

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

34th Legislative Day

4/23/2025

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

Severin: "Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to pray this morning... or this afternoon. And first off, I want to just say, from a loud-mouthed Pentecostal boy, that I appreciate yesterday, Representative Chung, on the... and playing that song for us. You know, it... it does something good for your heart and your soul, and I appreciate that. And so, I just wanted to... to make mention of that. Let's pray. Lord, I thank you for this day, and I thank you for each one that's in this chamber and in this Capitol today. I pray, Lord, for you to give us wisdom and direction and help us to honor each you... you each day, Lord. And I pray, God, that there be protection not only in this building but in this state this day and in our schools and in our constituents. Wherever they're at, whatever their doing today, I pray for blessing and protection upon them. Again, I thank you that we call upon you and you hear and answer our prayers. I thank you, Lord, that you really exist. You know who everyone is. You know us by name, Lord, and you have a plan for us and a will. And I pray, God, that we would seek you out, not just in tough times or when we're in trouble, but we would seek you each day. And thank you for the blessing you've bestowed upon us, and thank you that you help us through times that are troublesome. And, again, I thank you for this day. In your name, amen."

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Speaker Stuart: "We will be lead in the Pledge of Allegiance today by Representative Syed."

Syed - 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 Stuart: "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 Representative Jones and Scherer are excused today."

Speaker Stuart: "Leader Keicher is recognized to report any excused absences on the Republican side of the aisle."

Keicher: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Please let the record reflect that Representatives Schweizer and Hammond are excused for today."

Speaker Stuart: "Have all recorded themselves who wish? Mr. Clerk... Clerk, please take the record. There being 113 Members answering the roll call, a quorum is present. Mr. Clerk, Committee Reports."

Clerk Hollman: "Committee Reports. Representative Costa Howard, Chairperson from the Committee on Human Services reports the following committee action taken on April 23, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 1774, Senate Bill 2194. Representative Gong-Gershowitz, Chairperson from the Committee on Judiciary - Civil reports the following committee action taken on April 23, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 27, Senate Bill 83, Senate Bill 103, Senate Bill 104, Senate Bill 1348, Senate Bill 1383, Senate Bill

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1411, Senate Bill 1443, Senate Bill 1466, Senate Bill 1523, Senate Bill 1738, Senate Bill 1777, Senate Bill 2220, and Senate Bill 2351. Representative Mussman, Chairperson from the Committee on Education Policy reports the following committee action taken on April 23, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 1519, Senate Bill 1555, Senate Bill 1983. Representative Ann Williams, Chairperson from the Committee on Executive reports the following committee action taken on April 23, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 19, Senate Bill 1793, Senate Bill 2002, Senate Bill 2323. Representative Morgan, Chairperson from the Committee on Health Care Licenses reports the following committee action taken on April 23, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 119, Senate Bill 1325, Senate Bill 1463, Senate Bill 2154, Senate Bill 2492, Senate Bill 2494, Senate Bill 2495, and Senate Bill 2496. Representative Andrade, Chairperson from the Committee on Transportation: Vehicles & Safety reports the following committee action taken on April 23, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 1249, Senate Bill 1256, Senate Bill 1467, Senate Bill 1507, Senate Bill 1941, Senate Bill 1999, Senate Bill 2019, Senate Bill 2040, Senate Bill 2179, Senate Bill 2285, do pass as amended Short Debate is Senate Bill 1922 and Senate Bill 2108. Introduction of Resolutions. House Resolution 264, offered by Representative Morgan, is referred to the Rules Committee."

Speaker Stuart: "Representative Morgan, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

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

Speaker Stuart: "Please proceed."

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Morgan: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. And if I could please have the chamber's attention. Thank you, Madam Speaker. As we stand here today, at this moment, there is a courtroom in Lake County, Illinois where a judge is currently deciding the sentencing for the 2022 Highland Park Fourth of July mass shooter. The outcome is not in doubt. He's been found guilty. But throughout the day, dozens of victims of the shooting, the family members of those who were killed will be giving testimony about the devastation the shooter caused when he fired 83 bullets in less than 60 seconds. Less than a minute. Less than it took me to read these comments to you. I want to start by thanking the Members of this chamber, something I really didn't really had an opportunity to do. We were not in session at the time of the shooting. But many of you, both sides of the aisle, reached out to me in the minutes, in the hours, in the days after the shooting to support me and to support my community. So, thank you. Just under three years ago, I stood at the start of that parade with my family when the shots rang out and thousands ran for their lives. While that day will never be forgotten in Highland Park, it was actually hardly a remarkable event when considering the hundreds of mass shooting that have happened since or the thousands, thousands of lives that we've lost in Illinois to gun violence since that day. So, while I rise and really, truly, sincerely say thank you and offer my gratitude to each of you who were there for me and share the relief with all of you that my community will experience this week a sense of closure, I'd be making a mistake if I didn't point out the fact that so many communities in this state don't have and

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don't experience this small measure of justice. That is why we have so much more work to do. We have to lift up legislation like Leader Buckner's House Bill 3632, this legislation to address the unconscionable volume of murder cases left unsolved. We call them cold cases. Too many families are left out with this cold pain and loss, and we all collectively can and need to do better to solve these gun crimes in Illinois. So, in closing, I will ask for a moment of silence as we remember the seven lives lost on July 4 of 2022: Irina McCarthy, Kevin McCarthy, Katherine Goldstein, Jacki Sundheim, Stephen Straus, Nicolas Toledo-Zaragoza, and Eduardo Uvaldo. May their memories be a blessing to us all, and may we please take a moment of silence."

Speaker Stuart: "The body shall take a moment of silence. Representative Briel, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Briel: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Stuart: "Please proceed."

Briel: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. As the only openly neurodivergent member of the House, it's important for me and those in the autistic community to discuss the status of today's autism treatments... thank you, Madam Speaker... to discuss the status of today's autism treatments, which seek to improve many of our lives but have also damaged many. Many autistic adults have gone through ABA, over 50 years it's been in practice. And we need to understand that this therapy prioritizes masking, a term when someone hides their true feelings or emotions to conform to mainstream society. This leads to dismissing the underlying causes of the behavior

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that mentally and physically strain those of us in the autistic community. We are not providing relief for those in the neurodivergent community with this practice. Instead, we are incentivizing off of them by comparing civility to the cast of 'Pleasantville.' A study found in 2020... sorry, a study found in 2018 that individuals who underwent ABA therapy were 86% more likely to develop PTSD compared to those with autism who did not undergo ABA therapy. Another study done in 2020 found that of autistic respondents 52% disagreed with the current practice of ABA and only 5% of those with autism supported ABA. And you might ask yourself, why? Remember, the goal is and always was ABA to make us indistinguishable from any other child and to make those around us feel more comfortable. Many, if not most of us, are not seeking this indistinguishability. We're seeking real, true promotion of neurodiversity. So, I stand alongside those in the neurodivergent community that ABA should not and is not the gold standard of autism therapy. I am very thankful for the strides that have been made in acceptance and inclusion of my community, but we have to stop with the narrative that autism has or, more importantly, needs a cure. We are who we are, and we love ourselves. Thank you."

Speaker Start: "Representative Ortíz, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Ortíz: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Stuart: "Please proceed."

Ortíz: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to recognized my district outreach director, who's in the gallery with us today. Jorge Agustin is a proud Chicagoan born and raised in Back of the

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Yards neighborhood. He's a graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago with a major in political science. I met Jorge through his work at Increase the Peace as a community organizer engaging and mentoring our youth. One of my favorite events they host are the Increase the Peace campouts, in which teens and community members will camp out all night long during the summer days. Their goal is to increase the peace in the City of Chicago. The 1st District is blessed to have you working with us, Jorge. If we can please give Jorge a warm Springfield welcome."

Speaker Stuart: "Welcome to the Capitol. Representative Weber, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Weber: "Point of personal privilege, Madam."

Speaker Stuart: "Please proceed."

Weber: "Thank you. Could I have the attention of the House? Today, I want to share with you a shocking story of a young woman from my district, one that details the tragic death of Megan Bos. Most of you have probably seen it in the newspapers recently. The family has been in contact with me. I spoke with her mother for quite a long time on Monday before coming down to Springfield. Megan was... spoke with her mother on February 17. That was the last time her mother would speak with her. On February 19, Megan's mother sent her a text letting her know that she was loved, and that was the last text that Megan would ever read. On March 9, after looking and posting on social media for weeks trying to locate where Megan had been, Megan's mother finally reported her as missing. And on March 9, the police began an investigation. This is also the same time in which we shared the information

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on our page, our state representative page, trying to help locate Megan for her mother and her family. Her mother and friends went around to areas where Megan was last known to be seen, passing out flyers on multiple occasions. And on three of which times of those, Megan's mother and friends were within a hundred feet of where her body would later be found. As the police continue their investigation, trying to talk with individuals that knew Megan, Antioch Police Department and Waukegan Police Department worked together. On... almost two months later, on April 10, Antioch Police Department went to speak with an individual at a business in Waukegan, Jose Mendoza-Gonzalez, a Mexican national that resided there and worked at this business. At first, he said that, yes, he knew her and she was at his house but only for a brief time. As officers continued to question and pressure, asking if she was still alive, he said he did not want to be arrested at work. So, police, not knowing why, contacted Waukegan Police Department, got a translator, and brought him to Waukegan Police Department, where he then said that her body was in a garbage can in his yard. He said that she had come to his house, and she was looking to... at doing some drugs. And he left for a few minutes, and when he came back, she was dead. He didn't call 911 or anyone else. He also admitted to breaking her phone. After two days of the body being in the basement of his house, he said he placed it in the garbage can, pulled it up the stairs, and put it out in the yard. That's where it sat for 51 days. That is horrifying, especially when the mother literally may have been at the door putting a flyer on the door. And they remember the

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household, and they could smell people cooking inside, but no one ever came to the door. Police went out and found the body. Coroner's report... this was on Thursday. On Friday, coroners said they could not find any signs of struggle or anything. And then on Saturday... first of all, police charged him with abuse of a corpse, two counts of concealing the death of a person, and obstructing justice. So, he was taken into custody on Thursday, charged on Friday. Saturday morning, bond court, was released because none of these offenses are detainable under the SAFE-T Act. From what I understand from the mother, electronic monitoring was requested but denied. And I have to ask you, if this was your child, someone that hid their body in a garbage can for 51 days, after leaving it in the basement for two days, after not calling 911, breaking a phone, is this a nondetainable offense? Should we not find out, wait for a toxicology report, anything? Especially with someone that is a citizen of a foreign country. Is there no flight risk? This is wrong. We should hope that no one ever has to search for their daughter like that, find out that someone hid the body, and in less than 48 hours walking the street. This goes far beyond common sense. I hope that people in the chamber think about the things we do. And let's work together, make things better. This does not make sense. This needs to be fixed. I know the family of Megan Bos are very upset. They don't understand. They were shocked when this person was able to walk outside of the court. I was shocked when I talked to her and find that out, and I hope you're shocked. Madam Speaker, can we please have a moment of silence? Thank you."

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Speaker Stuart: "The body will take a moment of silence. Representative Syed, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Syed: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to welcome high school students from Chicago Hope Academy who are visiting the Capitol today. They are up in the gallery. It is always amazing to have young people here in the people's House to witness and learn about the work we do and the legislative process. And I just want to give a big shoutout and thank their educators, Travis Shannan and Aidan Busch, for bringing their students to the Capitol. Please give them a warm Springfield welcome."

Speaker Stuart: "Welcome to the Capitol. Representative Tipsword, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Tipsword: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Stuart: "Please proceed."

Tipsword: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to introduce my page for the day, Sincere Faith. Sincere is from Eureka and is a homeschool senior. She is involved in many organizations in our area, some of which include TeenPact, the Leadership Institute, and Turning Point USA of Greater Peoria. She is the founder of the Peoria High School Republicans and the president of the Woodford County Homeschool Republicans. She enjoys sewing, baking, reading, signing, playing the viola, and spending time with her family. She plans to pursue a career in law or criminal justice. So, basically, she's just your ordinary homeschooler. Welcome to Springfield, Sincere."

Speaker Stuart: "Welcome to Springfield. Representative Windhorst, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

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

Speaker Stuart: "Please proceed."

Windhorst: "Thank you. It is my honor to recognize in the gallery today Gene Mitchell and the Young Conservatives Club of Marion High School. If we could please wish them a warm Springfield welcome."

Speaker Stuart: "Welcome to the Capitol. Representative Fritts, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

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

Speaker Stuart: "Please proceed."

Fritts: "Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen of the House, I have the honor today to welcome three amazing young women who have joined me from Northbrook School in Mendota. With me I have Mia Arteaga, Lumen Setchell, and Giana Godina, all eighth grade students. Mia participates in volleyball, travel volleyball, and goes to her religion classes and participates in lots of community service through that. She is interested in pursuing a career as an immigration lawyer. I have Lumen with me. Lumen participates in band and plays the trumpet. She's also involved in cross-country in the fall and track in the spring. She is interested in becoming a teacher or a veterinarian. Giana participates in volleyball and basketball and would like to be a nurse, a travel nurse, or a lawyer in the future. We got a lot of lawyers here. She also wanted everybody to know that she made the high honor roll this year, so she's very proud of that. We're all proud of it with her. I would also like to draw attention to the gallery on the Republican side of the aisle. Their teacher, Ms. Sarah Henkel,

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has done this. She's brought me three students every year the last three years I've been in. So, a very special thank you to her, and please join me in welcoming these students."

Speaker Stuart: "Welcome to the Capitol. Representative West, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

West: "Point of personal privilege, please, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Stuart: "Please proceed."

West: "So, this past Monday Momma West turned 70. And I just called her and asked her to join the website so we can see if she can see me talking about her, but she's getting her nails done. So, I was wondering... I'm recording on my iPad. Could you all help me by wishing Momma West a happy birthday, if you don't mind? Thank you so much."

Speaker Stuart: "Happy birthday, Momma West. Representative Mayfield, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Mayfield: "Personal privilege."

Speaker Stuart: "Please proceed."

Mayfield: "Thank you so much. I would like to draw your attention to the Speaker's Gallery and request your indulgence as I read this resolution.

WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated is an international, non-profit corporation established in 1946; The Links Foundation, Incorporated, the philanthropic arm of The Links, Incorporated, has made more than \$24 million dollars in charitable contributions since its founding; and

WHEREAS, The membership of Links, Incorporated consists of more than 17,000 professional women of African descent in 299 chapters across the globe; it is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of extraordinary

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women who are committed to enriching, sustaining, and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry; the Central Area of The Links, Incorporated was established in 1950 and has expanded to 72 chapters in 15 states; the Illinois chapters are Central Illinois (IL) Chapter, Chicago (IL) Chapter, Gateway (IL) Chapter, Harbor Lites (IL) Chapter, Hoffman Estates (IL) Chapter, North Shore (IL) Chapter, North... Lake Shore (IL) Chapter, Quad Cities (IL) Chapter, South Suburban Chicago (IL) Chapter, Tri-County (IL) Chapter, Windy City (IL) Chapter, and West Towns (IL) Chapter; and

WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated is transforming communities through its voice, its vote, and its power; with two million service hours recorded in the past three years, members regularly contributed more than 1,000,000 documented service hours in their respective communities annually; and

WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated's legislative and public affairs priorities are considered through a lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated is uniquely positioned to leverage the collective strength, resources, and energy of its members to ensure that public policy being considered is reflective of its membership and the global community it serves; and

WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated will continue to monitor and advocate on numerous public policy issues that include its identified six priorities for the biennium, civil and voting rights, women's health equity, equal pay, economic

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empowerment, social justice and public safety, and environmental justice and climate change; and

WHEREAS, The chapters of the Central Area of The Links, Incorporated in the State of Illinois continue to advocate for the above-mentioned public policy issues and have elected to spotlight women's health equity, specifically in three areas of prevention, kidney disease, Black women's maternal health, and mental health; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton, Representative Rita Mayfield, Representative Kimberly Du Buclet, and Representative Justin Slaughter's mother are among the members; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois chapters of The Links, Incorporated will be holding their annual in-person Illinois Links Day at the State Capitol on today, April 23, 2025; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize the work of the Area Director Sheila R. Brown and the various chapters in the Central Area and salute them on Links Day at the Illinois State Capitol; and be it further RESOLVED. That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the Central Area of the Links, Incorporated as a symbol of our respect and esteem. And please welcome our Central Area of Links to the Capitol."

Speaker Stuart: "Welcome Links. Representative... Representative Hanson, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Hanson: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of the House. If you can't see me, I'm over here. Today, I rise on this National Go Orange Awareness Day as

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part of National Work Zone Awareness Week and ask for your cooperation and added awareness when traveling through work zones. I quote, 'The people you see working on our roads, on equipment, or behind the cones and barricades are someone's loved one, a friend, a neighbor, and a part of our community. Working together, we can ensure their safety and ours. Let's make this the safest construction season ever in Illinois.' These words from our state transportation secretary, Gia Biagi, ring true to me as someone wearing orange every day and working around loud and dangerous equipment. And the theme for this year's National Work Zone Awareness Week is 'respect the zone so we all get home.' This reinforces the message that undivided attention and caution is necessary at all times when traveling through work zones to protect everyone in them, both the workers, the drivers, as well as their passengers, the cyclists, and the pedestrians. When you're behind the wheel and approach a work zone, we must eliminate all the distractions and do our parts to decrease the accident risk. An average of nearly 6300 crashes occur in Illinois annually in work zones, resulting in more than 1600 injuries, and preliminary results from 2024 indicate that 13 people died in work zone accidents, four of them being workers. The stark reminder that crashes in work zones generally have a much greater impact on drivers and their passengers. The following guidelines when traveling... when traveling through work zones should be followed at all times: Drop it and drive, phones, electronic devices all at... every single time in every single work zone. Obey the signs. Slow it down. Be on the lookout for slower spot-stop traffic. Give yourself time to react.

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Please consider the limitations of every piece of heavy equipment, the trucks and commercial vehicles that are in those work zones. And remember that a work zone can take many different forms. It can be basic maintenance, or it can be a major build-out. Our Illinois State Police Director Brendan Kelly said it succinctly for all of us to acknowledge, 'Road workers are out there repairing and maintaining the highways we drive every day to make them safer for us. Be a decent human being and respect them and the work that they do by slowing down and giving them room so that everyone can go home safely.' I thank Director Kelly, Secretary Biagi, our Governor Pritzker for bringing added attention to this work zone awareness week this week, and I ask you, all of you, throughout your construction season, during your travels to respect the workers in those zones, whether they be state, tollway, county, township, private workers. Again, they're friends, family members, coworkers too. So, do your part. And, again, thanks for paying attention to National Go Orange Day."

Speaker Stuart: "Representative Ammons, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Ammons: "Point of personal privilege, please, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Stuart: "Please proceed."

Ammons: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is my distinct pleasure to certainly be in the House of Representatives this day. Today is my 23rd anniversary with the best clerk in the State of Illinois, Clerk Aaron Ammons down in Champaign County. We are celebrating 23 on 23, and I just wanted to send the love of my life the shoutout, the wind beneath my wings, the person

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who pushes me around in this wheelchair and makes sure that I get to the doctor's appointments on time. Love you so much, Mr. Aaron Ammons. Sending you our love from the House of Representatives. Thank you so much, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Stuart: "Happy anniversary. Representative Kelly, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Kelly: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Stuart: "Please proceed."

Kelly: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Unfortunately, I rise today to honor Captain David Meyer from Truck 29, Engine 96's house. Captain Meyer responded to a fire early this morning on the West Side Austin District in the City of Chicago, where the garage ended up collapsing on him, and he was hit with a steel beam. He was taken to Stroger Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. Captain Meyer was a 28-year member, was 54 years old. He was going to hit his 29th year later this year. He was turning 55, and he was due to retire at the end of this year. He is survived by his wife, his three daughters, and his son. I ask that everybody here please keep his family, his brothers and sisters at Engine 96, Truck 29, and the members of Local 2 Chicago Fire Department in their prayers. And I'd respectfully ask for a moment of silence. Thank you."

Speaker Stuart: "The body shall take a moment of silence. Thank you. Mr. Clerk, committee announcements."

Clerk Hollman: "The following committees will be meeting at... this afternoon: At 2 o'clock is Appropriations... correction, Elementary & Secondary Education: Administration, Licensing & Charter Schools in Room 115; Gun Violence Prevention in Room 118; Immigration & Human Rights in Room C-1; Labor &

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Commerce in Room 114; State Government Administration in Room 122. Meeting at 4 o'clock is Appropriations-General Services in D-1, Appropriations-Public Safety & Infrastructure in Room C-1, Appropriations-Elementary & Secondary Education in Room 118, the Gaming Committee in Room 114, and Higher Education in Room 122."

Speaker Stuart: "Mr. Clerk, Agreed Resolutions."

Clerk Hollman: "Agreed Resolutions. House Resolution 262, offered by Representative Buckner. House Resolution 263, offered by Representative Swanson. House Resolution 265 and 266, offered by Representative Didech."

Speaker Stuart: "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 Thursday, April 24, at the hour of noon. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the House stands adjourned."

Clerk Hollman: "House Perfunctory Session will come to order. Introduction and First Reading of House Bills. House Bill 4042, offered by Representative Tarver, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. First Reading of this House Bill. There being no further business, the House Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."