would you... do they treat now, Representative? They would have... I mean, again, it would... it would be... it's determined by... there's nothing in the bill that changes the way it is being done currently."

Keicher: "So... and this is what I worry about, especially imagine a four-unit building and that individual doesn't pay the property taxes, but they aren't in the district of the public library. Is there a suggested schedule that this offers?"

Costa Howard: "There is nothing in the bill that does that. Again, it gives the... as I said, we worked with the Illinois Library Association on it to give the flexibility to the boards to make those kinds of determinations intentionally."

Keicher: "Okay, thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Costa Howard to close."

Costa Howard: "This is an opportunity for us to make the use of our libraries financially easier for people who don't live within that taxing body. So, I ask for an 'aye' vote."

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Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 42 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 94 voting in 'favor,' 11 voting 'against,' and 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Moving to page 33, House Bill 1366, with Representative Crawford. Mr. Clerk, read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1366, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Crawford."

Crawford: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 1366 amends the School Code to inform parents or guardians that they have the ability to have an advocate present at individualized education program or IEP meetings. It does two things. This bill makes clarifying changes to the ISBE notice of conference template to inform parents or guardians of students in need of an IEP that they can bring the following individuals to meetings: advocates for the family, child... family or child, people knowledgeable of the IEP process, and people knowledgeable about their child... their child's needs. Unfortunately, many families do not know that they have the ability to do this, which is enshrined in the... in Section 504 of the Rehab Act. The bill also directs ISBE to provide a one-pager to school districts regarding their facilitated IEP process that is a free service offered by ISBE that can be distributed to parent or guardians in whichever manner is

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typical for dissemination of this type of information at that district."

Speaker Morgan: "Is there any discussion? Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates that he will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, this right currently exists in law and we are expanding the notice to make parents aware of the right to have someone present?"

Crawford: "That is correct. This... and this bill came out of my discussions with constituents who weren't aware of their ability to have this... these individuals present. While it is enshrined in federal law, and... and state law actually, the information is just not getting to the hands of the parents. While they know their school, they may know their district, they don't necessarily know ISBE, which is where you find this information. So, I am simply just putting it in hand on documentation that is common... commonly given to parents."

Windhorst: "And would this individual who could be present include having an attorney present? Would that be allowed?"

Crawford: "This is... I mean, the person would not be functioning as an attorney. I guess they could perhaps be an attorney, but most advocates are not. In fact, our attorney general puts out a document already, which I've just learned about in recent weeks, about how to choose an advocate that's a nonattorney advocate, but to make sure that individuals choose folks who are knowledgeable of the IEP process and are able to provide that service."

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Windhorst: "Are we expecting any cost to the state with this law change?"

Crawford: "We're not. This is... the facilitated IEP process is already a free service that's... that's offered. We are just informing, providing information to parents that they may have these services available to them."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader Elik is recognized."

Elik: "Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates that he will."

Elik: "Thank you. In committee, Representative, I think I missed asking you a really important question, so I don't want to miss it today. Is this your first bill?"

Crawford: "This is indeed my first bill."

Elik: "Okay. Thank you, well done."

Crawford: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Ford, for which purpose do you rise?"

Ford: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates that he will."

Ford: "Representative Crawford, I had a lot of questions, but you did such a good job handling the bill from the beginning. But I do have one question for you. I've been looking for the amendment that you tabled. Could you tell what table I can find that on?"

Crawford: "There is a small end table in my Airbnb that I'm placing all of my bill ideas and all the things that I'm tabling in this House underneath. So, they're gathering dust there right now."

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Ford: "Well, Representative, I would like to see it, and, you know, it's a rule around here. Maybe you could pull this from the record, run and get this tabled amendment, bring it back so I can make sure it's safe, and I keep the tabled amendment so you don't use it again."

Crawford: "On second thought, I think I may have spilled coffee on it, so it's illegible at this point."

Ford: "All right. Thank you very much (unintelligible) great job. I urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Crawford to close."

Crawford: "I urge an 'aye' vote, 118 of them, hopefully."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1366 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 105 voting 'favor,' 1 voting 'nay,' 0 voting 'against...' voting 'present.' And this bill, having received the constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continue on Third Reading, page 38 of the calendar, we have House Bill 2456 with Representative Croke. Mr. Clerk, please read the record. Please read the bill. Moving back to Order of Second Reading... Mr. Clerk, please read the bill on Second Reading."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 2456, a Bill for an Act concerning business. The bill was read for a second time previously. Amendment #1 was adopted in committee. Floor Amendment #2 is offered by Representative Croke."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Croke to explain the amendment."

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Croke: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The amendment is a page and line amendment that is technical. It adds 'with' after 'that' to make a 'person charged fees by a third-party restaurant reservation service that with respect to the reservation listed, advertised, promoted, or sold in violation of the Act, may bring a civil action.'"

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Croke moves adoption of Floor Amendment #2. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the amendment is adopted. Any further amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Bolin: "No further amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Morgan: "Third Reading. Mr. Clerk, read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 2456, a Bill for an Act concerning business. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Croke."

Croke: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 2456 creates the Restaurant Reservation Anti-Piracy Act. The bill would prevent third-party restaurant reservation services from listing, advertising, or selling reservations for a restaurant without a written agreement with that restaurant. I just want to quickly explain the bill in practice. So, for a lot of restaurants in Chicago, something that's occurring right now is they will post their reservations on a platform like OpenTable or Resy, which they have a third-party agreement with, and then a other service will go in and take all those reservations with a bot and then sell those on a third-party. A customer can then go buy that reservation, which was originally free, sometimes up to 400 or 700 dollars

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when I last looked. None of that money goes to the restaurant itself. This is really a lose-lose situation if we allow this to persist. Guests are going to have to pay an exorbitant fee in order to just go to a restaurant. If those reservations fail to resell, restaurant owners and workers will have to deal with the expense of no-shows, and restaurants are already working on a very thin margin right now. It's impossible for these restaurants to have to plan accordingly when they think they are fully booked and then they have to absorb the costs of those empty tables. This bill does not apply to reservation services like OpenTable, Resy, or Tock. It does not prevent a reservation from requiring a down deposit that is then applied to the restaurant experience. I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "Is there any discussion? Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. How will this be enforced?"

Croke: "So, basically, the appointment trader or the third party will not... will no longer be able to operate. There could be... the AG's Office could essentially issue a fine. There would be a fine of \$1,000 for every situation in which a reservation were posted. That's the fee associated with this. Currently, the restaurants are trying to issue cease and desist, but the operators are not responding to that."

Windhorst: "And it appears there's also a private right of action. Is that for the restaurants..."

Croke: "Yes."

Windhorst: "...to sue the third party?"

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Croke: "Yes."

Windhorst: "Is there any limitation on damages or how those will be calculated specified in the bill?"

Croke: "One moment. The only thing that they would cover... could recover for is injunctive relief, actual damages, attorney's fees, other remedies, actions alleging a violation. They're... they're stipulated under Section 15(b), 1-4."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Croke to close."

Croke: "Ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 2456 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 105 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 1 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Moving to page 34 of the calendar, House Bill 1411, Representative Davidsmeyer. Mr. Clerk, read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1411, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Davidsmeyer is recognized."

Davidsmeyer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 1411 is a refile of a bill from last year that made it through the House but went nowhere in the Senate. It passed unanimously, and the only thing we're doing is trying to ensure that the materials that kids are receiving when they discuss bullying are age appropriate. I encourage an 'aye' vote."

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Speaker Morgan: "There being no discussion, Representative Davidsmeyer to close. All right. No further discussion, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 1411 pass?' All... all in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 106 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' and 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Returning to Orders of Second Reading, page 18, we have House Bill 3011 with Representative Davis. Mr. Clerk, read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3011, a Bill for an Act concerning education. The bill was read for a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. No Floor Amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Morgan: "Third Reading. Representative Davis is recognized for House Bill 3011."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3011, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Davis."

Davis, J.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill is really basic. It brings community college trustees, elected officials into the world that of all the other elected officials in Illinois live with the... the ability to take an oath upon being sworn into office."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader Guzzardi is recognized."

Guzzardi: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates that he will."

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Guzzardi: "Thank you, Representative Davis, for bringing this forward. It's another great bill today with your name on it. Can you tell us about the oath? What... what will they swear in the oath?"

Davis, J.: "Yeah, it is the exact same oath that all elected officials kind of take across Illinois. So, to the constitutions, Illinois and United States Constitution."

Guzzardi: "Uh-huh. So, they'll swear to follow the provisions, uphold the United States Constitution and the Illinois Constitution?"

Davis, J.: "Correct."

Guzzardi: "And your view is that it's important for every elected official at every level, from community college boards all the way to the president of the United States, be required to follow the Constitution. Is that correct?"

Davis, J.: "That is correct."

Guzzardi: "So, you know, for instance, the United States Constitution, which requires the separation of powers between the executive and the legislative branches, that that Constitution ought to be upheld by our elected officials at every level of government?"

Davis, J.: "Yeah, no, I don't doubt that. I'm not sure where you're leading with the questions, but I'm looking to uphold the constitution and have officials abide by them."

Guzzardi: "I know you are, and you do a wonderful job of that here in this chamber. And I'm just echoing the importance of this bill because I believe that, as you do, elected officials at every level of government should be responsible to upholding the principles of the constitution under which they

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serve. When a judge orders you to take action, you have to follow it. That's the constitution. When powers are reserved to the legislative branch, the executive branch can't trample on them. That's... that's the constitution, and... and I think it's a really important moment for us today to underscore the values of our democracy are contingent on upholding the constitution and that elected officials at every level ought to proceed in that manner. Thank you for this very important bill, and I urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Davis to close."

Davis, J.: "I, too, urge an 'aye' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 3011 pass?' All in... all in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 106 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' and 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Staying on Orders of Third Reading, on page 35, we have House Bill 1697, Representative Davis. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill..."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Lisa Davis, Mr. Clerk. My apologies."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1697, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Lisa Davis, please proceed."

Davis, L.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 1697 would require training for telecommunicators or 911 dispatchers on

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recognition protocols for cardiac arrest and hands-only CPR instruction for callers. This is known as T-CPR. To date, 13 other states all require T-CPR training requirements for 911 telecommunicators. I would urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates that he will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, is this your second bill?"

Davis, L.: "Technically, it's my first bill, but the second bill that I'm presenting today."

Windhorst: "Okay, thank you. What brought this bill forward?"

Davis, L.: "So, this bill was brought to me by the American Heart Association. I think it's an important bill. I think it's a bill that will save many lives across the State of Illinois. And I think, with this bill, it really shows that 911 dispatchers are true first responders. So, I... again, I think this is an important bill, and I would urge an 'aye' vote."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Lisa Davis to close."

Davis, L.: "I'd urge an 'aye' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1697 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, 105 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Returning to the Order

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of Second Reading, on page 28, we have House Bill 3655 with Representative Will Davis. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3655, a Bill for an Act concerning finance. The bill was read for a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. No Floor Amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Morgan: "Third Reading. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3655, a Bill for an Act concerning finance. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Will Davis to present the bill."

Davis, W.: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The last and final Member of the Davis Caucus. I appreciate that. House Bill 3655 attempts to do a few things to help small businesses. First of all, let me just say it's an initiative of the Small Business Advocacy Council, which is a member-driven organization of small business owners and local chambers of commerce that advocates for small business owners. Their mission is to make Illinois the best place to open and grow a small business. With that being said, it attempts to do three things. First, it requires all state agencies and departments to uniformly advertise to small businesses... to the small business community all contracts available for bid. Second, it establishes a loan program to help businesses that receive contracts to deal with cash-flow needs caused by payment issues. Businesses that are awarded contracts will be eligible to receive a low-interest loan to fund cash-flow needs of the business as it executes the contract. The loan would be repaid when the payment from the state is received. Since the loan is guaranteed with a payment from the state

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and the state earns interest on the loan, there is no risk or cost to the state, and it would be a huge help to small businesses. We believe several states have a similar program. And finally, the bill creates a uniform scoring system of... for evaluating and awarding contracts. All bids from small businesses would be... would be scored based on the business experience with the subject matter of the contract, their credentials of the staff, the innovative techniques and technology purposed by the business, the length of the time... length of time the business has been operating in the state, and the number of contracts the business has previously secured, and other factors that would give businesses from economically depressed areas in the state an opportunity to compete for these contracts. I'll be more than happy to answer any questions."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates that he shall."

Windhorst: "Thank you. There are some criteria for a business to be eligible. You went through some of those. There is an annual gross sales of less than 15 million and then there is a scorecard which includes relevant experience of the business, location of the business, length of time the business has been operating in the state, staff credentials, innovation, and then, finally, other socioeconomic factors. I believe you hit on some of those, but what do we have in mind with other socioeconomic factors?"

Davis, W.: "Well, I think, essentially, what we're attempting to do is try to create a more level playing field, particularly

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for businesses in underserved communities. What we find often is that businesses in underserved communities do sometime lack primarily the resources to be able to have their back offices operate appropriately and to be able to compete appropriately for contracts. So, I think the idea is that when we look across the state, we see a lot of underserved areas. And we want those business owners to have opportunities, if they want to participate in state contracts, the opportunity to be able to do so in a more fair and equitable way."

Windhorst: "And what you've outlined, is that specified in the bill or is that how you envision it operating?"

Davis, W.: "I think that's how we envision it happening."

Windhorst: "There was a question raised, I believe in committee, regarding tracking of those businesses that may not repay. There may be an issue of repayment. Will that be tracked by the state, the... not only the repayment, but those who fail to repay?"

Davis, W.: "I... I believe the intent is to look at those businesses as well, but to understand why. Maybe that was the case. And when you say repay, I'm talking about businesses who get contracts and then need the resources in order to execute those contracts. That's where the loan program comes in. But if we're talking about businesses that have, I guess, failed in some way, and I'm not sure who they're... who they failed to repay, but we are wanting to make sure that we are working to stand up businesses, give them fair opportunities, but understand where their deficiencies are so that we can help

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build them up so, again, they can compete appropriately to obtain state contracts."

Windhorst: "This bill is subject to appropriation?"

Davis, W.: "I don't believe it's subject to appropriation because, remember, the loan piece of it is predicated on the business getting a contract. So, the resources to repay the loan are there because when they get the contract, as they're paid, they repay the loan back."

Windhorst: "It appears that on page 1 of the bill, it does say that the... the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall create a small business financing program to provide low-interest financing to small businesses that secure state contracts to assist with the fulfillment of those contracts. Just prior to that, it says subject to appropriation."

Davis, W.: "Well, let me just say, there... there are no dollars that... with regard to the loan aspect of it. So, if we're talking what DCEO needs, then... then I would agree with that. But we already have precedent for this kind of opportunity. Before many years ago, myself and Senator Mattie Hunter had a program where small businesses that received contracts could get a loan from the Department of Transportation in order to execute a contract. But in order to do so, that business had to get rejected by three banks first before it could then appeal to the state to do... to get the resources to operate on a contract. So, we already have a framework on how this will... will work. And, of course, DCEO is our economic development agency of the state, so I would imagine, even though I don't have a price tag for it, I would imagine that

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the resources needed for them to operate will be minimal, if at all."

Windhorst: "And I think you just hit on my last question as far as the potential cost. You said you believe it's minimal, though you're not certain about the exact cost. Is that accurate?"

Davis, W.: "No, we don't... we don't have an exact cost."

Windhorst: "All right. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Crespo is recognized."

Crespo: "Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates that he will."

Crespo: "Representative Davis, let me go back to the subject to appropriations. So, it's a loan program... it's a loan program, and I understand that there's a structure to make sure that whoever benefits from the loan, if they get a contract, they should be able to repay the loan back."

Davis, W.: "That's the premise behind it."

Crespo: "Yeah. And in terms of... has anyone be able to quantify the size of the program? How much seed money would the department need to fulfill the requirement to... to give out the loans?"

Davis, W.: "I want to say no to that, but, again, I want to emphasize that the loan is based on them... a contractor receiving a contract. So, if they have the contract, whatever they're loaned or what their loan needs are will be repaid by it. So, we feel that this is really of, with regard to that piece of it, little to no cost to the State of Illinois."

Crespo: "And I agree. I would imagine that's a low-risk loan because, hopefully, they'll have a contract to repay it back."

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Davis, W.: "Well, they have to have a contract."

Crespo: "They have to have a contract."

Davis, W.: "They have to have a contract, and that's how you create the repayment because they have received..."

Crespo: "Yeah."

Davis, W.: "...and been awarded a contract to work on a state project."

Crespo: "Yeah, but however, still, the department would need some seed money. You think it's minimal, but they haven't been able to quantify how much think that amount would be to start the program."

Davis, W.: "Well, they.. they certainly haven't provided a number..."

Crespo: "Okay."

Davis, W.: "...in terms of what they think that will be."

Crespo: "Okay, thank you. Thank you, Speaker."

Davis, W.: "Thank you. Mr. Speaker, as... as I've been advised, I need to pull this bill from the record."

Speaker Morgan: "Out of the record. Staying on House Bills-Third Reading, on page 32, House Bill 54 with Representative Deering. Mr. Clerk, read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 54, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Deering is recognized."

Deering: "Thank you, Chair. I rise to present House Bill 54, which amends the State Commemorative Dates Act, providing that the full first week of March each year is designated as Soil Week to be observed throughout the state as a week to celebrate and raise awareness regarding the importance of soil health to Illinois agriculture."

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Speaker Morgan: "With discussion, Representative Elik is recognized."

Elik: "Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she will."

Elik: "Thank you. Representative Deering, is this your first bill?"

Deering: "Yes, it is."

Elik: "Thank you, and congratulations."

Deering: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "No further discussion, Representative Deering to close."

Deering: "Thank you. I encourage an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 54 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 106 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Staying on the Order of Third Reading, on page 34, we have House Bill 1430 with Representative Delgado. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1430, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Delgado's recognized."

Delgado: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 1430 is an initiative of the Office of the Treasurer. It amends the Student Investment Account Act to allow the treasurer to invest in refinanced student loans. This bill also gives the state

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treasurer explicit authority to work with financial institutions to expand loan options and lower interest rates for Illinois residents with student loan debt. Refinancing loans at lower rates will hopefully result in lower payments for these borrowers. And if any of you all have had to pay back student loans, you know that sometimes that debt can be crushing. So, this is... the goal behind this bill is to provide an option for students to be able to refinance student loans at a better rate than what they find on the private market and ultimately help make college more affordable. Thank you very much."

Speaker Morgan: "Thank you, Leader Delgado. Any discussion on this bill? Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Where will the Treasurer's Office get the funds to support this program?"

Delgado: "So, the Treasurer's Office currently has a contract with a loan servicer that provides student loan products right now. This is just expanding those offerings to allow them to do refinancing, so he will... right now, they plan on using the same loan servicing company that they work with now."

Windhorst: "And the funds that support that company, are those going to be additional appropriations from the state or is that money the treasurer already has that's used for investment? Where... where are the source of those funds, in essence?"

Delgado: "So, there is not an increased amount of funding for this. The treasurer currently has access to a number of

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different funds. I think there's 700 funds across the state portfolio, but it's currently capped. I want to say it's... there is a... I think there currently is a cap in the... in the existing statute. So, this is not any additional funding."

Windhorst: "I believe there was a question raised in committee, and give you a chance to address it here, that perhaps the treasurer would receive a higher return on investment if the funds in the portfolio were used to invest differently than in this program. Would you address that?"

Delgado: "So, currently, they're getting a rate of return at about 4%. And while there are lots of different ways that the treasurer can invest state funds, this is one that is really about making opportunities available to Illinois residents who are currently struggling with paying very high rates for loans that they have taken out. And so, this has a public interest as well as returning at a rate of 4% right now."

Windhorst: "And what bank will be used to facilitate this program?"

Delgado: "So, again, there's already a loan servicing company that they work with now. I don't remember the name of it off the top of my head, but they are currently under contract with them."

Windhorst: "Is that located here in Illinois, or is it out of state?"

Delgado: "It is out of state."

Windhorst: "And where is that?"

Delgado: "I believe it's in Iowa. I... I believe it's in Iowa."

Windhorst: "You said Iowa? I'm sorry."

Delgado: "I believe so."

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Windhorst: "Yeah."

Delgado: "That is... that's my recollection."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Leader Keicher is recognized."

Keicher: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she will."

Keicher: "Excellent. Thank you, Representative. I appreciate you bringing this modification forward. I've had issues with this program from the get-go. I think this is beyond what the treasurer's duties are to the Illinois people and to the taxing folks for the State of Illinois. The first thing I want to do is resonate back on that last comment. There isn't a single Illinois bank willing or able to take on this risk, and we're going out of state for that, correct?"

Delgado: "So, my understanding is that this particular loan servicing company was fully vetted, and... and they are willing to do this work, and so the... the treasurer has entered into that agreement with them. Of course, the treasurer will be happy to work with an Illinois institution as well. And my understanding is that they are currently looking for another servicing company that would be here in the state."

Keicher: "Are you aware of what the delinquency rate is on student loan accounts?"

Delgado: "No, I do not know that."

Keicher: "Okay, all right. It... it's higher than the other rates that are out there. So, this default rate, I understand, falls on both the taxpayer and the bank. Is that accurate? If there's a default on the loan."

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Delgado: "If there's a default on... yes, it would be... it would be... I believe that the servicer is responsible for that, but I... you know what? To be honest with you, I don't want to answer that question incorrectly."

Keicher: "Okay. Is... is there... and, again, it's the issue, it's not what's here."

Delgado: "Absolutely. Absolutely."

Keicher: "Is there any means testing? How will the treasurer decide who is to benefit of this? Because what I hear out in the marketplace frequently with college graduates, every last one of them has a problem with the interest rates that are being charged right now. So, what is that means test that the treasurer will engage in to decide which loans he will take out of the private sector and have it financed by the Illinois taxpayer?"

Delgado: "So, my understanding is that the loan servicer is the one that goes through the process of vetting out the... the borrower. And there's a series of requirements that that borrower would then have to meet, just like any other loan. The benefit of this loan is that it's coming in at lower than market rates, so it's an opportunity for folks to be able to get a lower interest rate and maybe help lower those monthly costs."

Keicher: "And that's actually the center point of the concerns that I have. The market rate is set based on the risk that's out there for these loans. And so, we've got a higher default rate. We've got higher cost involved. We've got a longer payment cycle. We're actually putting the Illinois taxpayer at a significant disadvantage. And... and while I appreciate

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the intention and you carrying the bill, Representative, I'm going to have to vote 'no,' and I would encourage my colleagues to do the same."

Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Representative Ugaste is recognized."

Ugaste: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she will."

Ugaste: "Just a couple quick issues, Leader. First of all, I appreciate your willingness to discuss this at length with me, but I want to make certain that people on the floor are aware of a few issues that I raised that... you... I... we talked about, but I don't think moved any further, and I just want to make sure. While the treasurer's only using a small portion of what he's allowed to under this, it's up to 5% of the investment fund. Is that correct?"

Delgado: "I believe that is correct."

Ugaste: "Okay. And at the present time that stands somewhere around \$1.5 billion he could commit to this?"

Delgado: "I think that is the upward limit, yes."

Ugaste: "Okay. And, again, we as a state, at least as far as your understanding is, we're not going to have the revenue stream that we fully anticipated for this coming year. Is that correct?"

Delgado: "I'm not sure... I'm not sure what question you're asking me. As it relates to this program?"

Ugaste: "Well, I... I mean, our funds overall. It relates to the program in that if we're receiving less on our investment here versus where we could make it somewhere else, that's revenue we don't have. Is that right?"

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Delgado: "I understand what you're asking. So, I... so, right now, the... the return on the investment is about 4%. That I can tell you."

Ugaste: "Okay. And I believe we went over, in committee, that while the... the originator, the bank, may be liable should the student default on this, there is nothing protecting the State of Illinois should this bank go under, is there?"

Delgado: "So, my understanding is that any time the treasurer enters into an agreement to invest the state's money, there are a number of different processes that they go through. So, making sure that they're putting all the protections in place that they would with any other investment. Just like if there was an investment with any other fund and that fund were to go under, it would be the similar kind of risk for the state."

Ugaste: "Okay. So, we would have risk there. And then the last... just a couple quick things. Is there anything within this bill that would stop a borrower, a student from coming back and refinancing more than one loan with the treasurer?"

Delgado: "So, there's nothing in this legislation that would state that, but the loan servicer does have a number of requirements that they make any borrower go through. So, if you had somebody who was defaulting over and over and over again, I would... I would guess that that loan servicer probably wouldn't consider that person a good credit risk. But that would just be my assumption. I think that's the process that a borrower will go through."

Ugaste: "Well, that's... that's not what I'm asking. I guess the point of this, as I understand it, is we're trying to help out students who have gotten themselves in over their head a

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little bit and now have interest rates that are so high they're having trouble making the payment. And my question is, if we do that once for someone, are we going to prohibit them from coming back a second time, even if they paid their note, from coming back and asking the taxpayers help me out? 'Lower my interest rate so I can have an easier time making my payments, even though it's going to require more tax dollars to... to make up the difference in investments.'

Delgado: "So, that's not specifically enumerated in this bill."

Ugaste: "Okay."

Delgado: "That is something that the loan servicer would handle as a part of their contract with the treasurer."

Ugaste: "And... and is there anything within the bill that requires some sort of... the person who comes for this, this program, and tries to get their loan rate lowered because, again, they're having difficulty, I assume, paying and it's... it's a hard time, any type of program for financial literacy? So they understand going in. Maybe they shouldn't take out notes that require such a high interest rate."

Delgado: "Yes. And so, when I spoke with the Treasurer's Office about this particularly, they do have a number of financial literacy programs that are tied to some of the programs that they offer. So, that is available. I wouldn't say that that's necessarily required, but it is something that the Treasurer's Office provides."

Ugaste: "Okay. So, it's available but not mandated. To the bill."

Speaker Morgan: "To the bill."

Ugaste: "Again, I... I agree the sponsor's intentions are laudable. We all want to help people that are having a difficult time."

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However, this is taking money from the State of Illinois at a time when we're already saying we're... the governor sat there before us just a month and a half ago, two months ago, and said we're going to have to make some cuts. And now, we're going to lose out on investment income. We're going to do it through an exposure to our investment fund that is in no way protected in any way, shape, or form and do it without requiring those who are coming for help to take any sort..."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative, please bring your remarks to a close."

Ugaste: "...to take any sort of class, such as they do in bankruptcy court, requiring you learn about finances and how to appropriately handle them so that this doesn't happen again. I urge a 'no' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Representative Crespo."

Crespo: "Speaker, the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she will."

Crespo: "So, Representative, I think this is a great idea. I understand the objective behind it. I am a little bit concerned that, yes, we will lose the ability to get a higher return by moving these funds somewhere else. I'm also concerned... I guess I'm going to ask you that. It says here that the department will guarantee the loans. What are they using to guarantee those loans?"

Delgado: "I think just like with any other investment, the guarantee is the full faith and credit of the State of Illinois."

Crespo: "I'm sorry, what was that?"

Delgado: "The full faith and credit of the State of Illinois."

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Crespo: "I understand, but what funds will he be using to guarantee those loans if they're not paid?"

Delgado: "So, currently, the... the treasurer accesses about 700 accounts across the state's funds for the state investment portfolio. So, it comes from a number of different places."

Crespo: "And those are ones you said they were capped?"

Delgado: "Yes, it's capped. The amount that the... that the treasurer can put into this investment is capped."

Crespo: "It's capped, but it might be taking those... might be using those funds that could be used for something else. My final question. So, we've heard that the current president is talking about getting rid of the Department of Education. As you all know, the Department of Education monitors, it has oversights over these student loans. Was there any conversations with the department... with the treasurer, what would happen if they do get rid of the Department of Education, how those loans... or what impact would have on those student loans? What impact would it have on this program?"

Delgado: "So, that's a great question. I'm so glad you brought that up, Representative, because this is specifically around private loans. So, this is not in competition with any federal loans. This refinancing program is specifically for private loans. So, there would be no impact."

Crespo: "Okay, thank you. Thank you, Speaker."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Rep... Leader Delgado to close."

Delgado: "So, once again, I would like all of to remember back in the days when we were paying student loans. Some of us probably still are paying student loans. And having the

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opportunity to be able to refinance a very high interest rate loan by going through a program like this is a great opportunity for us to be offering to Illinoisans. So, again, I would ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1430 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 67 voting in 'favor,' 38 voting 'against,' and 1 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Staying on the Order of Third Reading, on page 32, we have House Bill 1073 with Representative DeLuca. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1073, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative DeLuca is recognized."

DeLuca: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and ladies and gentlemen of the House. House Bill 1073 amends the College Student Immunization Act for tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis vaccine, also known as Tdap. If a student cannot provide the dates on which they received three or more doses of Tdap, the student must provide at least one date on which they received the dose of the vaccine not more than 10 years prior to the beginning of the term of the current enrollment. It ensures the law reflects the CDC's standards for adult vaccination schedules. It ensures the law accounts for older students who do not have electronic records. This legislation was brought to me by a constituent, and this legislation solves the issue.

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It went through committee unanimously, and I ask for your support."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates that he will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Is the Tdap vaccine a current requirement for college students, or is this adding it as a requirement?"

DeLuca: "No, it is not adding."

Windhorst: "So, what will the... the bill do then that is different from current law?"

DeLuca: "It would allow... it's really set up for older students who are returning that may not have electronic records. So, it would allow them to show at least one within the last 10 years."

Windhorst: "This... or, I'm sorry. Our analysis for the bill doesn't show what brought the bill forward. What... what brought this bill to your attention or cause you to bring it forward? What was the reason for the bill?"

DeLuca: "It was a constituent, an older individual that was returning to school that ran into this problem that she didn't... she couldn't provide the records because she no longer had electronic records. So, she had just received a dose recently, and this would solve that problem for those individuals who are looking to return to school."

Windhorst: "So, to make sure I understand clearly, we're not adding a requirement that... to the law. We're changing how the requirement can be proven. Is that accurate?"

DeLuca: "How it is implemented, yes."

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Windhorst: "Implemented, yes. I'm sorry. It said how it's implemented. Is that correct?"

DeLuca: "Yes."

Windhorst: "And it looks like the Illinois Family Institute is opposed. Did they provide you with any reason for their opposition?"

DeLuca: "I was not even aware of that. I have not heard from them. It's not... it's not listed on my analysis that they're opposed. I was not aware of that. So, I haven't heard from them."

Windhorst: "And have any of the universities or the university systems reached out to you for their position?"

DeLuca: "No, but we did work closely with the department. We had amended the original language to, you know, remove any concerns."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

DeLuca: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative DeLuca to close."

DeLuca: "Thank you very much for the questions. I ask for your 'yes' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1073 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, 80... there are 89 votes in 'favor,' 12 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Staying on Order of Third Reading, on page 43, we have House Bill

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3671 with Representative Deuter. Mr. Clerk, please read the record... read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3671, a Bill for an Act concerning criminal law. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Deuter to present."

Deuter: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 37... sorry, House Bill 3671 is an initiative of DuPage County State's Attorney's Bob Berlin. The bill provides that a person who distributes private images without consent may be tried in the county in which the offense occurred or the county in which the victim resides. This bill enhances the ability for prosecutors to protect their residents and is similar to the venue options allowed for identity theft trials. This measure received unanimous support in committee. I ask for your support."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, appreciate you bringing this forward. I think this is a good bill and a good change in the law. Essentially what we're trying to do is make sure that these cases can be prosecuted. And if I understand the reason the state's attorneys... or DuPage County state's attorney brought it forward, rather than having to prove where the individual who was sending the image was, we only have to show that where the victim lived in order for jurisdiction and venues. Is that accurate?"

Deuter: "That's correct."

Windhorst: "Thank you for bringing this forward."

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Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Representative Canty."

Canty: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Will the speaker yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she will."

Canty: "Representative Deuter, is this your first bill?"

Deuter: "Yes, it is."

Canty: "Do you recall, roughly, how many hours you spent in preparation for this moment right now?"

Deuter: "For this particular bill or this moment? This is a lifetime opportunity, right? Thank you for your question."

Canty: "Nicely done and well presented. Thank you. I encourage an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Deuter to close."

Deuter: "I appreciate your support."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 3671 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 106 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Staying on the Order of Third Reading, we have House Bill 1838 with Representative Tarver... Leader Tarver. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1838, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader Tarver."

Tarver: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill is a great bill, as you can tell, because I sponsored it. It is a bill that

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prevents CPS primarily from testing 4-year-olds for selective enrollment programs. I'm happy to answer any questions. It came out of committee unanimously."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 1838 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 107 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received the constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Remaining on Third Reading, House Bill 1075 with Representative Didech. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1075, a Bill for an Act concerning government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Didech to present."

Didech: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 1075 designates Diwali Day as a commemorative holiday in the State of Illinois. Diwali originated as a harvest festival in ancient India. It evolved into a religious tradition for practitioners of Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism. And today, it is also a secular holiday observed by people across the world who share in the celebration of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. During Diwali, feasts are prepared, fireworks are launched, and music and dance numbers are performed by people of all ages. The Diwali holiday is a truly joyous occasion where families and communities come together to celebrate our collective goodness. Other states, including Texas and Pennsylvania, have taken steps to

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formally recognize Diwali. We can join those states by passing this bill as a meaningful illustration of the important bond between the Indian American community and the State of Illinois. Thank you for your consideration, and I ask for everyone's support."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates that he will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, this sets up a commemorative day rather than a state holiday. Is that accurate?"

Didech: "That's correct."

Windhorst: "And what is the basic distinction between those two things?"

Didech: "So, this bill amends the Commemorative Dates Act. That is the law that we use to recognize important cultural heritages of various people in Illinois. For example, it's the same law that includes Italian American Heritage Month, the Republic of Ireland Day, Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month. It is a token of respect and appreciation for the various communities in our states."

Windhorst: "And a state holiday would be a day that state workers would not be working and... and would be observed in other ways in a commemorative day. Is that accurate?"

Didech: "Correct. This... this bill would not create a new state holiday in... in that manner."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There... seeing no further discussion, Representative Didech to close."

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Didech: "I would ask for an 'aye' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1075 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 103 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Staying on Third Reading, page 32, we have House Bill 1158 with Representative du Buclet. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1158, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative du Buclet, please present."

du Buclet: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I stand before you today to present House Bill 1158. House Bill 1158 is a critical piece of legislation aimed at enhancing the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District's ability to modernize, expand, and strengthen their state's water infrastructure. This bill is essential in ensuring that our communities remain resilient in the face of aging water systems, increased flooding risks, and growing environmental... and growing environmental challenges. The purpose of the bill is to raise the annual borrowing limit for the MWRD from 150 million to 250 million, which would allow for accelerated investments in sewage treatment, flood control, and water quality improvements. It also reaffirms the district's ability to issue pension bonds to ensure financial stability for its workforce without impacting required employees' contributions. Because our water infrastructure is aging and

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we must ensure that we have the financial tools to actively address these critical projects rather than waiting for the crises to force our hand. And as many of you know, I am a former vice president of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. And so, this bill is near and dear to my heart. It represents a necessary and responsible step towards protecting our communities, modernizing our water systems, and ensuring financial stability for the MWRD."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. We are... this bill would allow for the overall debt authorization granted to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to increase from 150 million to 250 million. Is that correct?"

du Buclet: "That's correct."

Windhorst: "How would that debt be serviced?"

du Buclet: "This bill doesn't require any money from the state. It gives the district board the ability to vote on and improve any future increases to its bonding. So, I believe it's through bonding."

Windhorst: "And... and for that to... to be repaid, would... it seems like there's probably one or two, or maybe both, it would be either an increase in fees or increase in property taxes to pay that debt?"

du Buclet: "Well, there would be for a home value of \$250,000 or more would result in an additional \$4 per year. A home..."

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Windhorst: "And with regard to fees, is there any... going to be any increase in fees?"

du Buclet: "No increase in fees."

Windhorst: "And how long will that debt be paid, that amount you described?"

du Buclet: "There... we don't... there doesn't seem to be a... a clear end."

Windhorst: "Did you say there doesn't seem to be a clear end?"

du Buclet: "Correct."

Windhorst: "Okay. And so, just so I understand, a home valued at \$250,000 or more would be a \$4 annual increase?"

du Buclet: "Correct. And \$350,000 home would be a \$6 increase, and a home of half a million would be a \$9 per year increase."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

du Buclet: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Leader Spain is recognized."

Spain: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she will."

Spain: "Representative du Buclet, thank you for this discussion so far. I know that in your previous public service you served on the board for the MWRD. Can you talk about any upcoming projects or investments for which this additional bond capacity might be important?"

du Buclet: "Well, there's an ongoing project called the Deep Tunnel Project that has been in progress for at least 10, 15 years. And I know that they are trying to use money to finish that project. I also should say that the district's financial... the district is... is a fiscally responsible agency with a

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fluctuating AA+ and an S&P AAA from Moody's, and it's one of the highest ranked agencies in the state."

Spain: "Thank you. I do think that that's important for... for you to note because the MWRD is a... an agency that I think has acted responsibly, through your leadership and others, has operated with important fiscal restraint. As you know, there may be an implication for the property tax levy for residents and businesses and property tax payers living within the MWRD service area, and you shared information about what that is. Is the action of this General Assembly, if this legislation were approved by the House and Senate and signed by the governor, does that commit the MWRD to increasing their current indebtedness in any way or will there need to be further discussion and consideration by the elected board?"

du Buclet: "Let me come back to the question. I do want to go to a previous question. The bonding will be done over 20 to... 20 to 30 years, and some of the proceeds from this increase will help with phosphorus treatment as well as leading to modernized infrastructure and add phosphorus treatment to our plants and also to help remediate possibly PFAS."

Spain: "Thank you. But to the other question, where does the decision-making reside for issuing additional debt? Is the action of the General Assembly right now issuing that debt, or is there subsequent decision-making that would be required by the board for the MWRD?"

du Buclet: "The district board has to approve the bonds, and the General Assembly is... is strictly giving the board the authority to issue those bonds. The district is subject to PTELL tax caps, and this bill does not seek an exception to

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the PTELL, so the district will still need to operate and issue debt within its PTELL limit."

Spain: "Thank you. Mr. Speaker, to the bill."

Speaker Morgan: "To the bill."

Spain: "Ladies and gentlemen, I think that this is a reasonable request from the MWRD. It is an agency that has acted responsibly in state government and it has its own local control, an elected board that has operated in the interest of taxpayers before and will ultimately have to answer to the taxpayers that live in MWRD service territory. There is some consideration that everyone should have about impact to the levy down the line, but that is a consideration that weighs on all of us but really needs to be wrestled with by the members of the MWRD board. As a result, I would urge a 'yes' vote on this legislation."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative du Buclet to close."

du Buclet: "Thank you, Representative. I urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1158 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 72 votes in 'favor,' 30 voting 'opposed,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on Third Reading, we have House Bill 1724 with Representative Elik. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1724, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

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Speaker Morgan: "Representative Elik to present."

Elik: "Thank you, Speaker. This... House Bill 1724 is a simple bill that relates to the highway road namings that many of us do to honor members of our communities. It simply requires IDOT to name a highway under its jurisdiction if one... one chamber of the General Assembly passes it. I'm happy to take any questions."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further questions and no discussion, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 1724 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 106 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on Third Reading, House Bill 1575 with Leader Evans. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1575, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader Evans is recognized."

Evans: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the great Members of this assembly. House Bill 1575 was an initiative of my county clerk and recorder. Prohibits the county recorder from assessing a fee to modify an unlawful restrictive covenant on one's deeds of property. Currently, a... a recorder can assess a fee to correct an unlawful restrictive covenant. Moving on from the past to the future, we want to remove these unlawful restrictive covenants. I request your support."

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Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Representative Halbrook is recognized."

Halbrook: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the gentleman yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates he'll yield."

Halbrook: "Thank you. Representative, just want to be clear that you're removing a fee for a change in something may be filed, a restrictive covenant, that may be filed. You're removing a fee, nothing more, nothing less. Is that correct?"

Evans: "Yes."

Halbrook: "All right. Ladies and gentlemen, I think anytime we can remove fees here that are not necessary, I think it's a good idea. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 1575 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 105 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on Third Reading, we have House Bill 2978 with Representative Faver Dias. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 2978, a Bill for an Act concerning employment. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Faver Dias."

Faver Dias: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 2978 is a bill that we actually passed last year out of this changer with... chamber with wide bipartisan support. It's a bill that provides additional unpaid leave for parents of babies who

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are in the neonatal intensive care unit. This leave is in addition to FMLA and any paid leave that the parent is already entitled to. One of the largest predictors of child development and outcomes is based on the... a baby's ability to attach to their parents. This additional leave would allow critical bonding to take place both inside the NICU and, just as a when a baby who's not in the NICU goes home, for that to continue as well. In 2022, there were 13,564 preterm births in Illinois. Sixty-seven percent of babies were in the NICU for less than 10 days. But those babies who are in the NICU longer, the 20 days are truly critical for the care and development of the baby and the mental health of the parents. This also has a tiered unpaid leave system based on the size of the employer. I'm happy to answer any questions. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she'll yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, have you had this bill before in a prior General Assembly?"

Faver Dias: "Yes. And last... last year, we passed it out of the House. It did not get called in the Senate, so we are trying again."

Windhorst: "I believe the vote last year was 92 to 9, if what I'm seeing in correct. Does that seem correct to you?"

Faver Dias: "Yes. I just looked it up. That was it."

Windhorst: "And this is for, as you outlined, employees who are entitled to a maximum of 10 days of unpaid leave for neonatal intensive care leave for their child. Is that right?"

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Faver Dias: "Yes. If you employ between 16 to 50 people, it's 10 days. If you employ over 50, then it's 20 unpaid days."

Windhorst: "And what was the... what brought this bill to your attention? What caused you to put this forward?"

Faver Dias: "Actually, my own personal experience, I had children who were in the NICU for 89 days, and knowing how critical it is to be there every single day for their care. But then if you've used up all your leave, then you don't have that opportunity to bond and care for your infant at home. And so, there's an adjustment if you have a child in the NICU because your child has been born under intense critical care situation, but then you also need that time when you go home to also get situated with a new baby at home."

Windhorst: "And what enforcement would an employee have to make sure these rights are protected?"

Faver Dias: "In this bill, there is a... employers can request a reasonable proof of care in the NICU, and so that is allowed, that the employer can request that."

Windhorst: "And if the leave is not granted, what rights does the employee have to enforce?"

Faver Dias: "I can get back to you on that, but I would assume... the Department of Labor is given primary enforcement reasonability, including rulemaking power, and is authorized to impose civil penalties for violations."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Representative Hauter is recognized."

Hauter: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She... she will."

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Hauter: "So, I just wanted to know how this interacted with the Illinois FMLA Act and how we give the two bills. Would this be in addition to FMLA or.."

Faver Dias: "Yes, exactly. It would be in addition."

Hauter: "So, if you used up... so, a small business has to abide by the Illinois FMLA. This would be additional days. So, we're talking about 12 weeks?"

Faver Dias: "This additional leave would be up to 20 days, if you have an... if you employ over 50 people. It's a tiered system. If you employ less than 16, there is no... we... in negotiations last year, you don't get... this does not apply to you. Sixteen to 50, it would be an additional 10 days, and 15 over, it would be 20."

Hauter: "Okay. So, you have your up to 12 weeks with FMLA, and if you're in the certain brackets, you would have additional days added on to that. You... you just found that FMLA was inadequate?"

Faver Dias: "Yeah, absolutely. I had my... my children were in the NICU for three months, so 12 weeks. If I had been in a circumstance where I couldn't have taken additional leave, then I would've had to go back to work the day after I brought them home, after they've spent three months in the intensive care unit on oxygen, intubated. And so, that is a stark transition back. And so, this allows for that additional time. But if you look at the statistics, the vast majority of babies in the NICU are in there less than 10 days. And so, it's going to be a very small percentage of families that this would apply to that would need to use this. But to those families

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who have babies in there for that extended time, it's critically important."

Hauter: "So, is... would the criteria be that you have to be in a credentialed NICU, or it would just have to be a... a nursery at the hospital, or it has to be a credentialed..."

Faver Dias: "No, a... a neonatal intensive care."

Hauter: "Okay. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Faver Dias to close."

Faver Dias: "I encourage an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 2978 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there's... there are 91 votes in 'favor,' 7 votes 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on Order of Third Reading, House Bill 1911, Representative Fritts. Mr. Clerk, please read the... read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1911, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Fritts, please proceed."

Fritts: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and gentlemen of the House, House Bill 1911 is an initiative of the Township Officials of Illinois that seeks to clean up issues with regards to township audit requirements. This bill is identical to House Bill 5011 that passed the House unanimously in the 103rd General Assembly and wasn't taken up in the

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Senate. We have worked diligently with the Comptroller's Office over the last two years to come up with an agreed bill that they are now a proponent of that will save townships and other units of government significant amounts of money while maintaining fiscal transparency. The bill passed committee unanimously, and I would ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Representative Halbrook."

Halbrook: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates that he will."

Halbrook: "Thank you. So, Representative, you're... you're trying to raise the threshold for which a township audit is done. Is that correct?"

Fritts: "It... it conforms it with CPI from when it was put into... into statute initially. So, it raises it in dollar amount, yes, but it... it doesn't necessarily raise the threshold. It just keeps up with inflation."

Halbrook: "So, is there an automatic escalator that will kick in?"

Fritts: "Yes. Moving forward, under the way that this bill is written, every year the Comptroller's Office will do it so that it automatically raises moving forward and we don't have this issue in the future."

Halbrook: "Okay. And so, evidently, this must be a... you view this as a very township-friendly bill. This will help reduce costs."

Fritts: "It is a township-friendly bill. It cleans up the township statute with it. However, every unit of local government who has to abide by this, it raises the thresholds for them as well."

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Hauter: "Okay."

Fritts: "As you'll see, there's many other proponents."

Halbrook: "Yeah. Thank you, Representative. And, ladies and gentlemen of the House, I think this is a good measure that helps in many ways. I would urge a 'yes' vote. Thank you."

Fritts: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Fritts to close."

Fritts: "Thank you so much. Very important issue. I would ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1911 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 106 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is declared passed. Returning to the Order of Second Reading, we have House Bill 2873. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 2873, a Bill for an Act concerning civil law. The bill was read for a second time previously. Amendment #1 was adopted in committee. Floor Amendment #2 is offered by Representative Gong-Gershowitz."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Gong-Gershowitz to explain the amendment."

Gong-Gershowitz: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Floor Amendment 2 simply clarifies that labor compliance activities do not constitute stalking."

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Speaker Morgan: "Representative Gong-Gershowitz moves adoption of Floor Amendment #2. All those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the amendment is adopted. Any further amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Bolin: "No further amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Morgan: "Third Reading. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 2873, a Bill for an Act concerning civil law. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Gong-Gershowitz, please proceed."

Gong-Gershowitz: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 2873 amends the civil stalking no contact order to include harassment in the definition of stalking. It provides that stalking includes harassment, which is conduct that is not necessary to accomplish a purpose which is reasonable under the given circumstances, which causes a reasonable person emotional distress and causes the petitioner emotional distress. This fills a gap in existing law. Currently, there is no clear order of protection on the basis of harassment. It does include expressed free speech protections. There is no opposition, and I'd ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. And I believe you've hit on this, but just to make sure I understand, what brought this bill forward? Why did you feel this was necessary?"

Gong-Gershowitz: "Yeah, thank you for the question. I worked with this bill... I worked on this bill with gender-based violence

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advocates and lawyers after this gap in existing civil law was brought to my attention by one of my interns who had actually worked with a judge, who noted that oftentimes a victor... a victim of harassment has trouble establishing the course of conduct that neatly fits the definition of stalking under our current civil no stalking... civil stalking no contact order. We did some research and looked at states like California, Indiana, many others that include harassment in their civil no contact orders, modeled this amendment off of those existing statutes. And that's... that's the impetus for the bill."

Windhorst: "And our analysis shows that the Illinois Sheriffs' Association is supportive. Is that correct?"

Gong-Gershowitz: "That is correct."

Windhorst: "And has the ACLU taken a position on the bill?"

Gong-Gershowitz: "ACLU is neutral with the first House Committee Amendment that we adopted in committee."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Gong-Gershowitz to close."

Gong-Gershowitz: "Thank you. This is a bill that helps protects victims, and I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 2873 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 106 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Staying

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on Order of Third Reading, on page... on Second Reading, forgive me, on page 3, we have House Bill 1081. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1081, a Bill for an Act concerning public aid. The bill was read for a second time previously. Amendment #1 was adopted in committee. No Floor Amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Morgan: "Third Reading. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1081, a Bill for an Act concerning public aid. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Gill, please proceed."

Gill: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 1081 is super near and dear to my heart, and I am so excited to present this bill to you. What this bill does is it defines what therapeutic recreation is, and it requires the Department of Health Care and Family Services, in consultation with the Department of Human Services, to submit the necessary application to the Federal Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services to amend the support waiver for children and young adults with developmental disabilities and the adults with developmental disabilities waiver to include a therapeutic recreation service for individuals using the self-directed service model known as Home-Based Services. This bill came to me from one of my dear friends, Sean McNamee. We grew up together in the Special Olympics at Marquette Park in Chicago. And he came to me with this bill. And basically what it does is it allow... it expands the spending for our friends with disabilities to include the therapeutic recreation services that are so needed in our districts, and that's sports, and theater, and

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art, and all of the most wonderful things that all of our children participate in and every child should have the opportunity to participate in. And I'm... I'm very excited about this bill, and I'm here for any questions."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates she will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Thank you, Representative, for bringing this forward and describing the bill. The one thing that wasn't clear to me, what fiscal impact will this have to the state, if any?"

Gill: "I'm sorry. I'm so glad you asked that question. This... this has zero financial impact. What it does is it doesn't change the amount our friends with disabilities get. It just expands the spending of the money they receive."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Gill to close."

Gill: "This is a wonderful bill. Please vote 'yes.'"

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1081 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this bill, there are 107 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Moving back to bills on Third Reading, we have House Bill 1586 with Leader González. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

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Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1586, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader González."

González: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. HB1586 will codify existing federal merit requirements into Illinois state law, ensuring that even if the federal government weakens or eliminates its requirements, programs with federal merit requirements like Medicaid, SNAP, and unemployment insurance will continue to be administered by qualified and capable state employees. This will continue to see some work in the Senate that... so that's... if something comes down from the feds that tie the change to jeopardizing federal funding, this bill wouldn't apply... the language wouldn't apply and then will also list out the reference to federal rules."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates that he will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Leader, if you could again, what are we hoping to accomplish with this bill?"

González: "The idea is that if the presidential administration, the federal government, decides to take away any federal service... merit requirements, that if they take it away, at least we have some basis here in Illinois. So, even if, let's say there's A, B, and C in terms of federal requirements. Let's say the federal government takes away B and C. We have A here in Illinois."

Windhorst: "And are you aware of any other states taking this action?"

González: "I have not heard of anybody else, no."

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Windhorst: "And it appears from our analysis that CMS is neutral on the bill. However, it's not really clear if they believe it'll have an impact on them or not. Do you have any insight into how this would impact CMS?"

González: "They have not had any... they haven't had any conversations with me. But, again, this... we're... the requirements already exist, so, you know, we're just keeping them the same if they're here in Illinois."

Windhorst: "And have you or... have you had you yourself or have you had someone analyze this bill for federal preemption issues if this bill's preempted under federal law?"

González: "It is not preempted under federal law."

Windhorst: "And if you could, what changes specifically are you anticipating federally that would make this necessary?"

González: "That would depend, but, you know, they... it can concern... requirements concern... concerning hiring, retention, promotion, things like that. So, we're just making sure we have a good basis here in Illinois."

Windhorst: "And just to reiterate, you're not aware of other states taking this action? As far as you know, we would be the first?"

González: "I am not aware, no."

Windhorst: "All right. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Didech is recognized for further discussion."

Didech: "Thank you. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates he will."

Didech: "Thank you, Leader González, for bringing forth this bill. I... I support the goals of this bill. We've had a few

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conversations about this. I... I think there's been a few different opinions about some of the... the technical nature of how this bill is drafted. Can... can you speak to, kind of, the update on... on those conversations and what... what the plan is to... to be responsive?"

González: "Yes, for sure. We're going to... we're going to continue to have these conversations in the Senate. They'll send them back our way. But in any case, if there is a... we'll make sure, if... if necessary, that we write down... we reference any federal rules that may impacted by this bill in the Senate. And also, that if anything comes down from the feds that would change... that has..."

Didech: "All right. To... to the bill. I... I apologize."

González: "...that ties the change to this, you know... no, no, no. That if something comes down from the feds that ties the change to jeopardizing federal funding that... this wouldn't apply."

Didech: "Understood. To... to the bill, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Morgan: "To the bill."

Didech: "I... I'm going to support this bill today. I... I think we should be careful about making a habit out of fixing bills in the Senate, especially when we still have time in the House to... to work through some of these issues. But out of respect for the Leader, I will vote 'yes' today. Thank you very much for working on this important bill."

Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Representative Reick."

Reick: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates that he will."

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Reick: "Representative, we're dealing with something that's been in place, really, since 1955. And is... is it really the... just the intent to make a political statement with this bill? I don't see exactly what it is that you would otherwise accomplish. I think that if there's a federal preemption issue, you are running afoul of that doctrine, and I don't know how this could survive. Can you explain that to me, please?"

González: "As far as our counsel is concerned, this doesn't... it wouldn't be federally preempted. And in the case... most of these... these requirements have been in place since the 1930s. So, if for some reason the federal government decides to pull any of them back, and we'll be dealing with the same situation with the same rules. So, you know, it's... it's just making sure that we have that foundation here in Illinois."

Reick: "We voted... came out of committee on this on partisan leave, and I just think that what we're doing is we're going down a slope here. To the bill."

Speaker Morgan: "To the bill."

Reick: "I think we're going down a slope here that we will see more and more of, anticipatory bills on the... on the off chance that something happens at the federal level. I think we ought to really wait until we see what happens at the federal level before we... before we make these kinds of changes, and I would, again, urge a 'no' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Representative Crespo."

Crespo: "Thank you, Speaker. Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates he will."

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Crespo: "Representative, I understand what we're trying to do here and I agree with... with the objective. What I'm trying to understand is, this would impact programs like Medicaid, unemployment insurance, which are administered by the state, but funded in part or whole by the federal government. Is there a risk that we could lose federal funding?"

González: "I don't believe so because, again, we... we have the idea that this wouldn't be federally preempted. But if there are changes come down from the federal government saying that, you know, they change anything that federal funding would be in jeopardy, then we would make sure to have that change present over in the Senate."

Crespo: "Okay. So, there is a risk that we could lose federal funding. Again, these are programs that are funded in part or in whole by the federal government. If they mandate certain things and we decide we're not going to follow that mandate, they can pull the funding from us, correct?"

González: "I mean, as the federal government is working right now, they can pull the funding anyway with whatever reason they have, so..."

Crespo: "Oh, absolutely. And I... I think it is a big concern, especially when it comes to Medicaid when you consider that we receive \$23 billion or more in Medicaid funding. But my question again is, have we been able to quantify at least what is our exposure or risk in terms of losing federal dollars?"

González: "Based... based on our legal counsel, even if, you know, the federal government has these rules, it's very

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constitutionally debatable that they can pull this funding based on any change that they do over there. So..."

Crespo: "I agree with your legal counsel. Again, all I'm asking is what is the exposure just in case. I think we should know that by supporting this... and, again, I agree, it's a good idea, but have we been able to quantify potentially what is that exposure in terms of lost funding from the federal government?"

González: "We can make that clear. That's why I mentioned that, you know, we're going to make sure that in the... that in the Senate that if, for some reason, they were to... the risk were... were there that we will make sure that, you know, these... this wouldn't apply."

Crespo: "So, this... so, it's going to be amended in the Senate?"

González: "There will be... yes, there is a commitment to continue working on it in the Senate."

Crespo: "So, it'll be coming back for concurrence?"

González: "That is the idea, yes."

Crespo: "So, I'm hoping at that time that we have a better idea of our exposure and what's the risk for the state in terms of losing federal dollars when it comes back. Thank you. Thank you, Speaker."

González: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Representative Halbrook."

Halbrook: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "Indicates he will."

Halbrook: "Yep, Representative, I just want to dive into this constitutional idea just a little bit further to... just to

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maybe close the loop on it. Where in the Illinois Constitution do you believe it gives the State of Illinois or this General Assembly to pass this legislation to circumvent or... or preempt any federal law that may come into existence?"

González: "The employees that we're talking about are state employees. So, as a state, we can determine, you know, what requirements we put on our own employees."

Halbrook: "So, my question was, where in the constitution does it give you that authority?"

González: "Tenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution."

Halbrook: "No, in the... in the state constitution. 'Cause you're... you're wanting to circumvent federal law, so now you're defaulting to the... to the federal constitution. My question is, where in the state constitution does it give you the authority to do this?"

González: "We're not circumventing federal law. We're codifying current federal law."

Halbrook: "And that is what?"

González: "The civil service requirements that we have."

Halbrook: "Yep. Yep. So, it seems to me that you're setting up to circumvent federal law, and that remains my question is, where in the Illinois Constitution does it give you that authority?"

González: "We're not circumventing. We're... we're codifying, and the power that we have as a state is codified in the 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, so I'm not sure I can answer your question the way you would like me to."

Halbrook: "So, Representative, is it... if this bill was to pass both chambers and to be signed into law, don't you think that you're kind of taunting the federal government here to remove

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potentially tens of millions or a lot of... or maybe hundreds of... or billions of dollars of... of federal support for different programs? Don't you feel like you might be taunting them to take it away?"

González: "We're just making sure that employees are hired based on merits. And I don't think that... you know, we don't need to be taunting the federal government. The federal government makes a mess in and of itself."

Halbrook: "Yep. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, to the bill."

Speaker Morgan: "To the bill."

Halbrook: "If this... if this bill is... does pass with the required constitutional number, I'm going to ask for a... a vote... a verification, please. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Manley for further discussion."

Manley: "Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates that he will."

Manley: "Representative, can you give me a... an example of what exactly you're trying to accomplish with your bill? An... like an example of a situation."

González: "The way that I... that I explained it, I explained in committee too, that let's say that, for example, that the civil service requirements are A, B, and C. And for some reason, the... the federal government, the Trump administration, decides to pull out B and C. At least we have A as a baseline here in Illinois because, again, we're dealing with state employees. We can set our own requirements for our own employees. So, at least we will have A if the federal government were to take out B and C."

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Manley: "What would A, B, and C be? Give examples of what A, B, and C might actually..."

González: "These requirements, they're just like, you know, qualifications, like are they qualified to be able to administer these programs, do they have the qualifications. It's based just..."

Manley: "So, if it's a high school diploma, or if it's a bachelor's degree in something, if it's..."

González: "It can be a range... it can be a whole range of things. A whole range of things."

Manley: "It could be anything. It doesn't necessarily have to be..."

González: "No, seriously, it could be... it could be a whole range of things. In the... like I... like I mentioned, you know, we already have the power in and of ourselves to be able to... to codify our merit requirements for our own state employees. So, you know, if anything, it's just a matter of making sure that we still have qualified people, qualified personnel administering these... these programs."

Manley: "Okay. And this would be which state programs, which state employees?"

González: "The... the examples for the state programs specifically are like... like Medicaid, SNAP, unemployment insurance. Those are the type of programs that would be... that, you know, are administered with federal funding, but, you know, we have state employees who are the ones, you know, administering here in Illinois."

Manley: "So, anybody who surrounds those programs, works to administer those programs?"

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González: "Yes, all of them. All the ones that work in Illinois."

Manley: "Okay. All right, thank you."

González: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader... Leader Guzzardi for further discussion."

Guzzardi: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates he will."

Guzzardi: "Leader González, thank you for bringing this bill before us today. You... you mentioned earlier that some of the provisions that are protected that we're seeking to enshrine with this bill have been on the books since the 1930s. That... am I recalling that correctly?"

González: "Since the 1930s, yes."

Guzzardi: "Can you tell us about the... the genesis of these protections? What... what kind of provisions... where did this all come from in the first place, and why is it important to preserve it?"

González: "Maintaining these... these merit system requirements, it just uphold existing protections in hiring, retention, promotion. It fortifies existing protections against discrimination and undue political coercion, and it preempts privatization, which would harm workers employed by the state in federal grants administration."

Guzzardi: "And essential provision of these protections is around ensuring that employees are hired on the basis of merit. Is that correct?"

González: "Yes. In Illinois, we... we hire based on merit."

Guzzardi: "Yeah. I think this is a really... it's a really important point to underscore 'cause there's a lot of discussion about hiring practices. And I think trying to ensure that we have

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transparency, fairness, accountability in our hiring practices is incredibly important because there has... when we... we have an unfortunate and tarnished record in this state of a long history of hiring not based on merit but based on familial connection, political connection, right? And it's the very provisions that are in a bill like this that are ensuring that that kind of inside self-dealing isn't prevalent in our state workforce. Isn't that correct?"

González: "Yes. We're trying to make sure, you know, with... with the retention of these civil service requirements in Illinois Statutes that we're... that we're making sure that at least we have employees, like state employees, people who are incentivized to look out for the best interest for the benefit of those who live in Illinois."

Guzzardi: "Thank you very much."

González: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "All right, Leader González for a closing."

González: "I urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "Members, Representative Halbbrook has requested a verification vote. All Members will be in their chairs and vote their own switches. The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1586 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this question, there are 68 voting in 'favor,' 38 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' Mr. Clerk, please read the names of those voting in the affirmative."

Clerk Hollman: "A poll of those voting in the affirmative.
Representative Andrade; Representative Avelar;

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Representative Blair-Sherlock; Representative Briel;
Representative Buckner; Representative Canty..."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Halbrook is... is recognized."

Halbrook: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We remove or waive the
verification. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "Thank you, Representative. On this question,
there are 68 voting in 'favor,' 38 voting 'against,' 0 voting
'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional
majority, is hereby declared passed. Returning to bills on
Third Reading, on page 37, we have House Bill 2397 with
Representative Grasse. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 2397, a Bill for an Act concerning
criminal law. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Grasse, please proceed."

Grasse: "Good afternoon, colleagues. House Bill 2397 addresses a
profoundly serious issue that is absent in our prison
facilities: hospice or end-of-life care. House Bill 2397
would address the inadequate hospice services in our
corrections system by requiring that the Illinois Department
of Corrections publicly report on hospice and palliative care
of incarcerated persons across all facilities and
institutions. This bill received unanimous support in
committee, and I urge your support."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she'll yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, the... the point of the bill
is for the Department of Corrections to gather and publish

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information regarding inmates who receive hospice or palliative care. Is that accurate?"

Grasse: "Yes."

Windhorst: "Do you... do you or the department have an intention of what to do with this data and information once it's collected?"

Grasse: "Well, I think first gathering the information's important. I know one year of data we had, had 488 people who died and 404 did not receive adequate end-of-life care, dignified care. So, once we have the data, we can see what we can do to help provide dignified end-of-life care for... for all people."

Windhorst: "Has the Department of Corrections been able to give you any estimated numbers for the inmates that are... would be included in this data set?"

Grasse: "No. As I said, we do have less than a year's worth of data that I just gave you the numbers for, but that's what we want to do with this bill. I do know that we have over 1,000 people age 65 and older who are currently incarcerated. So, this is becoming a growing issue and concern."

Windhorst: "And what is the... what is the current status of hospice care in the Department of Corrections?"

Grasse: "Thank you for that question. That's a really good one. Actually, I believe, let me see, there are only three facilities where hospice and end-of-life care are offered, but they're not offered uniformly across all the Illinois Department of Corrections' facilities."

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Windhorst: "And do we expect any cost or fiscal impact with this bill to the department? Do we expect any cost or fiscal impact to the department with this bill if it becomes law?"

Grasse: "No. In fact, hospice and quality end-of-life care can save. Part of this data will help us understand how much is spent for those who are receiving futile treatments."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Representative Halbbrook is recognized."

Halbrook: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the gentlelady yield, please?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates that she will."

Halbrook: "Thank you. Representative, so the intent of this bill is to collect data on the number of individuals that might require this end-of-life care. Is that correct?"

Grasse: "Yes."

Halbrook: "In your... I believe it was your opening statement or debate with Representative Windhorst, you might've mentioned some numbers. Where do those numbers come from? And if you could, just repeat them again just for... just for the sake of this conversation."

Grasse: "Sure. From the Illinois Department of Corrections, between September 2019 and June 2020, there were 488 incarcerated people who died of... died in the Illinois Department of Corrections. There were 404 people who died in these facilities with no hospice services, and often they died without dignified symptom-managed care."

Halbrook: "So, the numbers, that you've just presented them, if we have that, why do we need to do this bill?"

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Grasse: "Well, because we have an aging population within the prisons. As I mentioned, there are over 1,000 people over the age of 65 who will be spending the rest of their life in prison. And it is an increased issue and concern, not only for the possible fiscal savings but, most importantly, because of my belief and the belief that all people, regardless of where they reside, should receive dignified end-of-life care."

Halbrook: "Yeah, so I... there's... there's some points there that I probably don't disagree with you on. But, again, if the... if the department has collected some data that you already have, just because we have an aging population in... that's incarcerated, I don't understand why we need to do this bill if it's already being done."

Grasse: "So, we have just that little bit of data I shared, but this provides a... a more organized demographic understanding of everything that is happening in our prisons. So, it will provide a full scope of... of better data and demographics so we can better understand what the issues and needs are and how we can address them."

Halbrook: "So, help me understand. What is more organized demographic medical data mean? I... it sounds like maybe some gibberish here to get something done that I don't think is necessary. I... please explain that."

Grasse: "There is, right now, no limited documentation on program outcomes and inconsistent implementation across facilities. There's no centralized or consistent data on the number of incarcerated people receiving end-of-life care, nor on any of

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the demographics, such as the age, gender, or disability status of those people residing in prisons, just to begin."

Speaker Morgan: "And, Representative Halbrook, you're out of time.

Leader Keicher indicates he'll give you his time."

Halbrook: "Okay, thank you. Okay. Well, it sounds like we're being duplicative once again here, and I... I don't understand. What is the ultimate goal? If this bill was to pass and then become law, what is the ultimate goal here? Is it just to collect data, or is there something more farther reaching than that?"

Grasse: "Well, ultimately, once we have the data, we can understand how best to provide uniform, consistent, symptom-managed, quality end-of-life care for those people who are dying in our prisons."

Halbrook: "Okay. So, I mean, we... we sort of know that now, I got to believe, because for lots of reasons, we would have to know that now. Yeah, so how do... how do you plan to use this data once you have it? What's... what's the plan there?"

Grasse: "Well, it depends on what the data is, but the plan is to have a better understanding of who needs and who is not receiving quality, dignified end-of-life care and then put into place how we can make that happen."

Halbrook: "So, you don't have... right now, you just have numbers. So, what you're telling me is, right now, you have some numbers, but you don't know the quality of care as someone might define that. You don't know what that is, right? But you did say some facilities are offering some level of hospice care, but some aren't."

Grasse: "Some of what you said is correct, some is not. We have some data. We don't have consistent data. We do not have

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uniform data. The numbers I gave you from 2019 and 2020 were just some small bits of data we have."

Halbrook: "So, within the agency, what will be the requirement of corrections? Or I assume corrections will be tasked with carrying this out. What... what is the department telling you as far as additional personnel, additional cost, time, whatever it will be? What will be the burden on the agency to implement this if it was to become law?"

Grasse: "I do know they already do have this data. It's about putting it together in a... in a comprehensive, organized way. They do already collect this data. We will just be getting it from them."

Halbrook: "Okay."

Grasse: "So, no additional cost. They are already collecting it."

Halbrook: "Okay. Ladies and gentlemen of the House, I'm not sure this is really necessary. I understand the..."

Speaker Morgan: "To the bill."

Halbrook: "Yeah, to the bill. So, I... I understand the sponsor's kind of idea of what she wants to do with the bill, and... and maybe it's a worthy goal and maybe it's not. Again, I just think it's duplicative. I think it will add additional cost and will lead to additional burdens upon the department. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Representative Canty is recognized."

Canty: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

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

Canty: "Thank you so much. Representative Grasse, it really makes us crazy when legislators come into this chamber and they

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talk about issues that they don't really know about. Do you even have any experience in the hospice space?"

Grasse: "I am still a hospice chaplain and have been a hospice chaplain for almost 32 years. Thank you, Representative Canty."

Canty: "That sounds like a really long time. How long have you been a State Representative?"

Grasse: "I have been a State Representative since June of this past year."

Canty: "So, would you say that your experience being a hospice chaplain is longer than your experience being a State Representative? I'm... I'm not super great at math all the time."

Grasse: "Yes, I would."

Canty: "Thank you so much. So, does it seem like this is an issue that you have encountered maybe once or twice in your 32 years of being a hospice chaplain?"

Grasse: "I would say thousands of times, Representative Canty."

Canty: "Thank you so much for bringing this bill forward and sharing your experience with us. Is this your first bill?"

Grasse: "It is my first bill."

Canty: "Congratulations on a job well done. I encourage an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "With no further debate, Representative Grasse to close."

Grasse: "This bill received unanimous support in committee. It's also known as the Eddie Thomas Act, named after a man who, unfortunately, died a very difficult, horrible death while in

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prison, in hopes that we can make that different for other people. So, I urge your support. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 2397 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 78 voting in 'favor,' 27 voting 'against,' 1 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Leader Gabel is recognized."

Gabel: "Mr. Speaker, let the record show that Representative Jones is excused for the rest of the day."

Speaker Morgan: "Continuing on House Third Reading bills, House Bill 1866, Representative Guerrero-Cuellar. We have... Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1866, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Guerrero-Cuellar, please proceed."

Guerrero-Cuellar: "Speaker, let me acknowledge, well done. Thank you to the General Assembly. House Bill 1866 is really to extend the repeal date from December 31, 2025 to December 31, 2028. Also, it changes the language regarding the E 9-1-1 system, the Enhanced 9-1-1 system, replacing it with the updated Next Generation 9-1-1 system, and I'm open to questions."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

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

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Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, we're extending the sunset for the 911 surcharge. Is that accurate?"

Guerrero-Cuellar: "Correct."

Windhorst: "And that will be a three-year extension?"

Guerrero-Cuellar: "Correct."

Windhorst: "Are we doing anything with the rates? Are the rates changing or being updated any way?"

Guerrero-Cuellar: "No, that will take care of the rates. With the extension, they're going to stay as is."

Windhorst: "And what are some things that are... are funded with the 911 surcharge?"

Guerrero-Cuellar: "Well, it's really our... our 911 for our first responders' operating system, right, to ensure that we have our ambulances and our fire department and our police department are able to get to emergency calls as needed."

Windhorst: "Does this only apply in the City of Chicago or is this statewide?"

Guerrero-Cuellar: "So, this will provide it for the... with populations over 500,000. Every 9-1-1 system in Illinois must provide Next Generation 9-1-1 services by January 1, 2027."

Windhorst: "2027, you said?"

Guerrero-Cuellar: "Yes."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Guerrero-Cuellar to close."

Guerrero-Cuellar: "I encourage an 'aye' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1866 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish?"

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Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 107 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on Order of Third Reading, we have House Bill 2546 with Leader Guzzardi. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 2546, a Bill for an Act concerning criminal law. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader Guzzardi, please proceed."

Guzzardi: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 2546 is a clarifying change to our Youthful Parole Act. This is a measure that we passed in 2019, which allows individuals who are under the age of 22... under the age of 21, excuse me, when they committed certain types of offenses to apply for parole. The bill, as we passed it originally, sets out a timeline for this process to happen. And the first step in that timeline is the three years before their eligibility, they may file paperwork requesting this hearing. The... the change that we need to make is that certain individuals have been resentenced, and when they get resentenced, they're less than three years away from their eligibility day. So, the... there has been some discrepancy in the interpretation of the original law 'cause the law says three years prior to becoming eligible, the person may file this paperwork. But we want to make sure it says any time up to three years in case you get resentenced to within that three-year window. So, this will just say any day up to three years before you're eligible for review, you may file this petition with the PRB. So, again, this is... the PRB has interpreted this language both ways, so we just want

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to make it really clear in statute what we mean. There's no known opposition to this bill, and I would urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates he will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. The youthful offender parole program was established, I believe, in the 100th General Assembly. It's been some time ago. Does that... accurate?"

Guzzardi: "My recollection is in the lame duck session in 2019, if I recall correctly."

Windhorst: "And just briefly, who is eligible under the youthful parole structure?"

Guzzardi: "It's people under the age of 21 when they committed the offense, and it's only for a certain categories of offense. And some types of offense, you are eligible to apply after serving 10 years. That's the shortest possible duration. Some types of offense after 20 and some after 40 years, if I'm recalling the statute correctly."

Windhorst: "And those... the petitions for parole are heard by the Prisoner Review Board."

Guzzardi: "That's correct. They... they will be, yes. That's correct."

Windhorst: "And your bill doesn't change who's eligible, it just changes the structure for how application is made. Or not even a structure, the process."

Guzzardi: "It doesn't even really do... yeah, it doesn't even really do that much. It just clarifies the timeline for when the petitions may be applied for."

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Windhorst: "So, the... essentially, you believe this is what the law currently says. It's just clarifying that?"

Guzzardi: "Yeah, and... and the PRB, in some cases, has interpreted it as... as this bill's written that that's what the current law means. And in other cases, they've denied people because it doesn't comport with the... a strict reading of the language of the law. So, that's why we're trying to make this change."

Windhorst: "I appreciate you bringing this forward. I don't support the underlying youthful offender parole, so I'll be voting 'no,' but I appreciate you bringing these changes forward."

Guzzardi: "I appreciate it."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Leader Guzzardi to close."

Guzzardi: "I appreciate the debate with Leader Windhorst. I guess I would only say that even if you don't support the underlying bill, this is making that act clearer and easier for our agencies to implement. So, I think an improvement to the law is always a thing worth voting for, and I would ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 2546 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. Leader Guzzardi is recognized."

Guzzardi: "Mr. Speaker, please, I request that the bill be moved to the Order of Postponed Consideration."

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Speaker Morgan: "Mr. Clerk, please place this bill on Postponed Consideration. Moving to page 32 of Third Readings, we have House Bill 79, Leader Haas. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 79, a Bill for an Act concerning public employee benefits. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader Haas, please proceed."

Haas: "Thank you, Speaker. House Bill 79 would allow a... would allow a retired sheriff's officer to return to work as a school security officer for up to 999 hours, as opposed to the current limit of 599 hours, without suffering a suspension of retirement annuity."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no discussion, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 79 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 107 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on bills on Third Reading, we have House Bill 1461, Leader Hammond. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1461, a Bill for an Act concerning civil law. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader Hammond, please proceed."

Hammond: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 1461 simply authorizes IDNR, on behalf of the state, to execute and deliver a permanent easement of real property in Fulton County to KAS... KSS Conservation Partners, LLC. I know of no opposition, and happy to take any questions."

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Speaker Morgan: "There being no discussion, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 1461 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 107 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Returning to the Order of Second Reading, House Bill 3744 with Representative Hanson. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3744, a Bill for an Act concerning safety. The bill was read for a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #1 is offered by Representative Hanson."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Hanson to explain the amendment."

Hanson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House. The amendment simply puts the onus on the shipper, rather than the carrier, about the movement of irradiated nuclear fuel or items throughout the state."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Hanson moves adoption of Floor Amendment #1. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the amendment is adopted. Any further amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Bolin: "No further amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Morgan: "Third Reading. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3744, a Bill for an Act concerning safety. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Hanson, please proceed."

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Hanson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 3744 is a public safety initiative, and it's a bill that... that's an initiative of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the Office of Homeland Security. In 1990, the Radiation Protection Act for compatible... the Radiation Protection Act hasn't been updated since 1990. This will bring our state regulations in line with the national... U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's requirements and regulations, and it also increases the notification that a shipper must provide with radiated... irradiated nuclear fuel either within or through the State of Illinois. Takes the... takes the notification time from 7... from 24 hours to seven days."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates he'll yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, I believe you hit on this, but the bill is designed to bring our state law in compliance with federal law. Is that accurate?"

Hanson: "That's correct. We haven't updated our law since 1990, and we are actually required to be compatible based on the Atomic Energy Act of 1954."

Windhorst: "And it... it appeared initially the Railroad Association and Midwest Truckers had maybe expressed some concerns, but they are now neutral with the amendment. Do I have that correct?"

Hanson: "Correct, yeah. It's... it's the responsibility of the shipper, rather than the carrier, to provide the information to IEMA, the state police, and any agencies that are going to

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be possibly receiving either shipment in or through their area."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further debate, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 3744 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 106 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'opposed,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Staying on Orders of Second Reading, we have House Bill 1607 with Representative Harper. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1607, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. The bill was read for a second time previously. Amendment #1 was adopted in committee. Floor Amendments 2 and 3 have been approved for consideration. Floor Amendment #2 is offered by Representative Harper."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Harper to explain House Floor Amendment 2."

Harper: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask that House Floor Amendment 2 be adopted. It simply replaces designee with a designee who shall serve as a nonvoting advisory member of the Commission on Eliminating Food Deserts."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Harper moves adoption of Floor Amendment #2. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the amendment is adopted. Any further amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

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Clerk Bolin: "Floor Amendment #3, offered by Representative Harper."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Harper to explain House Floor Amendment #3."

Harper: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for the adoption of House Floor Amendment #3, which simply replaces the Office of Lieutenant Governor with the Department of Public Health."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Harper moves adoption of Floor Amendment #3. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the amendment is adopted. Any further amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Bolin: "No further amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Morgan: "Third Reading. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1607, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Harper, please proceed."

Harper: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members. I am blessed to present House Bill 1607, which creates the Commission on Eliminating Food Deserts. The commission will be housed in the Department of Public Health and will focus on the effectiveness of current state-led efforts while advising the General Assembly on the best practices and policies that will lead to the elimination of food deserts. I know of no opposition, and I encourage an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader Windhorst for discussion."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

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

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Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, appreciate you bringing this forward. This is a commission on food deserts. Is that correct?"

Harper: "It's a commission to eliminate food deserts."

Windhorst: "And we've moved it... initially, it was going to be under the Lieutenant Governor's Office, but with the amendment it will be under the Department of Public Health. Is that correct?"

Harper: "That is correct."

Windhorst: "And the point of the commission is to advise us, the General Assembly, on ways to eliminate food deserts?"

Harper: "Yes, but most importantly, it takes into account voices from across the state, knowing that there's no one-size-fits-all approach to solving food deserts because they're happening for different reasons in different spaces. It takes into account many different stakeholders all across this state, again, as they not only evaluate the current ways that we've been working as a state to eliminate food deserts but also giving us recommendations on perhaps more policies and programs that could help us eliminate them faster for the sake of the public health of Illinois."

Windhorst: "Does this bill define food deserts, or does it use the existing definition in state law?"

Harper: "It does include a definition, but it is our existing definition that we've been working on."

Windhorst: "And it looks like you have quite a few proponents of... Illinois Municipal League, Farm Bureau, Catholic Conference of Illinois, Illinois Beef Association. Are there... will there be any fiscal impact with this bill to the state?"

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Harper: "Not that I know of."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Representative Halbrook."

Halbrook: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

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

Halbrook: "Yeah, so, Representative, I'm just kind of curious about this definition. I know that Leader Windhorst asked you about that. Can you... can you just, for the sake of this conversation, tell us what the definition of a food desert is?"

Harper: "Sure. As stated in the bill, "Food desert" means a geographic area where people have limited access to affordable, healthy, and nutritious food. "Food desert" includes a food desert as defined by Economic Research Report Number 140 of the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, August 2012."

Halbrook: "Mr. Speaker, if you could, please, it's getting kind of loud in here. And I just want to make sure that we can hear the discussion here. Thank you. So, the Economic Research Report Number 140, that's a USDA report that is now 13 years old almost. Has there been anything updated since then?"

Harper: "I can't tell you if there's been anything updated from the USDA, but I know that from passing the food desert report here in the State of Illinois, I don't know, maybe eight years ago, that we also codified our own definition here in the State of Illinois. And that is also included here in this bill. We are making no changes to the definition of a food desert, which I'm sure we're all very clear on what that means

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here in the State of Illinois. I also want to remind everyone here that I am proud that my Members of the Agriculture Committee passed this bill unanimously. And after many valuable conversations, we passed these three amendments unanimously as well. And I want to thank the five chief cosponsors and the 17 and counting cosponsors for their faith in this bill."

Halbrook: "Thank you for that. So, you mentioned that there was a... a food desert, something that was passed eight years ago. Is that what's led to this need to put a commission into existence? What happened with the... what we did eight years ago?"

Harper: "What was passed eight years ago was one of my very first bills on this subject when I got to the General Assembly, and I learned that food deserts were not on the subject of anyone here. And coming from a community where most of the people are dying prematurely from preventable diet-related diseases, especially those in my household, I just found that unconscionable. So, what the bill that I passed then simply tracked the food deserts. And since then, there are a lot of Representatives on this floor who have used that tracking to provide the basis for passing their bills to help to remedy our food deserts. And so, again, that bill was simply to track the locations of the food deserts throughout this state and give a report to the General Assembly on where those... where those locations are. And so, now that we are tracking them, moving forward with a commission will actually help us to put some tangible solutions in place that will really help us increase healthy and affordable food access for people all

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across the State of Illinois who are living and dying in food deserts."

Halbrook: "Thank you. That's a very thorough explanation. I may have to ask someone to yield me time. I just have a couple of questions in closing that are very brief."

Speaker Morgan: "Real quick, Representative. Representative Miller is giving you more time, Representative."

Halbrook: "Thank you. Representative, how many... how many of these areas have you located as a result of your legislation? How many areas are there across the state?"

Harper: "So, I can't tell you how many areas, but I passed a bill that makes the Department of Public Health send you a report every single year that details the... those locations. So, Representative, I bet if you check your email that report from the Department of Public Health, which, again, comes out yearly because of the bill that I passed years ago, is in your email inbox and you already have that information."

Halbrook: "Thank you. Final question, Representative. How many members of this commission will be necessary to make it fully functioning?"

Harper: "Let's see here. The commission has a number of members. And as you know, in order to be fully functional, you definitely want to have it staffed, but you just have to meet quorum. And so, it looks like we have about 16... about maybe 20, right just under 30 members of this commission, sir."

Halbrook: "Okay. Thank you. And... and I guess I did have one final question that... in the reports... and I apologize, I didn't read the report. There's lots of reports. This General Assembly's really good about creating all kinds of task force and

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different commissions, and... and over time, the number of reports do pile up, and some of those things are meaningful. But I guess my questions is, in all those reports, if you would be so kind to state for the... for this body, what is the cause of these deserts? Why do we have them? Is it... is it global warming? Is it... what is the situation that we have all these deserts?"

Harper: "There are various reasons for why food deserts exist in various areas. For example, in my community in West Englewood, Chicago, there are different reasons that there are food deserts perhaps down in Washington County. And so, it will be the work of this commission to look at county by county, region by region what those specific reasons or what are those specific criteria that are causing those areas to be food deserts. And, in fact, that in itself will help to guide the advice and the recommendations that will come from this commission that hopefully we will be able to adopt some of those here on the House floor sooner rather than later, before more people die prematurely simply because of perhaps what zip code they live in or what county they live in doesn't have an adequate amount of grocery retailers."

Halbrook: "Thank you, Representative. And... and in closing and to the bill."

Speaker Morgan: "To the bill."

Halbrook: "I know there's been a fairly wide amount of support. It did come out of committee unanimous, and, again, there is a lot of support for this bill. I think, though, that, ladies and gentlemen, we need to look at the root causes of why these things are being created, if you will, why there's these

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different deserts, whether it's a food desert, a hospital desert, a medical desert, an education desert, whatever the desert might be. We need to look at the root cause of this, address how to make this state a more business friendly, a more family friendly environment to allow these things to not happen, but yet to allow a business to flourish and grow. And so, with that, ladies and gentlemen, I yield the balance of my time. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "For additional discussion, Representative Deering."

Deering: "Thank you, Mr. Chair. Will the sponsor yield?"

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

Deering: "Representative, thank you so much for bringing forth this legislation to support a commission. Having served as a board president for a food bank in Decatur, Illinois that is not working itself out of a job, I'm here to testify that, in fact, food insecurity is on the rise. And so, I commend you for this. Just one question from me. The notes say that in 2023, we passed Senate Bill 850 establishing the Illinois Grocery Initiative. Has there been a good effort to put those groceries in place? I mean, I think... are we working along? I love that this commission would continue that effort."

Harper: "I'm sorry, Representative, can you repeat the question for me? It's kind of loud."

Deering: "The governor signed into law the Illinois Grocery Initiative that was a comprehensive \$20 million program aimed at addressing food deserts across the state. Do you know if we're making progress on that currently?"

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Harper: "I do not, but that is the reason that I have proposed this commission, so that we can test the effectiveness of our current efforts to address food deserts. And so, I am hopeful that it's making a difference. To be honest, I can't feel the difference in my community, in my food desert that I've been living in for the past 40 years, but I am hopeful that it will reach."

Deering: "Yeah. Thank you for this."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Harper to close."

Harper: "Thank you. I encourage an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1607 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 95 voting in 'favor,' 9 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Returning to bills on the Order of Third Reading, we have House Bill 1141 with Representative Hauter. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1141, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Hauter, please proceed."

Hauter: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 1141 addresses a new insurance company tactic to deny care to patients and put profits over patients once again. We know and we have addressed in this House multiple times different insurance company tactics, some of those being step therapy,

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preauthorization abuse, denials of care, delays in care, little or no payment, even inadequate networks. Well, we have a new tactic that we have seen across the nation, and that is very simply denying anesthesia insurance coverage after an arbitrary length of time. So, you can see where this would be very disruptive to patients who expect to be covered for the... the duration of their surgery. Thank you. What insurance companies did across the nation in three other states was to deny insurance... anesthesia insurance coverage after an arbitrary length of time. Patients have no control over the length of their surgery. Anesthesiologists have no control or little control. And surgeons oftentimes have little control when they run into complications, abnormal anatomy, or even malfunctioning equipment. This bill, 11... House Bill 1141 would enact... forbidding the insurance companies of Illinois to try any kind of reduction or denials of coverage after an arbitrary length of time. I thank my cosponsor, friend and colleague, Representative Blair-Sherlock, who immediately, furiously texted me after this news came and said we have to do something about this. I know of no opposition to this bill, and I know that I thank the Speaker of the House, who has also signed on as a cosponsor. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Representative Costa Howard."

Costa Howard: "Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates he'll yield."

Hauter: "I will."

Costa Howard: "Representative, I... I think we all agree that policy is a good thing that insurance covers basic health care. Do

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we have an estimate about what... if this will have a budget impact?"

Hauter: "This will not have a budget impact. We could not use... this can only be on private health insurance because of... it's federal and other guidelines. So, we could only mandate coverage on private health insurance, so they'll be no budget impact."

Costa Howard: "Okay, thank you. Is this something that you see in your practice that you're going to benefit from?"

Hauter: "I will not. Currently, there is no denials of care in Illinois. And this would be status quo or continuing of the status quo and would not allow insurance companies to deny coverage to a patient and payment to a patient. In theory, if they did have this available to them, then we would then bill the patient. So, this prevents the patient from being billed."

Costa Howard: "Okay, but your practice, since this is your practice, you see this firsthand and... and there will be an impact in your practice, correct?"

Hauter: "If this status quo is maintained, I will see no impact. And all... all insurance reforms impact me in the end. So, anything that... that we can address, the tactics, whether it be denials of care or low payments, all of those conceivably would affect my... my income. So, this is just another way we're addressing a tactic. And downstream, yes, you could say that it affects all physicians' income when we address issues that put profits over patients."

Costa Howard: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Leader Keicher."

Keicher: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

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Speaker Morgan: "He indicates he'll yield."

Keicher: "Thank you very much. Representative, just a couple very clarifying points. There is no record of this ever happening in the State of Illinois. No insurance company has requested that this... this limitation be put into place for any patient in the State of Illinois. This is preemptive to make sure it doesn't because there was a whisper that it may be a tactic down the road, correct?"

Hauter: "That is correct."

Keicher: "Okay."

Hauter: "There was a large insurance company that tried it in Missouri, New York, and Connecticut."

Keicher: "Has not happened in Illinois, to repeat my question."

Hauter: "But it has not be tried in Illinois."

Keicher: "Okay."

Hauter: "This bill would forbid it from happening."

Keicher: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Hauter to close."

Hauter: "I urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1141 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 107 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'opposed,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on the Order of Third Reading, on page 33, we have

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House Bill 1375 with Representative Barbara Hernandez. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1375, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Barbara Hernandez, please proceed."

Hernandez, B.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. HB30... 1375 establishes a student teaching stipend program to support the financial needs of students pursuing teaching careers and to address the state teacher shortage. The Board of Higher Education is responsible for overseeing the program, providing technical assistance, and adopting rules for administration. This is subject to appropriation, and this bill is actually similar to one we passed last year, which was HB4652. It passed the House, but it was stuck in the Senate. This would also allow \$10,000 to go to students... well, the stipend program, and then 2,000 for the cooperating teachers."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

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

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, who would be paying the... the student teachers? Would it be the local school district, the state? Who would actually be paying them?"

Hernandez, B.: "Hold on. So, IHBA will be transferring a portion of the appropriate funds to ISBE to provide stipends for the cooperating teachers, which is a 2... \$2,000 that we were talking about. And then IHBA... the Higher Board of Education will be the ones proportioning the rest for the students' stipend program."

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Windhorst: "And you said this is subject to appropriation?"

Hernandez, B.: "Yes, it is."

Windhorst: "Do we have a estimated cost if this were to receive an appropriation?"

Hernandez, B.: "For the total program, it would be 68 million. However, due to the budget, we are asking for 10 million so... just to start the pilot program."

Windhorst: "So, 68 million to fully fund, but 10 million is the anticipated appropriation this year."

Hernandez, B.: "Yes, that is correct."

Windhorst: "And are there current teacher stipend programs that are being funded by the state?"

Hernandez, B.: "Yes, there is one that is \$45 million. However, it is very open question to where the fundings can go. It can go for the student stipend program that the school might want to create, or it can be used for other ways."

Windhorst: "And how long has that program been in place?"

Hernandez, B.: "I believe just a few years."

Windhorst: "And to your knowledge, has there been an analysis to see how the money is actually being spent?"

Hernandez, B.: "No, not in my recollection."

Windhorst: "And why do you believe that this is an important program to create?"

Hernandez, B.: "Well, many students currently going through the program, they have to balance life, school, and a full-time job. This program, the students... well, the student teacher program requires them to pretty much have a internship that is unpaid. Most of the time, it's a full-time... it's an equivalent to a full-time job. And they deserve a little bit

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of money to be able to sustain themselves. We've heard a lot of stories from students that, unfortunately, can't finish their school because of this."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Representative Reick."

Reick: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

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

Reick: "Thank you, sir. Representative, this is a currently... this is a program that's currently in place. Is that correct?"

Hernandez, B.: "No. This would be creating a pilot program for the student stipend teacher program."

Reick: "The issue that I'm going to ask you about is what constitutes an emergency here such that there is an... provision for emergency rulemaking?"

Hernandez, B.: "Can you ask your question again?"

Reick: "Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't hear you ask... okay. What is... where's the emergency here? Emergency rulemaking is supposed to be pretty tightly circumscribed, and I fail to see what we're looking at in the way of an emergency here."

Hernandez, B.: "So, if there is not enough money that would... is being allocated, for example, if we don't get that 60 million originally, their emergency rulemaking would be to allow only a certain population of students receiving that money, depending on low-income financial basis."

Reick: "Again, I've... question is, where's the emergency?"

Hernandez, B.: "Of this bill?"

Reick: "No, of the provision for emergency rulemaking in this bill. I don't... I'm not questioning the... the bill itself. I'm questioning the need for emergency rulemaking."

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Hernandez, B.: "Well, just like explained. When... if there's not enough money, then the department has to figure out where the money's going to go and to whom. Instead of all of them, it'll be a low-income based."

Reick: "And I guess I would just reiterate the fact that I do not see that as rising to the level of an emergency under the... under the Illinois Administrative Procedures Act."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Reick, your time's expired, but I believe that Leader Haas has given you an extra five minutes."

Reick: "Thank you, sir. Thanks, Leader Haas. Is there any... are you willing... is there any provision in this bill for a... a teacher who would receive the... this stipend to stay in Illinois and teach after graduation?"

Hernandez, B.: "It is not, but we hope and as an incentive that they do stay in Illinois and teach. This bill also has a three-year revision that we can review how this bill was enacted or if we missed something in three years."

Reick: "Well, again, is this something that you would be willing to... to amend this bill to provide that someone who benefits from the largesse of this program would at least stay in Illinois and be a teacher here? I think that's only fair."

Hernandez, B.: "I would like to see that pass first and then we can maybe talk about in the Senate."

Reick: "Fix it in the Senate, as they say. Thank you. To the bill."

Speaker Morgan: "To the bill."

Reick: "The Administrative Procedures Act has a pretty strict definition of what constitutes an emergency. I think for the

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simple purpose of the bill itself, you know, it's a question of whether we have the money or not. We know darned good and well that there's going to be some real problems cutting back on the budget this year. We suspect there's going... there might be some drastic ones. I'm not crazy about the idea of giving this kind of emergency rulemaking authority on the... on the off chance that we don't have the money. Not having the money is not an emergency under the Administrative Procedures Act, and for this purpose... for that reason, I'm afraid I'm going to have to be a 'no' vote on this bill. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Representative Crespo."

Crespo: "Thank you, Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

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

Crespo: "So, Representative, I heard you say that the projected cost of the program, if fully implemented, would be like \$60 million, correct?"

Hernandez, B.: "Fully, yes. We're only requesting 10."

Crespo: "How... how did you arrive to \$60 million?"

Hernandez, B.: "Well, if we do the math, on average student teaching is around 521 hours, which is an equivalent to at least 7,815. If student teachers were to earn minimum wage, some programs go above the amount while others go below. So, that's our estimate of why we want to give up to \$10,000 for student."

Crespo: "So, how... how many students are you projecting would be eligible for the grant?"

Hernandez, B.: "I believe we... we don't have the specific number of the data. However, from the past conversations, it's close to... I believe we said it was close to 5,000."

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Crespo: "Okay. And that would... that number is key because that's going to help establish how much the program could potentially cost. We've made wrong assumptions in the House before and has results in programs that have cost us a lot more than what we projected. So, I... I think we need to be careful when we try to quantify. I appreciate the fact that you are able to quantify how much it's going to cost. Has the Governor's Office given you an opinion on this? And the reason I ask is because during the governor's introduced budget, he did say that if we propose... if anyone proposes a new program, they need to identify where that money's going to come from or what program is going to... at the expense at what other program. Has the governor given an opinion on that, on this bill?"

Hernandez, B.: "I have not talked to the governor about this bill."

Crespo: "Okay. And... and to the bill, folks. You've heard me say this before."

Speaker Morgan: "To the bill."

Crespo: "Every time you pass a bill that's subject to appropriations, you create a line item. Once you create a line item, you're leaving it up to a handful of people to decide whether that gets funded or not. And I'll give you a good example. We had the Healthy School Meals for All that... that Leader West passed several years ago. Ladies and gentlemen, those people are still waiting for those meals. The program is going to cost over \$200 million. So, my question to you is, if you support this, are you supporting that as well, and which one should we prioritize first? You

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can ask for everything. You can't have it all. We need to start prioritizing what we want, and at the end of the day, taxpayers are going to pay for this. And at this rate, we're just going to run out of taxpayers' dollars to spend. So, again, be careful when you pass these bills that are subject to appropriations because you're, in fact, creating a line item that's going to put pressure on us and the taxpayers to fund it. So, please keep that in mind."

Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Leader Stuart."

Stuart: "Thank you, Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

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

Stuart: "Thank you. Thank you, Representative, for bringing this forward. I just have a couple of questions. Are you aware, do we have a shortage of teachers across our schools, across the entire state, across all sorts of subject matters and ages and... and everything else?"

Hernandez, B.: "Yes, we do."

Stuart: "Is it a requirement for those seeking teacher certification to do student teaching?"

Hernandez, B.: "Yes, it is."

Stuart: "So, they're absolutely required to do this?"

Hernandez, B.: "Yes."

Stuart: "Are you aware that they are not allowed to have outside employment while they are doing their student teaching?"

Hernandez, B.: "I'm not aware. I believe they do have a full-time job, if they're able to handle it."

Stuart: "I... I've supervised student teachers. They're not allowed to have an outside job while they are doing their student teaching semester. So, I would guess, I'm sure you probably

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would agree, that lots of these students still have to pay rent and fees, and they are still paying tuition, and yet they are not allowed to have outside employment during the time that they're student teaching. Would you agree with that?"

Hernandez, B.: "That is correct."

Stuart: "So, in this day and age, almost every college student does some type of an internship. Oftentimes, they are paid quite well during that internship. And would you agree that this is pretty similar to an internship, and yet this is unpaid?"

Hernandez, B.: "That is correct."

Stuart: "Okay. And would you like to help solve the shortage of teachers that we have in the State of Illinois?"

Hernandez, B.: "Of course I will."

Stuart: "I... I would very much too. I realize that this could be an expensive proposition for the State of Illinois, but to the bill."

Speaker Morgan: "To the bill."

Stuart: "I would argue... I would argue that this is expensive, but what's more expensive is an entire generation of uneducated students because we cannot get teachers in the classroom. When we have classrooms that are constantly covered by substitute teachers, when you have a teacher who has to cover two and three classes at the same time, when you have a teacher that never gets planning time because they are constantly pulled away to cover because there are not enough teachers in the classrooms, we are in a dire situation. We are in a dire situation, and we need teachers. This is a

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barrier for those seeking licensure. It's an expensive barrier to have to do your student teaching completely unpaid. This goes back to the history of the sexist nature of the fact that teachers tend to be overwhelmingly female. Overwhelmingly female. And the expectation is that they were taken care of by a man, so it's okay that their salaries are low. And this is just the beginning of it, that teachers are expected to do a lot of work for free. And this is where it starts. And if we don't start to fix this problem, our classrooms will remain empty of those highly qualified teachers that we all want our students to have. So, if you don't want to have huge class sizes, if you don't want your kids being taught by substitutes, a different teacher every single day in the first grade is not a way to learn literacy. If you don't want those situations to happen, then you need to support things like this, and we have to do the work to figure out the way to fund things like this. So, again, thank you very much, Representative, for bringing this forward."

Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Representative Ugaste."

Ugaste: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "The sponsor will yield."

Ugaste: "Representative, just quickly, I... the conversation you were having a few minutes ago reminded me of something. Is this the bill we discussed in committee where if there was extra money left that we ended up appropriating, it was just going to stay in this fund?"

Hernandez, B.: "That is exactly the bill that you're mentioning."

Ugaste: "Okay. And is it actually a private group that's disseminating this or is it one of our state agencies?"

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Hernandez, B.: "It's one of our state agencies."

Ugaste: "Why, if there's extra money, is it not going back to the General Revenue Fund?"

Hernandez, B.: "Because this will allow for other students that might come in."

Ugaste: "Well, but if there's extra money, we could just appropriate more the following year and then... instead of building up a fund in and of itself. I... I don't understand why... why we would ever approach it that way, especially in the state where, as prior Representative pointed out, we're looking to fund other programs for which there's already a line item and we don't have enough funding to do those. So, is there a reason why it needs to stay there, or... or is it just the desire of the people who developed the program?"

Hernandez, B.: "The funds were going to be appropriated across the board, from what I understand, even if there is a surplus of funds."

Ugaste: "Okay. Thank you, appreciate it. To the bill."

Speaker Morgan: "To the bill."

Ugaste: "As far as this is concerned, I... I understand trying to incentivize people to go into certain positions. We'd probably all like to do that, but we have a whole host of positions across the state. And in trying to incentivize all of them by paying those and even those who can't earn while they are... we have... we have a... we have paramedic shortages I'm hearing. And with paramedics, a lot of times they do not get training on fire departments the way they used to because the municipalities can't afford it, so now they're training on their own. They have to do clinical work, and I don't see

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anyone looking to reimburse them. There's a lot of choices we can make. We can't afford to do this for everyone. I understand we want more teachers. I understand we want people to come to our state to do things. But asking for tax dollars to do it, it's taking money from one place where we don't really seem to have it and giving it to another. So, I will not be supporting the bill for that purpose as well as the fact that if there are extra funds, for some reason it seems to stay with this program rather than going back to our General Revenue Fund. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Representative Halbrook."

Halbrook: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She'll yield. Thank you."

Halbrook: "Thank you. Representative, I'm trying to understand the math here. So, you... you say the program is \$60 million. You're only asking for 10 million. The 60 million is for how many students?"

Hernandez, B.: "Close to 5,400."

Halbrook: "Five thousand, four hundred?"

Hernandez, B.: "Yes, students."

Halbrook: "Five thousand, four hundred. Okay. And so, what happens if you only have 2,400?"

Hernandez, B.: "Students? Then they would be based on low-income financial based."

Halbrook: "So, I'm not sure if I understand what you're saying there."

Hernandez, B.: "So, if we only have 2,000 students, that 10,000 will be appropriated to the... to the specific... well, yeah, to

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the 2,000 students in the list. If we have less than \$10 million, then it will be based on financial."

Halbrook: "So, the emergency rules that my predecessor spoke about, what would happen there? Would you be able to go after additional funds to make up the difference to the 10,000 ultimately to get to that?"

Hernandez, B.: "Sorry, can you repeat that again?"

Halbrook: "Yeah. So... yeah, if you... if you're appropriating \$10 million, and regardless, I guess, whether the number of student teachers that you have, if it's 2,000 or 5,000 or the... the max number, does the emergency rules allow you to come into the budget somehow, somehow and find the additional dollars?"

Hernandez, B.: "It will... well, since this is subject to appropriation, we hope that 10 million will be the beginning pilot program and then we would like to seek the full funding eventually."

Halbrook: "Okay. So, how were we able to identify that there's a need of 5400 student teachers, or... or where does that number come from?"

Hernandez, B.: "I believe that it came from I... IEA. They estimated that currently in the program there's 5,400 students looking at... well, entering their students' teacher program."

Halbrook: "Okay. So, the question I was really concerned about is one of the previous Representatives said something about our kids continuing to be taught by substitute teachers. Is there a... I mean, I'm confused by that statement. That seems like we're considering substitute teachers to be of a different quality or status there. Could you... can you explain that?"

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Hernandez, B.: "I... I don't think substitute teachers are in no different to actual teachers besides that the full-time teacher is there teaching the... the class versus the substitute teacher might be there only temporary."

Halbrook: "Okay. So, my concern is, we see declining enrollments across the state. We see, kind of, this mass exodus into private education, whether it's sponsored by a church or another entity, or families that are doing it in their homes. I'm not sure why we're not getting out of the way even more to pave the way or creating programs that incentivizes them. My... my question here in regard to all of that is, why don't we go to the universities and then just ask them to say, why don't you roll back the cost of the tuition to this amount of money? Why aren't we doing that?"

Hernandez, B.: "That's a great question. I think that's something they should discuss, but another date where this is not relating to the bill."

Halbrook: "Yeah, well, I think it's a great question. Rather than create another program that's going to spend \$10 million-plus, potentially up to \$60 million and beyond, and be built into the budget perpetuity... into perpetuity... this is a budget this year that's projected to spend \$2 million more with a ton and ton of budget gimmickry, potential half a billion dollars' worth of tax hikes, on top of \$1.2 billion tax hikes last year. I think we need to pull this bill from the record and go talk about this very important matter about how we make costs easier and better for students that want to go into this profession. That will probably, hopefully, open up the avenue for even more teachers. Every year, we do things

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in this chamber to address this teacher shortage, minimum teacher salaries, the list goes on and on. Ladies and gentlemen, I would ask that this bill would be pulled from the record and urge a strong 'no' vote if it is to remain. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Barbara Hernandez to close."

Hernandez, B.: "Thank you, everyone. I think this bill is very important to the students that are seeking to be our future educators here in Illinois. They... although if the colleges fix what the Representative was saying, right now, there's a lot of economy issues, as we're seeing. The stock market is crashing, and people still need to pay groceries, rent, and other medical issues that they might have and balances. Therefore, this is something to be able to help them seek their goals, and maybe we should focus on other issues later on but... that relate to the... what the Representative wants to do. However, right now, this is about a bill that will educate individuals, keeps people in our colleges, and be able to help them in this financial need. So, I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1375 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 78 voting in 'favor,' 23 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Returning to Order of Second Reading, on page 24, we have

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House Bill 3385 from Norma Hernandez. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3385, a Bill for an Act concerning education. The bill was read for a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. No Floor Amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Morgan: "Out of the record. On Third Reading, page 33, we have House Bill 1312 from Representative Hirschauer. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1312, a Bill for an Act concerning government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Hirschauer, please proceed."

Hirschauer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 1312 amends the State Commemorative Dates Act to provide that the governor shall annually designate by official proclamation the third Friday in September in each year as POW/MIA Recognition Day. Currently, we must designate POW/MIA Recognition Day via resolution every year. This change was requested by an active group of constituents in my district comprised of service members and families of service members who are part of my local veterans' advisory committee. They are advocating for this permanent designation to reflect the seriousness of the issue and to reinforce our commitment to remembering and honoring our POWs and those missing in action. I would especially like to recognize Bill and Traci Wood, who are technically constituents of Leader Ugaste, but they worked with the 49th District's veterans' committee to get this bill passed. Bill and Traci both have uncles who are still missing in action from the Vietnam War. This legislation honors...

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honors Bill's uncle, Air Force Major Ronald Mayercik, and Traci's uncle, Thomas Pilkington, of the U.S. Navy. In honor of Bill and Traci's uncles and all those families across Illinois, I ask for your 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no discussion, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 1312 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting's open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 106 voting in 'favor', 0 voting 'opposed', 0 voting 'present.' And this bill shall have received a constitutional majority and is hereby declared passed. Staying on the Order of Third Reading, on page 32, we have House Bill 1082 from Representative Johnson. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1082, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Johnson, please proceed."

Johnson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 1082 amends the Illinois Municipal Auditing Law. It changes the requirements for municipalities' annual audits for those whose population are under 1,000. Rather than having to pay an auditing firm annually to file the report, that requirement will be moved to every four years, with an annual financial report for the other three years. Of course, there is the understanding that any report that contains an adverse opinion, then the audit report must be filed annually until such time that the audit report is clear of adverse opinion or disclaimer opinions. At the request of the Comptroller's Office, the effective date

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is Fiscal Year '27. This is an IML initiative. It is also supported by the Illinois CPA Society."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Representative Swanson is recognized."

Swanson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates he'll yield."

Swanson: "I rise in support of this bill. This is something we need, not only for our communities, but we should bring it out further to other nonprofits and other organizations within our communities. It's so hard to find auditors out in the country, out in the western part of Illinois, and I'm sure around Southern Illinois too, to even find auditors to do these. And many of our... I get many calls from businesses saying, hey, who can I get to audit my books because they're just not there. And so, this is a great initiative. I support this and look forward to seeing the governor sign this to relieve that burden from our communities. Thank you."

Johnson: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Johnson to close."

Johnson: "(unintelligible) for your comments. It's important to point out that this is going to impact nearly half of the municipalities here in the State of Illinois, 639. So, I... I want to compliment IML for this initiative. And there were discussions about expanding it even further, and I think those discussions will continue in the subsequent years. Thank you, and I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1082 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting

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is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 107 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' and 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on the Order of Third Reading, on page 37, and we have House Bill 2387 from Representative Katz Muhl. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 2387, a Bill for an Act concerning health. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Katz Muhl, please proceed."

Katz Muhl: "Thank you. House Bill 2387 may be familiar to some people. We ran this last year in the House with a vote of 99 in 'favor.' The bill seeks to address a gap in our law regarding outpatient treatment. For people who are currently on pretrial release for felony charges, their mental health needs are typically addressed in their prerelease hearing. But in the event while they are out on release symptoms should arise, there is a gap in that there is not circuit court jurisdiction to address outpatient mental health needs. So, this bill would look to fill that gap so that in the event somebody has mental illness arise during that window, they would be able to have an appropriate hearing and have outpatient treatment provided. The bill was brought by Mental Health America, and as those who were in committee will remember, the Sheriffs' Association also sat with us at the table in agreement that this gap should be filled. Appreciated the unanimous vote in the committee, and I'm open to take any questions on the bill. Thank you."

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Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "Indicates she'll yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you. It appears that this bill deals both with inpatient and outpatient involuntary admission."

Katz Muhl: "No, we're only addressing outpatient."

Windhorst: "The inpatient process, then, will remain the same or is not touched by this?"

Katz Muhl: "Correct. We are only changing involuntary outpatient."

Windhorst: "And, as you mentioned, we passed essentially this same bill out of the House last year (unintelligible) in the 103rd GA 99 to 13?"

Katz Muhl: "That is correct."

Windhorst: "It appears that you have quite a few proponents, Health and Hospital Association, Mental Health Summit, Psychological Association, Psychiatric Society, State Bar Association, as well as the State's Attorneys Association. Are you aware of any opposition to the bill?"

Katz Muhl: "No, we're still working on some technical questions that came up very late, but everyone is in agreement that the bill will help fill a gap in mental health care and that we should move forward."

Windhorst: "And those technical issues, you anticipate those being addressed in a... with a Senate amendment or will that be left for another day?"

Katz Muhl: "I believe Mental Health America will discuss directly, and if we need them, we'll do them. But it's not clear that we do. We're still working through that question."

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Windhorst: "And just as an overview again, what are you hoping to accomplish with this bill if it becomes law?"

Katz Muhl: "To make sure that somebody who is on pretrial release who has symptoms of a mental health illness arise can properly have involuntary outpatient care through the circuit court."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Katz Muhl: "You're welcome."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Katz Muhl to close."

Katz Muhl: "Thank you, and I urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 2387 pass?' All in favor say... vote 'aye'; all opposed say... vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the roll. On this question, there are 103 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'present,' 0 voting 'against.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on the Order of Third Reading, House Bill 2537 with Representative La Ha. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 2537, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative La Ha for 20... House Bill 2537 is recognized."

La Ha: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I rise in support of House Bill 2537, a bill that ensures parents of students with disabilities fully understand what happens when their child receives a regular high school diploma. Too often, families aren't informed of a... that accepting a diploma can immediately

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end their child's eligibility for special education services under IDEA. This bill helps protect those students, giving families the choice to let their child walk in graduation ceremony with their peers while still continuing their education and support services until the age of 22. It's a small change with a big impact on students who deserve this clarity. I want to thank the Illinois school social workers' association and Representative Mussman for their important work on this bill, and I urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no discussion, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 2537 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 107 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'opposed,' and 0 voting 'present.' This bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on the Order of Third Reading, on page 32, we have House Bill 1085 with Representative LaPointe. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1085, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative LaPointe, please proceed."

LaPointe: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. HB1085 is about behavioral health access and affordability. This bill applies to commercial insurance that's regulated by the state, so not Medicaid. We're talking about Blue Cross Blue Shield, Aetna, Cigna, et cetera. I'm very proud that this bill passed this chamber last year on a vote of 86 to 20. The specific part of access and affordability that this bill gets to the heart of

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is the pervasive problem of inadequate commercial insurance networks when it comes to behavioral health. So, in more human language, what this means is even though people have insurance and they pay their monthly premium, when they go to use that insurance for mental health care, like therapy for yourself or your kid, or psychiatry, you cannot find a provider who will take your insurance. When this happens, which is very common, people either forgo care all together, they keep looking for another provider that does take their insurance, or, and this happens all the time, they pay out of pocket for regular therapy of psychiatry, which can run at a \$150 a pop to 300 a pop. So, this turns into a cost-of-living issue. The losers in this game are consumers like us who need mental health support, our friends, our neighbors. The other losers in this game are our behavioral health professionals, therapists, psychiatrists. They have to choose between forcing their clients to pay out of pocket or accepting dismally low insurance reimbursement rates from our commercial insurance companies. So, this bill does two big things. It increases the reimbursement rates from our commercial insurance payers to providers and then it reduces the administrative burden that our providers have to face that keep them from joining insurance networks. I'm happy to go over those administrative burdens, but I'll leave it at that, Speaker, and see if folks have questions."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, we'll turn to Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

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

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Windhorst: "Thank you. You had mentioned in your presentation, Representative, the reimbursement rate mandate. What is that set at in the bill?"

LaPointe: "In the bill it is set at 141% of Medicare, and that is a benchmark for providing true parity between behavioral health and medical surgical health care that health care policy experts and actuaries have agreed is a very appropriate benchmark."

Windhorst: "And the figure of 141%, how is that arrived at?"

LaPointe: "I think I'm understanding your question. The Medicare fee schedule for all of health care that is publicly available, we can all access it. And so, what this bill is saying, for instance, for 60 minutes of psychotherapy, for instance, a company like Blue Cross Blue Shield would have to reimburse providers who take state-regulated commercial insurance here in Illinois no less than 141% of Medicare. And if... if you want me to tell you what that rate is, I can do that too."

Windhorst: "Please."

LaPointe: "Okay. So... and it varies a little by region. So, 60 minutes of psychotherapy by a psychologist in Chicago, under this bill, 141% of Medicare would be \$193, and the current Medicare fee schedule is \$137."

Windhorst: "It shows in our analysis that the Illinois Life & Health Insurance Council is opposed. Are you aware if they are opposed?"

LaPointe: "I'm very aware. We've been in great conversations for about two years."

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Windhorst: "And it appears that they have outlined at least several of the reasons why they're opposed. They say that they believe this will lead to increased premiums and out-of-pocket costs by mandating higher reimbursement rates. That means insurance companies will be forced to increase premiums or shift costs to consumers through higher deductibles and copays. I'd like you to address that concern."

LaPointe: "Happy to do so. That... that sounds like an accurate recap of their position, in addition to some... some discomfort with putting specific rates into statute, but yes. Here's why many of us disagree with that assertion that this bill will raise premiums. Behavioral health care costs are about, if you take out medication, about 3% of all health care spending is behavioral health, 3%. So, if we're going to spend a little bit more on behavioral health, when it's only 3% of all health care spending, I... I have a very hard time believing that that is going to increase premiums. And on top of that, it is well documented across health care research that when we actually have a system where people can access behavioral health and get their needs addressed, it saves money on physical health care. So, they're alleging the premiums will increase. It's very difficult to get insurance companies to show their math. We disagree that that will happen. We also, thanks to this chamber, have a rate review statute on the books. So, the Department of Insurance now has to engage in rate review and, essentially, direct commercial insurance companies to really show their math when they are proposing premium increases. So, we think that is a strong mitigating force to the assertion that this will raise premiums."

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Windhorst: "Does this bill impact Medicaid?"

LaPointe: "No."

Windhorst: "And does it apply to state employee health plans?"

LaPointe: "It does... it does not employ the... excuse me. It does not apply to state employee health plans, but it applies to all other state-regulated commercial insurance plans in the state."

Windhorst: "Well, I believe part of their argument then is if the state cannot afford these increased costs, how can businesses and families afford the increased costs that are going to come with this bill?"

LaPointe: "I would go back to that this idea that this is going to increase cost is an assertion that many of us do not buy, for the reasons I already indicated. And then our rate review statute, which is finally going to come into effect very soon, serves as a mitigating force. And I would also outline that there's a cost to doing nothing. Our constituents, and in fact many Reps and Senators in this chamber and reporters I've talked to about this bill, they are bearing the cost now by paying out of pocket \$300, \$200 for their therapy sessions on top of their monthly premiums. And so, that is what this bill is trying to stop so we can incentivize behavioral health providers to actually join networks."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative LaPointe to close."

LaPointe: "Really appreciate the bipartisan support on this bill. And I just want to emphasize that in the two years that we've been working on this, we have met so many people who

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immediately recognize the value of this because they have been burdened by paying out of pocket for their mental health care. And all too often, we let the commercial... commercial insurance industry off the hook. We... all of us can get behind affordable and accessible behavioral health care. We've got to hold the insurance industry accountable for covering the care that we are already paying for. Thank you, Speaker."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1085 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; and all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 72 voting in 'favor,' 33 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Leader Evans in the Chair."

Speaker Evans: "On page 41 in the calendar, House Bills-Third Reading, we have House Bill 3094, Leader Mah. Mr. Clerk, read the bill."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 3094, a Bill for an Act concerning employment. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Evans: "Leader Mah is recognized."

Mah: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 3094 builds on legislation that we passed in the 103rd General Assembly and has been well into its implementation. This bill simply builds on that and adds part-time workers to the benefits that are required to... to be offered to them. The federal government taxed... the federal tax code includes a provision whereby employees may only access this provision through their employer where they're able to buy transit passes at a pretax

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rate. And this is something that has been very popular in its implementation, and we are now extending the benefit to part-time workers. I'm happy to answer any questions."

Speaker Evans: "Any questions? Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Evans: "She indicated she will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Leader, the Transportation Benefits Program is the... the act that we're addressing here. And what does this bill specifically do to change the way that program works?"

Mah: "It includes part-time employees in the calculation of the number of employees that need to be reached for an employer to offer this benefit."

Windhorst: "And does it make any changes regarding covered employees who are in a bonified collective bargaining agreement? Is that addressed in this bill?"

Mah: "Yes. At the request of IBEW, we made a change that excluded workers in the construction industry under a bargaining agreement simply because many of them seek employment through an employment hall system. And many of their workers are not... are transient and... and move from company to company, and so we excluded them from eligibility."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Evans: "Leader Mah to close."

Mah: "I urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Evans: "Seeing no further discussion, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 3094 pass?' All in favor say (sic-vote) 'aye'; all those opposed say (sic-vote) 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have

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all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 69 voting 'yes,' 37 voting 'no,' and 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received the constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. On page 4 of the calendar, House Bills-Second Reading, we have House Bill 1287, Representative Manley. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 1287, a Bill for an Act concerning long-term care. The bill was read a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #2, offered by Representative Manley, has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Evans: "Representative Manley on the amendment."

Manley: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can we adopt the amendment and discuss it on Third?"

Speaker Evans: "Representative Manley moves the adoption of Floor Amendment #2. All in favor say 'aye'; all the opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the amendment is adopted. Any further amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Hollman: "No further amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Evans: "Third Reading. Read the bill on Third Reading."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 1287, a Bill for an Act concerning long-term care. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Evans: "Representative Manley."

Manley: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 1287 is an initiative of the Illinois Ombudsman Program. They conducted an informal survey of long-term care homes and discovered that 54% of nursing homes already have one, at least one, AED. Of the 543 nursing homes asked, 292 already have it. That works out to the 54%. We'd like them all to have it. And to address the

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cost, we are extending the effective date until January 1 of 2030 to allow nursing homes sufficient time to prepare for the budgetary impact. The goal is to change this to address industry concerns of the cost. The average cost is 1500 to 3000 dollars, depending on the model chosen. Some cost more. Almost 40% of the homes already have found ways to pay for AEDs. Number two, address the concerns about the new role. It removes the AED medical director that was in the initial language, instead refers to the AED Act to ensure the AED is properly maintained. This aligns with the language in other acts requiring AEDs. AED training is already part of the BLS, Basic Life Support training clinic... trained clinical staff are already required to complete. Removed reference to all types of licensed long-term care homes except nursing homes. And this change was part of the negotiations to get the industry to neutral. I'll take any questions."

Speaker Evans: "Any discussion? Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Evans: "She indicated she will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative Manley, it appears, from our analysis, that there were several organizations that may have been opposed. I'm not sure if they're neutral with the amendment, so I'll just go through those quickly with you. The Illinois Health Care Association, do you know if they're opposed to this or not?"

Manley: "Everybody was neutral. We all worked together. It was actually a great experience. We all sat in the same room. We kind of hashed it out and came to an agreement and was able to get this passed in its current form."

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Windhorst: "So, that amendment brought them to neutral..."

Manley: "Yes."

Windhorst: "...as well as HCCI..."

Manley: "Yes."

Windhorst: "...LeadingAge?"

Manley: "Yes."

Windhorst: "All right."

Manley: "Yes."

Windhorst: "Thank you for bringing this. Thank you."

Manley: "Thank you."

Speaker Evans: "Representative Manley to close."

Manley: "Please vote 'yes.'"

Speaker Evans: "Question is, 'Shall House Bill 1287 pass?' All in favor say (sic-vote) 'aye'; all opposed say (sic-vote) 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 107 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And the bill, having received the constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Moving forward in the calendar, page 37, House Bills-Third Reading, we have House Bill 2339, Leader McCombie. Mr. Clerk, read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 2339, a Bill for an Act concerning wildlife. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Evans: "The leader is recognized."

McCombie: "Thank you, Speaker and Members. I ask... today, I'm presenting HB2330... 2339, which responds to strong concerns from constituents, especially in Northern Illinois and the 20 counties where chronic waste disease is. The bill states that

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if there's no cases of new CWD found in the deer herd for three years in those particular counties, the sharpshooting by the DNR would end. The testing would not. It's a commonsense evidence-based approach that is agreed upon by everyone. I ask for your 'aye.'"

Speaker Evans: "Seeing no discussion, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 2339 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 107 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received the constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Moving back to page 34 in the calendar, House Bills-Third Reading, at the top of the page, we have House Bill 1388, Representative Meyers-Martin. Mr. Clerk, read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1388, a Bill for an Act concerning gaming. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Evans: "Representative Meyers-Martin."

Meyers-Martin: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 1388 is a refiled bill from last session. It passed out of the House and went over to the Senate, became part of an omnibus bill, which never got concurrence from this body. So, House Bill 1388 amends the Illinois Gambling Act. Provides the Illinois Gaming Board shall allow sworn law enforcement personnel employed by the board who retire in good standing to keep their previously issued board identification cards as well as identification indicating their separation from service and

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identify that person as being employed by the board as a sworn law enforcement personnel. I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Evans: "Any discussion? Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Evans: "She indicated she will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, our analysis shows that ABATE of Illinois is opposed. Did they contact you for their opposition?"

Meyers-Martin: "They actually came to committee. The morning of the committee hearing, they said that they had information of... negative information on gaming agents. However, AFSCME has guaranteed that their members are in high standing, and, of course, no bill can address all bad apples."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Meyers-Martin: "Thank you."

Speaker Evans: "Representative Meyers-Martin to close."

Meyers-Martin: "I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Evans: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1388 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all the opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 103 voting 'yes,' 1 voting 'no,' and 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received the constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Moving forward in the calendar, page 41 of House Bills-Third Reading, at the bottom of the page, we have House Bill 3214, Representative Moeller. Mr. Clerk, read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3214, a Bill for an Act concerning public aid. Third Reading of this House Bill."

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Speaker Evans: "Representative Moeller is recognized."

Moeller: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 3214 requires the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to study the implications of becoming what is called a Medicare Part A Buy-In state. Medicare Part A Buy-In Agreements are made between state Medicaid agencies and federal CMS to help streamline the Medicare enrollment process for eligible Medicare beneficiaries who do not qualify for premium-free Part A coverage. Part A covers hospitalizations, rehab stays, and some home health services. Thirty-seven other states have entered into these agreements with CMS because it has been shown that these agreements streamline enrollment for beneficiaries and, by making Medicare benefits more accessible, can save the state from paying for these services with Medicaid dollars. Unlike Medicaid, Medicare is fully federally funded. HFS is neutral on the bill. The bill passed out of the Human Services Committee unanimously, and I know of no opposition. The bill is supported by a coalition, including the Jewish United Fund, AgeOptions, Legal Council for Health Justice, Justice in Aging, Shriver... Shriver Center on Poverty Law, and CJE SeniorLife. Would ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Evans: "Is there any discussion? Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Evans: "She indicated she will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, do we know if there will be any cost to the state with this..."

Moeller: "There is no cost."

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Windhorst: "And you said previously HFS is neutral and..."

Moeller: "That is correct."

Windhorst: "...able to conduct the... the study?"

Moeller: "Yes."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Evans: "Seeing no further discussion, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 3214 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 106 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'no,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received the constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. On page 36 of the calendar, House Bills-Third Reading, we have House Bill 1806, Representative... Leader Morgan. Leader Morgan is recognized. Mr. Clerk, read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1806, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Evans: "Leader Morgan."

Morgan: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy to present House Bill 1806, the Wellness and Oversight for Psychological Resources Act. In short, what we're finding is more and more people are going online looking for behavioral health services. And what they're finding is sometimes AI is stepping in the way and stepping in between them and their health care provider. So, this is a protective act to make sure those who are licensed in Illinois to provide the care that they otherwise would be providing are not getting usurped by those bots out there pretending to be providing behavioral health care. Obviously,

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this is an important issue. We want to make sure we're getting them to the right kind of professionals for the help that they need. This bill will do that. I know of no opposition, and I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Evans: "Any discussion? Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Evans: "He indicates he will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. So, we're creating a fairly expansive act here. Looks like it does quite a few things for us, about a dozen bullet points. You've touched on the purpose behind the bill is basically to make sure that people are... are interacting with those they intend to and that the people are interacting with are qualified. How will this be enforced?"

Morgan: "Well, we already have enforcement on a lot of different areas, just like this, right, where somebody's pretending to be a licensed health care professional. So, this really is exactly the same kind of enforcement. In this case, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation steps in if those are holding themselves out to be a therapist or a psychologist and they're really not. So, the enforcement will be the same. What's different here is that more and more consumers are going online looking for these kinds of services and are not getting the disclosure that these are not, in fact, licensed professionals. So, it's both a disclosure bill but really a protection for those in Illinois looking for these kinds of services."

Windhorst: "And looks like this bill sets up several civil penalties for those who are in violation, enforced by IDFPR."

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Is that against... well, looks like an individual corporation or entity that's engaged in... in a violation of the act?"

Morgan: "Yeah, and... and I think this is, again, consistent with what we do now if you set up a practice and you hold yourself out as a doctor or medical office. The department still has the enforcement mechanism against entities and businesses that hold themselves out as a licensed entity. This is really consistent with that. I believe the penalties are identical to what we already have today."

Windhorst: "And with regard to IDFPR, do they have a position on the bill?"

Morgan: "They're supportive."

Windhorst: "And what about the Illinois State Medical Society?"

Morgan: "Also supportive. I know of no opposition to the bill."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Evans: "Seeing no further discussion, the question is, 'Shall House Bill'... further discussion? Representative Spain is recognized."

Spain: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Evans: "Indicates he will."

Spain: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The cadence of your delivery changed a little bit from Leader Morgan. So, leader, I want to thank you for your great time in the Chair today. You did a really good job getting us started on the Third Reading journey for today. Thank you for your legislation. I want to understand. We've had a lot of discussion about the use of AI in health care. And so, this is a notion... your legislation addresses the use of AI functioning in the role of a provider. Is that correct?"

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Morgan: "That's correct."

Spain: "And then also, we have seen discussions about AI as a tool for claims denials and prior auths and activities on the payer side of the question. Is that at all included in... in your legislation?"

Morgan: "Not in this bill. I actually have a different bill I hope to bring to the chamber very soon, but it would not be in this legislation."

Spain: "Okay, great. I understand that then. We... we've seen that AI tool become difficult for providers within Medicaid Managed Care and Medicare Advantage. So, look forward to that discussion as well. Thank you for bringing this forward. And again, did a very good job in the Chair throughout the day. Thank you."

Morgan: "Thank you, leader."

Speaker Evans: "Leader Morgan to close."

Morgan: "I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Evans: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1806 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 105 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And the bill, having received the constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Moving back to page 14 of the calendar, House Bills-Second Reading, we have House Bill 2675, Representative Moylan. Mr. Clerk, read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 2675, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. The bill was read for a second time

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previously. Amendments 1 and 2 were adopted in committee.
Floor Amendment #3 is offered by Representative Moylan."

Speaker Evans: "Representative Moylan on the amendment."

Moylan: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members of the General Assembly. House Floor Amendment #3 is a gut and replace amendment. The amendment becomes the bill and maintains its original intent. House Floor Amendment #3 makes some minor grammatical changes, corrections as House Amendment #2 and adds painted markings as suitable temporary signage to alert pedestrians and cyclists to the dangerous conditions."

Speaker Evans: "Representative Moylan moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #3. All in favor say 'aye'; the opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the amendment is adopted. Any further amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Bolin: "No further amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Evans: "Third Reading. Please read the bill on Third Reading."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 2675, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Evans: "Representative Moylan on Third Reading."

Moylan: "Thank you. House Bill Amendment 2675 amends the Illinois Vehicle Code to require authorities managing public paved bike trails to install permanent signs, warning cyclists and pedestrians of highway crossings, unless there is already a traffic control device. And I respectfully ask for a 'yes' vote."

Speaker Evans: "Any debate? Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Evans: "He indicates he will."

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Windhorst: "Thank you. This bill is designed to deal with signage for bicyclists. Is that correct?"

Moylan: "That's correct."

Windhorst: "And it looks like this was suggested by the Association of Park Districts. Do I have that accurate?"

Moylan: "Yes, sir."

Windhorst: "And why was this bill brought forward? What were they hoping to accomplish?"

Moylan: "When bicyclists went across a highway situation, they want to make there was some signage."

Windhorst: "And if there already are traffic control devices or signage, this bill would not require any additional signage. Is that accurate?"

Moylan: "That's correct."

Windhorst: "Looks like this passed unanimously in committee. Is that right?"

Moylan: "Yes, sir."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Evans: "Representative Moylan to close."

Moylan: "I respectfully ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Evans: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 2675 pass?' All those in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 106 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'no,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received the constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Leader Morgan in the Chair."

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Speaker Morgan: "Continuing on... Morgan in the Chair. Continuing on with Third Reading, House Bill 1432, Representative Ness. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1432, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Ness, when you're ready, please proceed."

Ness: "Oh, thank you, Speaker. House Bill 1432 is an initiative of the Treasurer's Office to create an account similar to what we did with Bright Start for every child born in Illinois. This would create an ABLE account for every individual that qualifies for one of those accounts. So, just to remind the body, an ABLE account, Achieving a Better Life Experience for all, is an account for people with individual... I'm sorry, with developmental disabilities that they can use these funds to fund things that they might need in their lives, technical devices, upgrading their home to live more independently. These do not affect their benefits. And I ask for an 'aye' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

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

Windhorst: "Thank you. Is this bill subject to appropriation?"

Ness: "Yes, it is. The estimate is about 200,000. But what we're trying to do with this bill is to get it in statute so that the agency can start setting up the structure when we go to... to be able to fund it."

Windhorst: "And do you anticipate it'll be included in this year's budget?"

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Ness: "We haven't... we haven't formally created anything yet. I mean, I'd like to ideally, but I also understand the restraints."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader Keicher is recognized."

Keicher: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

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

Keicher: "Okay. Thank you, Representative. I appreciate you bringing this. I had some challenges with some of the other changes that the treasurer made a couple years ago to the ABLE accounts. Can you tell me how the decision matrix works for which accounts, if appropriated, will receive the funding?"

Ness: "Well, one of the... it'll be based on funding, and it's also being set up as, like, a match account. So, if a family puts in so much, the State of Illinois, we could match that up to a point, depending on availability of funds. But it would be, you know, largely based on people that open them..."

Keicher: "Okay."

Ness: "...and then we would match that."

Keicher: "So, there's no means testing? Anybody who has it open, it's expected that they would receive a contribution?"

Ness: "They just need to be eligible for the account."

Keicher: "Okay."

Ness: "That's the eligibility."

Keicher: "All right. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Ness to close."

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Ness: "Thank you. I just want to say this is one of those areas that I think is really important to the people that these accounts serve. It's something for their families. It's something for them to invest in to really build that better quality of life for individuals with... individuals with disabilities. So, I ask for an 'aye' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1432 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 102 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' and 1 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on with Third Reading, we have, on page 32, House Bill 1108 with Representative Meier. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1108, a Bill for an Act concerning public aid. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Meier, please proceed."

Meier: "Thank you. 1108 is a simple bill brought to me by some of our live-in caregivers and it's... for a while, they did not have to fill out a electronic verification and then the State of Illinois made them start filling out electric verification, where they had been every week with their child, how much time they spend with them. This is the child that they've quit their work, they're staying at home and taking care of. And so, this bill will now mimic the federal government's rules for Medicare and Medicaid and follow them, and they will not have to... in case the State of Illinois

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changes it again, they will not have to do a electronic verification every week of how much time they spent with that child because that's a 24-hour-a-day job. Very simple cleanup bill here."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no discussion, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 1108 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. There being 105 voting in 'favor,' 1 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on the Order of Third Reading, on page 36, we have House Bill 1852 with Representative Rashid... 1859, forgive me. Mr. Clerk, House Bill 1859, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1859, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Rashid, please proceed."

Rashid: "Thank you, everyone. This bill would prevent community colleges from being able to use artificial intelligence to replace college instructors. This is really important to protect the quality of our education so that people... accreditations from community colleges mean something and, of course, to... to protect the instructors. And it passed out of committee unanimously. I know of no opposition. I ask for your support."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no discussion, 'Shall'... the question is, 'Shall House Bill 1859 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted

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who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 87 voting in 'favor,' 17 voting 'against,' 1 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Returning to the Order of Second Reading, on... on page 22, we have House Bill 3278 with Representative Mason. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3278, a Bill for an Act concerning safety. The bill was read for a second time previously. Amendment #1 was adopted in committee. No Floor Amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Morgan: "Third Reading. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3278, a Bill for an Act concerning safety. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Mason, please proceed."

Mason: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a simple House Bill. It directs the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to create a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan as it relates to preproduction plastic pellets. Everybody say that fast with me three times. Those are the pieces of plastic that go to a manufacturer and then are made into plastic things. There is a lot of loose debris that is lost in transportation. So, after a year, the EPA will have to create a plan to address this. I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

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

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Windhorst: "Thank you. So, this bill would allow the EPA to develop and begin implementation of requirements for the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. Is that accurate?"

Mason: "Correct, as it relates to the plastic pellets."

Windhorst: "And they would develop and implement that plan through rulemaking. Is that accurate?"

Mason: "Yes."

Windhorst: "Do we yet know what those rules would look like?"

Mason: "We do not. They have a year to study and determine what that plan should be."

Windhorst: "So, we're... we're granting them fairly broad authority to develop the plan and then implement it. Is that fair to say?"

Mason: "Correct."

Windhorst: "We show that IMA and the American Chemistry Council are opposed. Are you aware of their opposition?"

Mason: "Yeah. They were opposed to the underlying bill. I do not believe that they were opposed to the amendment. So, the underlying bill had an actual pollution plan that had to be developed. And what we did with the amendment is gut and replaced it and turned it into having the EPA study this and create a future plan rather than dictating what that plan should be."

Windhorst: "Do we anticipate that we will as a... as a General Assembly take any oversight of that plan? I mean, it seems like we're just handing that off to EPA to develop and implement the plan rather than us guiding the plan."

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Mason: "Yeah, I don't think so. But I don't see it as any different as any of the other agencies doing, you know, deciding what they need to do in the course of their work."

Windhorst: "Do we anticipate any fiscal impact to the state with this plan?"

Mason: "We do not. It would be in their normal course of business."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Mason: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Mason to close."

Mason: "I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 3278 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 68 votes in 'favor,' 38 votes 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, have received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Returning to the Order of Third Readings, on page 32, we have House Bill 226, 226 with Representative Ryan. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 226, a Bill for an Act concerning business. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Ryan, please proceed."

Ryan: "Thank... thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present House Bill 226, legislation to crack down on dishonest companies who prey on the vulnerable. House Bill 226 makes it unlawful for companies to send mail that claims the recipients home warranty is expiring and requesting payment to renew a

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policy that doesn't exist. If the resident does not currently have a home warranty with that company, this bill makes it unlawful to solicit them. If implemented, companies that continue to mislead homeowners with this scheme would be subject to monetary penalties under the state's Consumer Fraud and Deception Practices Act. This bill passed committee unanimously."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader Guzzardi for discussion."

Guzzardi: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates he'll yield."

Guzzardi: "Representative, you said the bill passed committee unanimously. Who was on that committee?"

Ryan: "Moe, Larry, Curly, and I forget the fourth guy's name, but I... I wasn't there. This was Leader Hoffman's bill originally."

Guzzardi: "Oh, this bill was an initiative of Leader Hoffman. That explains maybe some of the defects in the underlying language."

Ryan: "Possibly."

Guzzardi: "Representative, is this your first bill today?"

Ryan: "It is."

Guzzardi: "Thank you so much for joining us. We're really happy to have you. And despite this being a Leader Hoffman initiative, I... I think we can probably get around to supporting it."

Ryan: "Thank you for your support."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Ryan to close."

Ryan: "I'd ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion to malign Leader Hoffman, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 22'..."

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Representative Ryan. The question is, 'Shall House Bill 226 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 106 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on the Order of Third Readings, on House Bill 40... on page 42, we have House Bill 3391 with Representative Sanalitra. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3391, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Sanalitra, please proceed."

Sanalitra: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 3391 is a retro-style specialty license plate originated in 1983 through 2001. It sets a \$40 fee for the original issuance and a \$27 fee for a renewal plate. This bill will bring revenue to the state, which we all can agree is very much needed. And I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "Seeing no discussion, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 3391 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 106 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'opposed,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on the Order of Third Reading, on page 36, we have House Bill 1865 from Representative Scherer,

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who's going to be presented by Representative Blair-Sherlock.
Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1865, a Bill for an Act concerning
business. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Blair-Sherlock, on behalf of
Representative Scherer."

Blair-Sherlock: "Thank you. I would ask that Leader Windhorst be
nice to me on this bill. Okay. All right. So, House Bill 1865
amends the Illinois Insurance Code and the... give me a second,
in that it prohibits insurance agents from, in certain
circumstances, selling policies to individuals who are in
nursing homes... doesn't completely prohibit, let me get there...
in nursing homes over 65 or who have mental deficiencies that
would render them incapable of understanding what's going on.
So, they can't solicit them in the nursing home or a long-
term care facility, and they can be directed to discuss it
with members of that person's family or their
representatives. It also says that they cannot change the
policy without a waiting period, and it changes the unfair
and deceptive agreements, being voidable by the director... and
give me one more second. Oh, and then there's also a section
on disruptive changes to a nursing home resident that it's
unlawful practice within the meaning of the act for nursing
home or long-term care facility to make substantive changes
likely to be disruptive to a resident or move the resident's
place of living without prior approval from a family member,
guardian, or power of attorney of the resident if they suffer
from dementia or suffer from medical condition that reduces
their capacity. I would ask for an 'aye' vote. Thank you."

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Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

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

Windhorst: "Thank you, Representative. So, the bill primarily does a couple things. It prohibits solicitation... or makes it an unlawful practice to solicit insurance to a nursing home or long-term care resident over 65 unless... there are two or three exceptions to that, number one. And then number two, to enter into or amend a policy with someone over 65 with a health care... who has a health care power of attorney or has a medical condition that reduces that person's capacity without having their agent's agreement in writing."

Blair-Sherlock: "Correct."

Windhorst: "It... do I have both those things correct?"

Blair-Sherlock: "Correct. Yes."

Windhorst: "All right. And it appears that this bill passed unanimously in committee."

Blair-Sherlock: "Correct."

Windhorst: "And the Life & Health Insurance Council is neutral on the bill?"

Blair-Sherlock: "Correct."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Blair-Sherlock: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Blair-Sherlock to close."

Blair-Sherlock: "I think this is a great bill, and I would ask for your 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1865 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting

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is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 100 vote... 104 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'opposed,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on with Orders of Third Reading, on page 32, we have House Bill 1120 with Representative Schmidt. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1120, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Schmidt, please proceed."

Schmidt: "Thank you. This bill's a pretty simple bill. It amends Illinois Vehicle Code. Removes a provision that requires the secretary of state to designate on each driver's license issued a space where the licensee may indicate a person's blood type and RH factor. I ask for a... an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 1120 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 106 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'opposed,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on the Order of Third Reading, on page 36, we have House Bill 1938 with Representative Sheehan. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1938, a Bill for an Act concerning local government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Sheehan, please proceed."

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Sheehan: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I rise in support of House Bill 1938. This bill helps firefighters do what they do best, keeping our families and communities safe. This bill would exempt fire protection districts from the decennial requirement. It is a practical, commonsense measure that eliminates redundancy without compromising public safety. This bill has bipartisan support and has passed through committee unanimously. I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion on Representative Sheehan's bill, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 1938 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 106 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'opposed,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on... continuing on the Order of Third Reading, on page 33, we have House Bill 1225 with Representative Slaughter. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1225, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Slaughter, please proceed."

Slaughter: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and ladies and gentlemen of the House. House Bill 1225 aims to make critical improvements to our Business Enterprise Program. It supports small minority and veteran-owned businesses across our state. Many of you might be aware that our last comprehensive BEP report has us drastically underachieving to meet our 30% BEP goal. Out of our 23.5 billion in spending, only 5.5%, that's

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approximately 1.5 billion, went to BEP-qualified vendors. HB1225 addresses how our state procures for goods and how it can support smaller reseller businesses in their efforts to submit lower bids for contracts. In situations where resellers are working with manufacturers on pricing, typically we see larger resellers receiving significantly better deals, better pricing than our smaller resellers. As a result, larger resellers are always able to ultimately provide a lower bid and, thus, win the contract. The smaller businesses' costs are simply too high to compete. As it relates to resellers, HB1225 would allow, not require, but would allow state agencies and public universities to level the playing field by giving smaller businesses the same big volume discounts larger businesses routinely receive by requiring a best consumer price policy. With this bill, the manufacturer would provide documentation that they have extended the same best customer pricing to all of the potential suppliers or resellers regardless of their size or ownership. Again, this initiative is permissive. We have made this, or changed this, from a 'shall' to a 'may.' Our Black business leaders, and the Business Leaders Council, as well as the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and also the Veterans Chamber of Commerce had been at the forefront of this bill. I urge a 'yes' vote on House Bill 1225."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates he'll yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, you mentioned that this changes it from a 'shall' to a 'may.' So, make sure I

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understand that correctly. This means a state agency or high...
higher education institution may..."

Slaughter: "May do it."

Windhorst: "May use the best..."

Slaughter: "They're... they're allowed to, right?"

Windhorst: "Yeah."

Slaughter: "They're not required to."

Windhorst: "And the best consumer price would essentially lock in
the manufacturer to a certain price that they're providing to
large and small, medium size..."

Slaughter: "That's right, and they would have to, you know,
guarantee or show... disclose that they have done so and has
provided the same consumer pricing to... to a potential
reseller, no matter the size or the... the ownership."

Windhorst: "And a... a concern I've heard is that this best consumer
price will actually drive up costs for those agencies or
institutions that decide to use the best consumer price
because the larger companies won't be able to pass on those
savings they may get to the state in... in contracting. So, if
you could address whether you think it will lead to higher
prices or why you think that is justified."

Slaughter: "I mean, I don't think that it will lead to... to higher
prices. Again, what we're doing is leveling the playing field.
I would say want to focus more so on that. I haven't heard
the argument that it would drive up prices. There is no
opposition, or at least no one has slipped in opposition in
that regard. So, I would... I would more focus on the fact that
we're leveling the playing field for everybody and anybody
else."

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Windhorst: "And I believe part of that argument for the driving up the costs is it takes out one element of competition that currently exists and sets a standard or a set price for an item, and that may result in the overall costs to the state or the institution going up. I appreciate you addressing that argument and... and your answers to my questions. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Representative Will Davis."

Davis, W.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates he'll yield."

Davis, W.: "Representative, I appreciate what you're attempting to do, as I've done similar measures, kind of, in the construction space to try to encourage participation with smaller minority businesses who are trying to do business with the state. So, I... I appreciate this. When you say... when you changed from... from 'shall' to 'may,' which makes it permissive, do you have any mechanisms that go back to verify that if someone did not use it, since it's a 'may' situation and they did a procurement, that there was a lower price out there that they could have chosen?"

Slaughter: "Yeah. I mean, that particular agency and/or state university would be able to, in the procurement process, verify that."

Davis, W.: "Well, see, the thing is, I want to make sure. Because when you give them the authority to kind of make their own decision, the question is, are they actually using the lowest priced good or services out there. So, maybe not for out of the House, but maybe consider if there's some mechanism that could be put in place, maybe through the CPO's office, where

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they have to then verify that that indeed was the lowest price available for that good or service."

Slaughter: "Chair Davis, that's noted. And, you know, both you and I know, as we implement these reforms to our procurement process, it is important that we stay vigilant and on top of these... these measures in that regard. So, I totally agree with you."

Davis, W.: "So, thank... thank you very much for this. I certainly encourage everyone to support this mechanism as we are trying to help small businesses. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "For... no further discussion, Representative Slaughter to close."

Slaughter: "Yeah, let's do something to level the playing field here, make sure that we're putting forth an effort to ensure that we have equity in regards to how our procurements are done. Let's improve our BEP program. Let's support our minority-owned and veteran-owned in small businesses. I urge a 'yes' vote on House Bill 1225. Thanks."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1225 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 76 votes in 'favor,' 29 votes 'opposed,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having declared... received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continue on the Order of Third Reading, on page 35, we have House Bill 1758 with Leader Smith. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

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Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1758, a Bill for an Act concerning finance. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Rep... Leader Smith, please proceed."

Smith: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 1758 gives all state officials who are responsible for state property an extra month to file the Annual Real Property Utilization Report to the director of CMS. This report covers all the real property owned by the state and what to do with it. Currently, the report must be filed by July 31 of each year. This simply extends that date to August 31 of each year. There is no opposition, and this bill passed out of committee unanimously."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no discussion, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 1758 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 106 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'opposed,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on the Order of Third Reading, on page 39, House Bill 2667, Leader Spain. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 2667, a Bill for an Act concerning government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader Spain, please proceed."

Spain: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 2667 is an initiative of JCAR and under which we are looking to tighten up the use of so-called required rules to promulgate rulemaking for certain agencies, making that more agencies need to follow

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the traditional proposed rulemaking process for JCAR, respond to public comments, and make sure that we have a greater transparency and public involvement for our use of rulemaking. There are no opponents, and I encourage an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "Seeing no discussion, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 2667 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 105 voting in 'favor,' 1 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' This bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on the Order of Third Reading, on page 34, we have House Bill 1597, Representative Stava-Murray. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1597, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Stava-Murray, please proceed."

Stava-Murray: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People in nursing homes and long-term care facilities are some of the most vulnerable patients within our larger health care system in our state. When they come into conflict with those who are entrusted with their care, it's crucial that they have advocates who can hold these caretakers accountable. That's why I'm here to present House Bill 1597, which would enhance protections for residents of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and shared housing establishments by establishing notification requirements for significant changes in a resident's condition, strengthening the rights of residents when it

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comes to a transfer or discharge from a care location, and imposing fines on facilities that fail to comply. Protecting the most vulnerable is the mark of any ethical system. Elderly, infirm, disabled Illinoisans deserve the best we can do for them when it comes to ensuring high standards of care and accountability from their caretakers. I know of no opposition at this time, and the AARP, the ACLU, the Alliance for Community Services, the Central Illinois Agency on Aging, AgeOptions, the Illinois Association of Long-Term Care Ombudsmen, and a number of other organizations are in support. So, I urge an 'aye' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

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

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, looks like, in going through the... the bill, the... the purpose behind it is to strengthen the rights of residents in nursing homes as well as assisted living and shared housing establishments. Is that accurate?"

Stava-Murray: "Absolutely. And it's... comes from the ombudsman. And so, she was actually looking at what the number one complaint they receive is. And so, this bill addresses that number one complaint, which are discharges that are to have been challenged. So, this gives a process to challenge that... that discharge. And if it turns out that it wasn't... not according to the correct process, then there's a fine for that facility."

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Windhorst: "It also appears there are some federal regulations on point, which we are coming into compliance with, with this change. Is that accurate?"

Stava-Murray: "Yes, absolutely."

Windhorst: "Are we anticipating any fiscal impact to the state with the legislation?"

Stava-Murray: "Not at this time."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Stava-Murray to close."

Stava-Murray: "I urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1597 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 102 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'opposed,' and 0 voting 'present.' This bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Leader Keicher is recognized."

Keicher: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you could please excuse Representative Spain for the remainder of the day."

Speaker Morgan: "Thank you, Leader. Continuing on with Third Readings, on page 34, we have House Bill 1502 with Representative Stephens. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1502, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Stephens, please proceed."

Stephens: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 1502 is a cleanup on a bill passed last year that addressed parking on a

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shoulder around O'Hare Airport. The bill clarifies and adds IDOT roads to the half mile enforcement radius. The amendment consolidates the implementation and operation of the enforcement within the Illinois State Police. I ask for an 'aye.'"

Speaker Morgan: "There being no discussion, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 1502 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 105 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'opposed,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing... actually, returning to the Order of Second Readings, on page 26, we have House Bill 3522 from Leader Stuart. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3522, a Bill for an Act concerning education. The bill was read for a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. No Floor Amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Morgan: "Third Reading. Mr. Speaker, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3522, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Leader Stuart, whenever you're ready, please proceed."

Stuart: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a bill to create a direct admissions program for our public universities and colleges across the state. Very simply, parents can opt-in to have their children considered. The universities determine their

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level of what people need to meet in terms of GPA or other requirements. And then ISAC will have that information and parents will be given... and students will be given information to what schools they are admitted to so that no one is filling out costly and timely applications, not knowing if they're going to get into a school or not. This is a program that we've been working on for a very long time. This is going to help us recruit more Illinois students. It's going to bring to the attention of some students who didn't know that they were college material and make sure they know that they have a place to go to school after high school, if they so wish, in this state."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

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

Windhorst: "Thank you. Leader, this applies to first-time admission and transfer students. Is that correct?"

Stuart: "Correct."

Windhorst: "And we show that there is a provision regarding a school board providing access to the high school student directory information and students' email address and GPA. Could you explain that provision and what it does?"

Stuart: "Yeah. So, basically, when you register your child for high school, you can decide if you want to opt-in and allow that information to be shared with the universities so that they can consider your child for this direct admission program, but it's an opt-in."

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Windhorst: "We do show some opposition from the Principals Association, the Association of School Administrators, Association of School Boards."

Stuart: "Yeah."

Windhorst: "Are they opposed, and what is the nature of the opposition?"

Stuart: "They... they want... the program, they want to be able to implement it well, so they have a little bit of concern of that first year, the timing of when to have the opt-in done, just based on when bills get signed into law and when typical registration starts to happen for schools. We believe that the... working together with IBHE, they can be fully prepared and get that done. And this is a program that can build over the years. So, maybe we don't capture as many students as we want in the first year, but we don't want to miss that first opportunity. But they are talking with IBHE to try to iron out those differences."

Windhorst: "And what is the anticipated fiscal impact?"

Stuart: "I... my understanding is IBHE can handle this within their current appropriation. No additional impact."

Windhorst: "We are showing about \$750,000. Have you heard a figure similar to that?"

Stuart: "No. And like I said, I believe that's within their budget. It's not new spending."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "For additional discussion, Representative Will Davis is recognized. Representative Will Davis."

Davis, W.: "Sorry, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

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

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Davis, W.: "Representative, as I listen to this, is this just a general admission to the university?"

Stuart: "Yes, this is for general admission, not specific to a major or a specific program."

Davis, W.: "So... so, if it's not specific to a program... so, a general admission means that you can get in, but you still may not get the major that you want."

Stuart: "Yes, and that's true today. There are students who may go... like at... at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, they enter programs sometimes for the business school after their first two years of general education. And they don't always have a guarantee of admission to a specific program."

Davis, W.: "Okay, but..."

Stuart: "So, this is just a general admission."

Davis, W.: "But what if that student wants to be..."

Stuart: "They can apply to specific programs. This is not the only way to apply to schools. This is just an added tool for admissions."

Davis, W.: "Well, I... I guess I'm trying to see if this offers any better chance that a student gets into the major of their choice. Because not just applying to... filling out an application and putting that down as your major doesn't guarantee your admission. It would... some of these schools, admission into the... the program of your choice. And, unfortunately, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana traditionally has a history of not admitting Black students into engineering and other specialized programs. They make them go into LAS, and then they linger there for two years, and then still not even have an opportunity to go into their

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major. And they wonder why Black students go to other schools for engineering, in particular, is because they're not allowed in their major when other schools are saying, yes, as a freshman, we will put into our engineering program and work you all the way through. So, I'm just trying to see, does this offer any other guarantee other than, quote-unquote, 'admissions to the institution' for the major of that student's choice?"

Stuart: "No, it does not. But I will say what this does, and it does work a little bit differently for UIUC and UIC because their admissions process is a little bit different and they don't have general admission. What this will do is identify students that meet... and, again, the institutions can set a bar or a standard wherever they want, but it brings them to their attention and then they are required to do targeted outreach. And, hopefully, that will bring more students from our rural areas that are often get overlooked by UIUC, more students of color, and others that, the ones you are talking about, that typically do get left behind. So, it does require the university to do more targeted outreach to these identified high-performing students."

Davis, W.: "But..."

Stuart: "It... I understand your point. I think that is something that we can handle in another bill. But this, again, will bring the attention to students who otherwise wouldn't realize that they are, what we say, college material, but they get this letter indicating that they've been preadmitted to five or six different institutions across the state."

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Davis, W.: "Okay, so you're just saying it helps to identify students and that's pretty much as far as it goes."

Stuart: "Well, it helps identify them and it lets them know they are guaranteed admission to a specific school. So, when they fill out that application, there's not a question whether they will gain admission or not. They know that they will gain admission."

Davis, W.: "So, then, let me make sure I understand the mechanism. So, a student fills out this general application, all the institutions get it, and then they respond to the student whether or not that student could or would be admitted into their institution?"

Stuart: "Close."

Davis, W.: "Okay."

Stuart: "So, they fill out, again, like when they register for high school, they indicate whether they want their GPA and other information to be shared through ISAC to the... well, ISAC would know the institution standards and would have the student's information, and they will match whoever meets. And then ISAC will be able to send... and it may work through the Common App, and that's all getting worked out. But there will be a communication to the student and the family, and you might get a letter that says, 'Congratulations,' you know, 'you have been admitted to Eastern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, and Chicago State University. Please follow these steps. Enter this portal and finish the'... you know. It's not really an application at that point because you know you've gained acceptance."

Davis, W.: "Okay."

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Stuart: "But it's... you know that you have acceptance to those institutions."

Davis, W.: "And that's a general acceptance."

Stuart: "Yes."

Davis, W.: "So, again, it doesn't answer the question about specific major."

Stuart: "Right. And many of our schools do only offer general admission for those entering freshman."

Davis, W.: "All right, I'll stop there. Thank you."

Stuart: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "Without further discussion, Representative Stuart... Leader Stuart to close."

Stuart: "This bill's been a long time coming, and I hope that everybody will vote 'yes.'"

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 3522 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 100 voting in 'favor,' 2 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on the Order of Third Reading, on page 35, we have House Bill 1754 with Representative Swanson. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1754, a Bill for an Act concerning health. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Swanson, please proceed."

Swanson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to present House Bill 1754. And most times when I talk about ticks, I talk about

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Lyme disease. Today, I'm going to talk about a different of disease brought on by the lone star tick, and its alpha-gal. Alpha-gal is commonly called the red meat allergy, where someone who's bit... been bit by a lone star tick, they're allergic to beef, deer, and other types of red meat. I reached out to an organization called FAIR Health, and they did a report for me on private insurance claims, and they used insurance diagnosis codes. And these are some staggering numbers. I'll just read a couple, specifically on alpha-gal. In 2020, there were 151 times patients were treated. There were 24 patients treated 151 times at a doctor's office. In 2023, that number grew to 548 patients, or 2,183% increase, to 4,114 visits to a doctor, or a 2,624% increase. What this legislation does, it requires that the Illinois Department of Public Health shall provide educational materials regarding alpha-gal syndrome data on its website and also provide that IDPH will undertake an awareness and education campaign for community members, local health departments, medical providers on the signs and symptoms of alpha-gal syndrome, including education and proper procedures by which to order tests for diagnosis of alpha-gal. My mom has alpha-gal, and it's a very serious situation. If she's at a diner or restaurant and she's served beef or the chicken breast she's ordered has been served on a grill where beef has been prepared. So, as you can tell, the numbers are increasing. We need to start a strong educational campaign. I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no discussion, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 1754 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all

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opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 106 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' and 0 voting 'present.' This bill, have received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on the Order of Third Readings, on page 35, we have House Bill 1616, Representative Syed. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1616, a Bill for an Act concerning employment. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Syed, please proceed."

Syed: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present House Bill 1616, which provides part-time employees up to 10 days paid leave in a 12-month period to serve as an organ donor. We currently grant these benefits to full-time employees who have been employed for six months or more, that option, and expanding this recourse to part-time employees will make important progress in meeting the state's need for organ donations. This will only apply to employees who have been working for six months or more and to public sector employers and private employers with more than 50 employees. As many of you know, I care very, very deeply about reducing barriers for living organ donors, and I ask for an 'aye' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates she will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Appreciate your description. I think you pretty well covered everything that I may have. I just want

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to be clear. The program that exists now or the... the law applies to full-time employees. This would expand it to part-time employees. Is that..."

Syed: "Yes."

Windhorst: "...accurate? Is the... is there any difference in the leave times between full-time and part-time employees?"

Syed: "So, the only difference is that part-time employees, their compensation would be the average daily pay that they've been receiving over their course of... in that job. So, that's the only difference given that it's a part-time role as opposed to a full-time."

Windhorst: "And this was brought forward by the American Kidney Fund, if I'm seeing that correct. Or was it... they're a proponent at least?"

Stuart: "They're a... they're a proponent, yes."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Syed to close."

Syed: "I ask for an 'aye' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 1616 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 70 voting in 'favor,' 34 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continue on the Order of Third Reading, on page 38, we have House Bill 2442 with Representative Ugaste. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

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Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 2442, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Ugaste, please proceed."

Ugaste: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 2442 is an initiative of the Kane County Emergency Management Department. It's a fairly straightforward bill. It basically states that when a vehicle from the Office of Emergency Management is responding to an actual emergency with lights and sirens on, they can use a signal preemption device so that they can change the stop lights as they're going through intersections. I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no discussion, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 2442 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 104 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' This bill, have received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Leader Keicher for an announcement."

Keicher: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please excuse Representatives McLaughlin and Miller."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader West for an announcement."

West: "Point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Morgan: "Please proceed."

West: "I know we're busy with our Third Reading. I just want to take a quick minute to wish happy birthday to Representative Suzanne Ness."

Speaker Morgan: "Happy birthday, Representative. Continuing on the Order of Third Reading, on page 41, we have House Bill

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3176 with Representative Vella. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3176, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Vella, please proceed."

Vella: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is just a cleanup bill. It clarifies some aspects of a possible land transfer. There is no opposition."

Speaker Morgan: "There is some discussion. We recognize Representative Fritts."

Fritts: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He begrudgingly yields."

Fritts: "Thank you. Representative Vella, where is the district in which this bill is located?"

Vella: "I think that is your district."

Fritts: "It is my district. Thank you."

Vella: "You're welcome."

Fritts: "And why are you bringing this legislation forward?"

Vella: "I'm bringing this legislation forward to reconcile the discussions we had when this... the original bill was passed just to make sure that some language is put in to make sure that the land transfer is done in an appropriate way."

Fritts: "Okay. So, in the language of this bill, it would say that the Department of Natural Resources has to have anti-gaming legislation within the land management agreement, correct?"

Vella: "Not... language, yes. Anti-gaming language, not legislation, but yes."

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Fritts: "I'm sorry, anti-gaming language. Thank you. It's been a long day. So, with regards to that then, any anti-gaming language within the land management agreement could only be effective for seven years, correct?"

Vella: "I'm not sure about that, but I will... I'll take your word for it."

Fritts: "Well, because you're only allowed to enter into that agreement for seven years. It was discussed when the bill went through. Correct?"

Vella: "Sure."

Fritts: "Okay. To the bill."

Speaker Morgan: "To the bill."

Fritts: "Ladies and gentlemen of the House, of course, this bill begrudgingly got passed in the wee hours of lame duck session. This is an incredibly personal issue to my district. It was something that I wish had never passed in the beginning. But the constituents of this community, even though none of the bills that I had filed got out of Rules with regards to this issue that would've brought more people to the table in order to have this come forward and create a land management agreement that brings the community involved, I really wish those would've come through. But, unfortunately, this is the best that we're going to get, so I would ask for support in it. Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Vella to close."

Vella: "I urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 3176 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting

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is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 91 voting 'for,' 10 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Returning to the Order of Second Readings, on page 30, we have House Bill 3760 from Representative Walsh. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3760, a Bill for an Act concerning wildlife. The bill was read for a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. No Floor Amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Morgan: "Third Reading. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3760, a Bill for an Act concerning wildlife. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Walsh, please proceed."

Walsh: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and ladies and gentlemen of the House. House Bill 3760 amends the Wildlife Code, making it unlawful for any person to trap or hunt gray fox, except during the open season. It'll also make it unlawful to hunt the gray fox during open season if there is a biological imbalance of the gray fox and the Department of Natural Resources identify that, and it gives them rulemaking authority to change the season. I know of no opposition and ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "For further discussion, Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates he'll yield."

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Windhorst: "Thank you. It appears, if I'm seeing right, that the current law allows for a hunting season that will be set by the director of DNR between November 1 and February 15."

Walsh: "That is correct. It's not changing that."

Windhorst: "And this is making that a 'may?' The director may..."

Walsh: "May be able to, if there's an imbalance in the populations, to adjust that season."

Windhorst: "And what brought this bill forward?"

Walsh: "I believe the DNR's noticed there's been a fluctuation in the population of the gray fox throughout the state and they're looking to protect the species."

Windhorst: "So, it is their initiative. Is there any opposition to the bill?"

Walsh: "None that I know of. I've talked to the trapping association and hunting associations, and they don't have any problems with it."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Walsh to close."

Walsh: "I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 3760 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 103 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on Third Readings, on page 43, we have House Bill

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3740 from Representative Weaver. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3740, a Bill for an Act concerning real property. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Out of the record. Returning to the Order of Second Readings, on page 20 of the calendar, we have House Bill 3140 from Representative Weber. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3140, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. The bill was read for a second time previously. Amendment #1 was adopted in committee. No Floor Amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Morgan: "Third Reading. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3140, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Weber, please proceed."

Weber: "Thank you, ladies and gentlemen of the House. HB3140 creates the Care for Retired Police Dogs Program Act. This bill has been developed with the assistance of several agencies, including the secretary of state, Illinois State Police, the University of Illinois, and police canine families. And what this does is it creates a license plate that people can choose, and the license plate cost an additional \$25 if the people choose that. And that \$25 goes into a fund to take care of retired canines. If anyone has any questions, I'm more than happy to answer."

Speaker Morgan: "Thank you, Representative. There.. there's no discussion. On this bill, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 3140 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.'"

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The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 104 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'opposed,' 0 voting 'present.' This bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on the Order of Third Readings, on page 34, we have House Bill 1431 from Leader West. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 1431, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader West, please proceed."

West: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 1431 is an initiative that came from a 90-year-old constituent of mine who desires transparency when it comes to facility fees when patients go to outpatient services. After working with the Illinois Hospital Association, I was able to get them as a proponent and get the Chamber of Commerce as neutral. This bill does four things: it requires... or says a facility shall make a method that the facility will use to inform patients of being charged with a fee, services and operating expenses covered by the facility fees, reasons for being charged for that fee from the... for the... on the patient's health plan, and contact information if the patient has any more questions. I have no opposition. I ask for a favorable roll call."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no discussion on this bill, shall... the question is, 'Shall House Bill 1431 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question,

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there are 103 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'opposed,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Returning to the Order of Second Reading, on page 14, we have House Bill 2658 from Leader Williams. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 2658, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. The bill was read for a second time previously. Amendment #1 was adopted in committee. Floor Amendment #2 is offered by Representative Ann Williams."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader Williams to explain floor... House Floor Amendment 2."

Williams, A.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Floor Amendment simply moves a section of the bill into a more appropriate section, so just technical."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader Williams moves to... moves adoption of Floor Amendment #2. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. The amendment is adopted. Any further amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Bolin: "No further amendments. No motions are filed."

Speaker Morgan: "Third Reading. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 2658, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader Williams, please proceed."

Williams, A.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This initiative is from the Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulis' office, and it provides a smarter, more pragmatic approach to handle driving privileges for drivers with multiple DUIs, strikes the right balance, and prioritizes safety of driving first and foremost. So, currently, if you have multiple DUIs, you're

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only able to drive using a permit, which provides you to drive during... if you can show hardship. And that includes things like doctor's appointments, day care, if you're a student going to school, and going to work. What we'd like to propose here is instead utilizing the breath alcohol ignition interlock devices, also called BAIID devices, that will allow drivers to drive 6 days a week, 12 hours a day within a 200-mile radius of their home, but only if they can successfully start the ignition interlock device. And we believe this will reduce the incidents of driving while under the influence while assuring drivers are able to drive for other essential purposes. And the Mothers Against Drunk Driving as well as the Alliance of Intoxicated Motorists agree with us. Happy to answer any questions."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst is recognized."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

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

Windhorst: "Thank you. We show that this is a secretary of state initiative. Is that accurate?"

Williams, A.: "Yes, it is."

Windhorst: "And I believe, remembering what we talked about in committee and our analysis, that the Secretary of State's Office believes that this legislation will... or is intended to increase monitoring of motorists through the BAIID technology, as you mentioned, and that will allow for further intervention and coordination with drivers treatment provider. Is that... sound correct?"

Williams, A.: "That's a correct summery, I think."

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Windhorst: "And it does several things related to, as you mentioned, the... the interlock device and those individuals who have either lost their license or have faced a suspension for DUI. There were a couple other things that are involved here I wanted to touch on. One involves the informal hearing process. My understanding is that the informal hearing is something that exists but may not be in statute. The Secretary of State's Office is just actually doing this but wanted it codified. Is that..."

Williams, A.: "That's correct. We wanted to codify it to make sure it was available within the parameters outlined in the... in the... in the bill that we've written."

Windhorst: "And it also contained some language relating to DUI offenses at a military installation. Could you talk about that provision?"

Williams, A.: "Sure. Right now, you are... well, under proposed law, you are eligible to allow that the secretary of state to consider DUIs that occur on U.S. military installations for purpose of... purposes of imposing sanctions, issuing RDPs, restrictive driving permits, and determining requirements to comply with use... utilization of the BAIID devices. So, this is something that was not in statute as well, and we wanted to make sure it was included because, obviously, those provide the same sort of safety concerns as a regular DUI off-premise."

Windhorst: "And you've hit on this, but just to highlight the changes that were made regarding the... those convicted of DUI or receiving supervision or perhaps having a statutory summery suspension, there are changes there. But the... the

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changes we're making are supported by the Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists, and the Illinois State Bar Association. Is that accurate?"

Williams, A.: "Correct. Those... those have all weighed in, in support of the bill."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Leader Williams to close."

Williams, A.: "Thanks for your consideration. I'd ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 2658 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 104 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Continuing on the Order of Third Reading, on page 43, we have House Bill 3678 with Omar Jawaharial Williams. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3678, a Bill for an Act concerning conservation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Williams, please proceed."

Williams, J.: "Thank you, Chairman. House Bill 3678, it's an easy bill. It amends the Wildlife Code by removing a clarifying reference to license suspension and a revocation to eliminate redundancy and consolidate the process. It amends the Apprenticeship Hunter License Program by removing the

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references to a Apprenticeship Hunter License since that is renewed every March 31 anyway. So, I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "For discussion, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "He indicates he will."

Windhorst: "Representative, thank you for that description. Just to highlight a few of the things that occurs here. We're amending the Wildlife Code, first in prohibitions against fraud in connection with any license, permit, or tag. We.. this bill would delete provisions that DNR shall suspend the privileges of any person found guilty of violating those provisions for a period of not less than one year."

Williams, J.: "Yes."

Windhorst: "Do I have that correct? And then in provisions regarding a certificate of competency, it deletes provisions allowing a person born on or after January 1, 1980 to be exempt from requirements for a certificate of competency if the person has a hunting license issued in another state."

Williams, J.: "Yes."

Windhorst: "Is that included as well?"

Williams, J.: "Yes."

Windhorst: "There's also a deletion of provision limiting some suspensions to five years. What was the reason for that change being made?"

Williams, J.: "Well, it's kind of redundant 'cause it keeps saying the same process. And as far as the.. as far as the renewal for the Apprenticeship Hunter License Program, it's already stated that it's to be renewed March 31 of every year anyway."

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Windhorst: "And then there is another provision relating to the department suspending for a period of not less than one year the privileges of any person found guilty of violating specific provisions of this act, so that we're making another change related to suspensions, if... if I'm seeing that correct."

Williams, J.: "Yes."

Windhorst: "Is that correct?"

Williams, J.: "It deletes that provision."

Windhorst: "And this was brought forward by IDNR. It's... it's their initiative?"

Williams, J.: "Yes."

Windhorst: "Are there any opponents to the bill, as far as you know?"

Williams, J.: "Not that I know of."

Windhorst: "We show that Illinois Freedom Civic Coalition, Illinois Freedom Alliance is opposed. Have they reached out to you about their opposition, or do you know if they're still opposed?"

Williams, J.: "I... I didn't initially see that."

Windhorst: "I... I believe they may have filed a witness slip in committee."

Williams, J.: "No, they just filed it a couple of days ago. I didn't see them in... file that in committee."

Windhorst: "But they have now reached out... or have they reached out to you about that opposition?"

Williams, J.: "No, I haven't heard anything. This... and this is an initiative of the Department of Natural Resources."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

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Speaker Morgan: "Leader Williams."

Williams, J.: "Thank you for your questions, sir."

Speaker Morgan: "Oh, one second. Leader Ann Williams is recognized for a question."

Williams, A.: "Representative Williams, I'm just wondering that if this bill passes, will I still be able to drive with my pet on my lap? Thank you."

Williams, J.: "Well, Leader... Leader Williams, with this bill, since it's just the Department of Natural Resources, you'll still be able to drive with that dog on your lap until next general session. I will bring my bill back, and we're getting rid of no dogs on the lap. And with that being said, I thank you for your questions, and, Chairman, I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "Look forward to that bill coming back, Representative. The question is, 'Shall House Bill 3678 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 104 voting in 'favor,' 0 voting 'opposed,' and 0 voting 'present.' This bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Returning to the Order of Second Reading, on page 22, we have House Bill 3272 from Representative Yang Rohr. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3272, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. The bill was read for a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. No Floor Amendments. No motions are filed."

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Speaker Morgan: "Third Reading. Mr. Clerk, please read the bill."

Clerk Bolin: "House Bill 3272, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Morgan: "Representative Yang Rohr, please proceed."

Yang Rohr: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 3272 provides protection for workers of outdoor aquatic centers from excessive UV radiation exposure in their workplaces. There are, for example, lifeguards at pools or waterparks, many of whom are teenagers or young adults who are especially susceptible to UV overexposure because of their jobs, and this can cause increased risk to skin cancer. The bill requires employers of outdoor aquatic centers to provide shade structures to allow employees to regularly apply sunscreen and to wear sun-protective clothing if they choose. And in the absence of this legislation, there... there are some employers who have been denying workers the... the ability to wear simple things like hats or, for example, requiring a doctor's note to wear that sun-protective clothing. This will help decrease incidences of... of skin cancer, the most prevalent form of cancer. And I ask for your 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "Leader Windhorst is recognized for discussion."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?"

Speaker Morgan: "She indicates she will."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, this bill applies to outdoor aquatic centers. Is that correct?"

Yang Rohr: "That is correct."

Windhorst: "And that is both public and private, meaning government-owned aquatic centers would be required to comply, cities, municipalities..."

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Yang Rohr: "Yes."

Windhorst: "...and as well as privately owned. Is that correct?"

Yang Rohr: "Yes, if employ people at those aquatic centers."

Windhorst: "If they are... have employees. And it sets out certain things that requires the employer to... to do: provide access to independently purchase structures that provide sufficient shade, make reasonable efforts to avoid exposing employees to excessive sun exposure during peak hours, permit employees to regularly apply sunscreen, not restrict the wearing of sun-protective clothing, not compel aquatic center employees to wear sun-protective clothing. Is that... do I have that correct?"

Yang Rohr: "Correct."

Windhorst: "So, basically, the employee would be free to choose if they wore the sun-protective clothing or not. Is that... is that correct?"

Yang Rohr: "Correct. It does not compel the employee to wear that protective clothing."

Windhorst: "And provides that if an employee chooses to wear the clothing, the employer may require the sun-protective clothing to be within guidelines set by the employer."

Yang Rohr: "Correct. So, for example, if they have certain colors that they want them to wear that could be within those guidelines."

Windhorst: "And requires DPH to provide documents to employers so that employers may inform employees of certain cancer risks, significance of sun protection, importance of regularly monitoring their skin. Is that..."

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Yang Rohr: "That's... that's correct. The employer may provide that information if they choose."

Windhorst: "And I think most everyone would agree these are good ideas. I think the question is, is this required to be legislation. So, you've described some instances, I believe, that may have come forward. Have you heard of instances where employers are not allowing employees to either put on sunscreen or wear protective clothing?"

Yang Rohr: "Yes. That... that is..."

Windhorst: "Or... or compelling protective clothing, I guess."

Yang Rohr: "Exactly. That's why this legislation is here because there have been constituents that have come to me that have been... have either not been allowed to wear, for example, some of the sun-protective clothing or have been required to get a doctor's note in order to apply sunscreen regularly or to get that clothing."

Windhorst: "We show that IML is opposed to the bill. Is that still correct?"

Yang Rohr: "That is correct."

Windhorst: "And their opposition is due to the mandate that it will place on a local government or cities?"

Yang Rohr: "That's correct."

Windhorst: "Do you know what the position of the Department of Public Health is?"

Yang Rohr: "I have not heard from them."

Windhorst: "And will there be any fiscal impact, either to the state or to the municipalities with implementation?"

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Yang Rohr: "The bill does require them to provide access to structures that provide shade. That can include an awning. It can include canopies. It could also just include an umbrella."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Morgan: "There being no further discussion, Representative Yang Rohr to close."

Yang Rohr: "Thank you. I urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Morgan: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 3272 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay.' The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 68 voting in 'favor,' 35 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present.' And this bill, having received a constitutional majority, is hereby declared passed. Mr. Clerk, committee announcements."

Clerk Hollman: "The following committees will be meeting immediately after session: Gun Violence Prevention will meet in D-1; Elementary & Secondary Education: Administration, Licensing & Charter Schools will meet in Room 115; Labor & Commerce will meet in Room 114; State Government Administration will meet in C-1; the Executive Committee will meet in Room 118; Housing will meet in 413; and Higher Education will meet in Room 122B."

Speaker Morgan: "Mr. Clerk, Agreed Resolutions."

Clerk Hollman: "Agreed Resolutions. House Resolution 219, offered by Representative Hoffman. House Resolution 220, offered by Representative Coffey. House Resolution 222, offered by Representative Ford. House Resolution 224, offered by Representative Schweizer. House Resolution 225, offered by

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Speaker Morgan: "Leader Gabel moves for the 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 perfunctory time for the clerk, Leader Gabel moves that the House stand adjourned until Tuesday, April 8, at the hour of 10 a.m. 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 House Bills. House Bill 4030, offered by Representative Friess, a Bill for an Act concerning government. House Bill 4031, offered by Representative Friess, a Bill for an Act concerning criminal law. House Bill 4032, offered by Representative Hammond, a Bill for an Act concerning finance. House Bill 4033, offered by Representative Gabel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 4034, offered by Representative West, a Bill for an Act concerning public aid. House Bill 4035, offered by Representative Briel, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 4036, offered by Representative Olickal, a Bill for an Act concerning

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appropriations. House Bill 4037, offered by Representative Schweizer, a Bill for an Act concerning revenue. First Reading of these House Bills. Introduction of Resolutions. House Resolution 217, offered by Representative McLaughlin; House Resolution 218, offered by Representative Ford; House Resolution 221, offered by Representative Cassidy; House Resolution 223, offered by Representative Gabel; House Resolution 230, offered by Representative Rosenthal; House Resolution 232, offered by Representative Elik; House Resolution 233, offered by Representative Didech; House Resolution 234, offered by Representative Olickal; and House Joint Resolution 25, offered by Speaker Welch, are referred to the Rules Committee. Introduction and First Reading of Senate Bills. Senate Bill 1928, offered by Representative Faver Dias, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Senate Bill 1937, offered by Representative Kifowit, a Bill for an Act concerning public employee benefits. Senate Bill 2039, offered by Representative Syed, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Senate Bill 2040, offered by Representative Will Davis, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. Senate Bill 2314, offered by Representative Yang Rohr, a Bill for an Act concerning conservation. Senate Bill 2425, offered by Representative Will Davis, a Bill for an Act concerning safety. Senate Bill 40, offered by Representative Evans, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Senate Bill 73, offered by Representative du Buclet, a Bill for an Act concerning health. Senate Bill 103, offered by Representative Ann Williams, a Bill for an Act concerning civil law. Senate Bill 106, offered by Representative West, a Bill for an Act

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concerning State government. Senate Bill 246, offered by Representative Mayfield, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Senate Bill 1392, offered.. offered by Representative Ryan, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Senate Bill 1616, offered by Representative Katz Muhl, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Senate Bill 1884, offered by Representative Cassidy, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Senate Bill 1238, offered by Representative Yang Rohr, a Bill for an Act concerning health. Senate Bill 1265, offered by Representative LaPointe, a Bill for an Act concerning health. Senate Bill 1295, offered by Representative Lisa Davis, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Senate Bill 1325, offered by Representative Mah, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Senate Bill 1329, offered by Representative Crespo, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Senate Bill 1339, offered by Representative Jacobs, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Senate Bill 1343, offered by Representative Costa Howard, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Senate Bill 1368, offered by Representative Kifowit, a Bill for an Act concerning military service. Senate Bill 1441, offered by Representative Johnson, a Bill for an Act concerning employment. Senate Bill 1463, offered by Representative Mah, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Senate Bill 1466, offered by Representative Morgan, a Bill for an Act concerning business. Senate Bill 1504, offered by Representative du Buclet, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Senate Bill 1922, offered by Representative Hoffman, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. Senate Bill 28, offered by

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Representative Faver Dias, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Senate Bill 32, offered by Representative Kifowit, a Bill for an Act concerning public aid. Senate Bill 58, offered by Representative Ness, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Senate Bill 67, offered by Representative Evans, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Senate Bill 83, offered by Representative Tarver, a Bill for an Act concerning civil law. Senate Bill 100, offered by Representative Rita, a Bill for an Act concerning gaming. Senate Bill 118, offered by Representative Didech, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Senate Bill 126, offered by Representative Gill, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. First Reading of these Senate Bills. There being no further business, the House Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."