

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

35th Legislative Day

4/24/2025

Speaker Avelar: "The House will be in order. Members will be in their chairs. We shall be led in the prayer today by Representative Grasse. 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."

Grasse: "I wanted to have our invocation for today be in honor of Pope Francis. We are in the eighth day of the nine days of mourning for him. So, to honor Pope Francis, let us pause in stillness to honor a life lived for others. Today, we remember Pope Francis, a man who walked humbly, spoke boldly for the voiceless, and reminded the world that dignity belongs to all. Pope Francis called us not to walls but to bridges, to see the humanity in the stranger, the sacredness in the suffering, the strength in simplicity, and the power of mercy and love in our world. His words reached across boundaries of nation, of wealth, of beliefs to remind us that compassion is a language understood by all and needed by us all. He spoke to people of all faiths and belief systems with a message rooted in our shared humanity and the interconnectedness of us all. He reminded us that justice is not only a principle but a practice, one that begins with listening, continues through compassion, and is fulfilled in our everyday actions. As we begin our work this session in the days to come, may we be guided by his example to lead with courage, to speak with conscience, to act with love, not for the few, but for the many. And in honoring his life, may we all continue his labor, a labor of hope, of unity, and of care for our shared home and our care for one another. Let this be our charge, and let this be our call. Amen."

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Speaker Avelar: "We will be led in the Pledge of Allegiance today by Leader Delgado."

Delgado - 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 Avelar: "Roll Call for Attendance. Leader Gabel is recognized to report any excused absences on the Democratic side of the aisle."

Gabel: "Thank you. Speaker, let the record show that Representative Ford, Gill, Jones, Mayfield, Scherer, and Slaughter are excused today."

Speaker Avelar: "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 Hammond, Schweizer, Stephens, Halbbrook, and Niemerg are excused for the day."

Speaker Avelar: "Have all recorded themselves who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. There being 106 Members answering the roll call, a quorum is present. Mr. Clerk, Committee Reports."

Clerk Hollman: "Committee Reports. Representative Scherer, Chairperson from the Committee on Elementary & Secondary Education: Administration, Licensing & Charter Schools reports the following committee action on April 23, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 28, Senate Bill 1616. Representative Barbara Hernandez, Chairperson from the Committee on Immigration & Human Rights reports the following committee action on April 23, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 1422. Representative Evans, Chairperson from the

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Committee on Labor & Commerce reports the following committee action taken on April 23, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 67, Senate Bill 212, Senate Bill 220, Senate Bill 1701, Senate Bill 2164, Senate Bill 2503. Representative Blair-Sherlock, Chairperson from the Committee on State Government Administration reports the following committee action on April 23, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 90, Senate Bill 106, Senate Bill 213, Senate Bill 1230, Senate Bill 1339, Senate Bill 1550, Senate Bill 2506. Representative Stuart, Chairperson from the Committee on Higher Education reports the following committee action on April 23, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 1310, Senate Bill 1475, Senate Bill 1928. Representative Kelly, Chairperson from the Committee on Police & Fire reports the following committee action on April 24, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 1295, Senate Bill 1446, Senate Bill 1742. Representative Stava-Murray, Chairperson from the Committee on Public Health reports the following committee action taken on April 24, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 73, Senate Bill 291, Senate Bill 1594, Senate Bill 1814. Representative Ortíz, Chairperson from the Committee on Counties & Townships reports the following committee action taken on April 24, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 1241. Representative Yang Rohr, Chairperson from the Committee on Personnel & Pensions reports the following committee action taken on April 24, 2025: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 1441, Senate Bill 1752, Senate Bill 1937, and Senate Bill 2175."

Speaker Avelar: "Representative La Ha, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

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La Ha: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Avelar: "Please proceed."

La Ha: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today, I rise to give my condolences to the McMichael family. I know there are a couple of us who plan to speak, so I'll go ahead and get started. I'm deeply saddened by the loss of Steve 'Mongo' McMichael. Steve embodied the spirit of resilience, strength, and leadership, both on and off the football field. As a Chicago Bears icon, Super Bowl champion, and cornerstone of the Monsters of the Midway, he brought endless pride to our community and represented the very best of Homer Glen. It was an honor to recognize Steve last year with a House Resolution, 910, celebrating his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. His remarkable career and courageous fight against ALS have left an indelible mark on all who admired him. Steve's legacy will continue to inspire us as we remember the incredible life he lived. My thoughts and prayers are with Steve's family and loved ones as we join together in mourning his passing and honoring his memory."

Speaker Avelar: "Representative Sheehan is recognized."

Sheehan: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to say thank you to Representative La Ha for your kind words. I also want to express my condolences to the McMichael family. Representing Steve hometown of Homer Glen, I wanted to share a personal story about Mongo. I had the pleasure of meeting Mongo a while back while he was playing in the Chicago 6 band with fellow legends Dan Hampton and Otis Wilson. I was assigned to on-duty security, and you could feel Mongo's love and respect for law enforcement. He went out of his way to talk to every

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single police officer that day, take pictures, tell jokes, sign autographs, and just say thank you. When he spoke to me, he asked about my family, and I told him my sons played football too. And when he found out two of them played quarterback, his response was, 'You're raising a bunch of pretty boys and not football players.' But anyone that knows Mongo knows that that was the PG version of that quote. In that moment, you could still see his passion for the game and his pride for paying defense. I just wanted to say thank you for the memories, Mongo."

Speaker Avelar: "The body shall observe a moment of silence. Leader Gabel, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

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

Speaker Avelar: "Please proceed."

Gabel: "Thank you. Today, I would love to introduce to you all my page for a day, Arrie Morgan. She's 8 years old, lives in Springfield, and is in the second grade. She... she loves gymnastics, playing with her friends outside, and, of course, playing with her headset. When she grows up, she wants to be a teacher. Yay for her. And her mom is Madison Shane, who works with us in the Clerk's Office and has to come all the time and do our Rules Committee. So, let's give Arrie a big Springfield welcome."

Speaker Avelar: "Welcome to the House. Leader McCombie is recognized."

McCombie: "Thank you, Speaker. I also would like to introduce my page for the day. Come a little closer, there you are. See the screen there? This is Amani Brown. She is the daughter of Britton Brown and Andre Brown. Britton, if you have not met

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her, is Deputy Leader Norine Hammond's assistant, so kindly we call the warden. All of us can recognize that. Amani is 9 years old, and she is in third grade and goes to Auburn Middle School. She currently plays volleyball, and in her free time, she enjoys being outside, like all of us, and making bracelets, which she has been making for her friends and family this morning. So, please give her a warm welcome to her Capitol."

Speaker Avelar: "Welcome to the Capitol. Leader Davidsmeyer, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

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

Speaker Avelar: "Please proceed."

Davidsmeyer: "Once again, we're back in the Capitol to celebrate a state championship team from the 100th District. Today, I have the Calhoun High School girls, if you could stand up, the 2024-25 IHSA Class 1A girls volleyball champions. I'm going to... I'm going to list everybody. If you can just wave your hand when I say your name. We've got Kate Zipprich, who was also named State Final MVP, breaking the state record for most blocks in a state final game; Lacy Pohlman, named to the State Final All-Tournament team; Josie Hoagland; Joy Hurley; Audrey Gilman; Abby Johnes, who is apparently in Europe somewhere; Caydence Sievers; Stella Gress; Leila Schulte; Sadie Kiel; Mary Squier; Anabel Eilerman; Carly Pohlman; Emma Rose; Annie Wilson; Gabby Hurley; Lilly Pelletier; Lucy Hurley. We've got manager Grace Hurley, assistant coach Ann Gilman, and head coach Melissa Zipprich. I want to welcome you to your State Capitol and congratulate you on a wonderful

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year, and look forward to seeing what comes next.
Congratulations on your state championship."

Speaker Avelar: "Representative Meier, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Meier: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Avelar: "Please proceed."

Meier: "Last night, at 10:30, two young men became heroes down in my district. Andy and Daven were on their way home when they noticed smoke billowing from the second floor of the senior apartments in Nashville, Illinois. They called 911, but instead of waiting for them to arrive, they selfishly ran into the building and started evacuating the residents. When they entered, they could hear residents screaming for help. As they were heroically notifying and evacuating residents, seven volunteer fire departments joined together to respond to this emergency. Can we have it a little quieter, please? The Nashville Fire Department was on a mutual aid call to Pinckneyville when this fire broke out, so the mutual aid call went out to all other fire departments in the area. Working together, Nashville, Hoyleton, Addieville, Ashley, Okawville, Carlyle, and Coulterville fire departments extinguished the fire. We had four area ambulance services send help: Washington County, Pinckneyville, New Baden, Litton. We saw Southern Illinois band together with all hands on deck. Two residents were airlifted to the burn center in St. Louis, two others were admitted to the Washington County Hospital, where one was released this morning with minor injuries and one still remains. Some of the other residents have been moved into temporary emergency shelter while they

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rebuild while others will reside with family members for the time being. Without the great and quick heroic actions of Andy and Daven, God only knows how tragic this could have been. Please join me in a prayer for our victims here that are still recovering and a round of applause for Andy and Daven and all the volunteers and first responders. And, hopefully, you will all have the opportunity to meet these two young men in the Speaker's Gallery over the next couple of weeks. Thank you, and let's give them a round of applause."

Speaker Avelar: "Representative Reick, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Reick: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Avelar: "Please proceed."

Reick: "Saw in the news yesterday that the governor has initiated an inquiry as to how much investment the State of Illinois has in El Salvador as a means of pressuring El Salvador to release somebody who was deported down there and is in jail. First of all, it's not the governor's job to engage in foreign policy. Second of all, virtue signaling is something that should wait till he's a little bit closer to running for higher office. I guess that a budget that is not going to be in balance, 140-some billion dollars in pension debt, and a transit agency fiscal cliff is a little bit too much to handle. But there is one problem in this state that he could work on right now, and let's get this done. Around the corner from me in my district is a... is a thing called Hempstock Pharms. It... the owners of them, they're making a really good business out of doing the responsible thing with hemp products. Now, say what you want. You could not like them,

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you could not use them, or you be in favor of them or whatever. But sitting here in this building are competing... is a... is a fight going on to allow legitimate businesses to sell legal products and, at the same time, regulate them in a way that gets products that are being sold in unregulated spots, like gas stations and things like that, get them off the street. These hemp businesses are more than happy to work with regulators to show that what their products are doing is not poisoning people. But we're being held... but these bills, this method, or this... this means of regulating and controlling an industry that is trying to get itself off the ground here in Illinois is being in effect held hostage by the political process. I think instead of swanning around the Sunday morning talk shows, the governor ought to convene the leaderships of both the House and the Senate and get this problem fixed. Thank you."

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

Clerk Hollman: "House Resolution 267, offered by Representative Mayfield. House Resolution 268, offered by Representative Avelar. House Resolution 269, offered by Representative Mussman. House Resolution 270, offered by Representative Mason. And House Resolution 271, offered by Representative Spain."

Speaker Avelar: "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 29, at the hour of

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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 4043, offered by Representative Keicher, a Bill for an Act concerning criminal law. First Reading of this House Bill. There being no further business, the House Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."