

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

39th Legislative Day

5/6/2025

Clerk Hollman: "House Perfunctory Session will come to order. Introduction and First Reading of Senate Bill. Senate Bill 710, offered by Speaker Welch, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. First Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker González: "The House will be in order. Members will be in their chairs. We shall be led in prayer today by Pastor Ray McElroy. Pastor McElroy is with Bright Hope Chicago Fellowship in Chicago, Illinois. Pastor McElroy is the guest of Speaker Welch. 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."

Pastor McElroy: "Let us pray. Father, we give you thanks and praise for this gathering this afternoon of the Illinois General Assembly. And, Lord, in thinking about this assembly, I can't help today but to be reminded about a time, Lord, before any of us in this room were legislators, before any of us in here this afternoon were pastors or businesspersons or leaders. Once upon a time, for a few of us long, long ago, we were children. And with our cute little pigtails and our loose, waggly tooths and our innocent, freckled faces, from different streets and blocks and neighborhoods in our city and towns, we would regularly assemble. And before we were even experts at saying our ABCs and doing our one, two, threes, Lord, each and every one of us mouthed to the song when we would assemble. And that song simply says, 'My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing.' And there may be others of us, when we would assemble, grew up singing that other song that says, 'This land is your land, this land is my land, this land was made for you and me.' And

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I would imagine, Father, that somewhere deep down in our little hearts while we were assembling, singing those songs at the top of our little lungs, those assemblies, that a seed was planted and a dream was deposited in these great men and women's hearts and minds by you, Father, that one day they could be used by you, God, to be the leaders and legislators and influencers for truth and justice in this great assembly. And so, yes, Lord, before we cast a vote, or before we consider any opinion, or before we meditate on adjusting any politics, any policy, today, Lord, I pray that you would take us back for a moment to a time when things were simple, when it wasn't about partisanship, and it wasn't about politics, and it wasn't about pleasing special interests, but it was about doing the right thing, at the right time, for the right reasons. And why? Because it's just the right thing to do. God, may we go back to that mindset and that mentality today as we consider and ponder and deliberate on state laws and amendments and agenda items to be discussed and voted on today. It's why, God, we honor and pray to you now because, Lord, if there was ever a time where we needed your wisdom to make tough decisions, if there was ever a time where we needed your guidance to lead those who have entrusted us with looking out for their best interests, if there was ever a time where we needed your spirit to be the prevailing motivation behind how we as legislators and leaders govern ourselves, reason amongst ourselves, conduct business amongst ourselves, Lord, it's right now. And, Father, I do ask that your wisdom, your love, and your strength would lead us now in our proceedings. Yes, we may have differing opinions and views, but, Lord,

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help us to walk together, to work together, and reason together. On behalf of all those we serve, we love you, we thank you, we lift you, and we praise you. In your holy and precious name, we do pray. And let everybody say, amen."

Speaker González: "We'll be led in the Pledge of Allegiance today by Representative Tipsword."

Tipsword - 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 González: "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... let the record show that Representative Avelar, Faver Dias, Gordon-Booth, Hirschauer, Jones, and Scherer are excused today."

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

Keicher: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please let the record reflect that Representatives Friess and Hauter are excused for the day."

Speaker González: "Have all recorded themselves who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. There being 110 Members answering the roll call, a quorum is present. Under the Order of Resolutions, we have House Resolution 223, offered by Representative Gabel."

Gabel: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Resolution 223 designates May 12, 2025 as Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Day in Illinois. This is in recognition of

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the millions living with this disease. It was... thank you. It was brought to me by my constituent, Rebbecca Groble, because her son, Gabriel Hull, has been suffering from this disease for a long time. Myalgic encephalomyelitis or chronic fatigue syndrome affects 2 to 3 million people in the U.S., causing profound fatigue, post-external malaise, chronic pain, cognitive impairment, immune dysfunction, dizziness, and other disabling symptoms that reduce the quality of life. This affects people of all ages, genders, and backgrounds, leaving them bedridden or housebound for years. Those diagnosed with CFS/ME rarely fully recover. It's a serious multi-system disease. However, it remains underfunded, under-researched, and widely misunderstood. This contributes to delays in diagnosis, treatment options, and stigma for patients. I am really honored to be sponsoring this bill. Rebbecca Groble and her friend, Mary Ann Borys, are here today to see this resolution get voted on. And I really wish her all the best and her son, Gabriel Hull, a recovery. Thank you."

Speaker González: "Leader Gabel moves for the adoption of House resolution 223. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay.' In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the resolution is adopted. Representative Mussman, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Mussman: "A point of personal privilege, Speaker."

Speaker González: "Please proceed."

Mussman: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to introduce everyone to my page for a day today. Abby Niehoff, here, is a junior student at St. Louis University studying political

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science with a concentration in public policy as well as a minor in public health. On campus, she is a member of Phi Mu as well as the executive vice president of the SLU Dance Marathon. Her policy interests include public education, community health interventions, and urban development. Her hometown is Wood Dale, and she is from District #48, so we'll be making our way over to say hi to Jennifer Sanalidro when we have a moment. I know Abby, as she was formerly a student at Fenton High School, where my husband is a teacher. If everybody could give Abby a warm Springfield welcome."

Speaker González: "Representative Smith, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Smith: Point of personal privilege."

Speaker González: "Please proceed."

Smith: "Just like to wish a happy birthday to one of our staffers here today. Thomas Trevin Gubach turns 32 today, in the clerk's well over here. Everybody give him a round of applause for his birthday today, huh? Happy birthday."

Speaker González: "Happy birthday. Representative Hunyh, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Hunyh: "A point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker González: "Please proceed."

Hunyh: "I have here in the gallery students from Amundsen High School. They... all of them, if you could all please stand up. They've traveled 3.5 hours to get from Chicago to here this morning, and we want to make sure that they're able to meet with their legislators as well, and myself and Representative Olickal, and also meet with all of you. And they're learning more about civics today and about the... the process of... of how

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a bill becomes law today. So, please... if you could please give them a warm Springfield welcome as well. Welcome. Thank you."

Speaker González: "Representative Halbrook, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Halbrook: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Two points of privilege, if you would indulge, and I'll try to do them back-to-back."

Speaker González: "Please proceed."

Halbrook: "Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen of the House, I would like to introduce to you my page for the day, Amelia Lane. She's 12 years old and from Mount Zion, where she is homeschooled. Her favorite subjects are geography and logic, and she's interested in learning everything she can about how state government works. Amelia enjoys swimming and is active in the theater. She's joined today with her mother, Adrienne, who is up in the gallery. Let's give them a warm Springfield welcome. Yeah, and the second point of privilege is, ladies and gentlemen of the House, I have really, really great news. Europe has achieved two things at the same time that many thought would be impossible. They have finally achieved net zero. Let me repeat that. Europe has achieved net zero carbon emissions, well, at least for Spain and Portugal. However, at the same time, they've achieved another remarkable number, net zero energy production. Last week, the world witnessed perhaps the greatest failure of progressive energy policy in the 21st century. Spain went offline. That's right, offline. Elevators froze mid-floor. Subways and surface trains stopped in their tracks. Oxygen concentrators failed. Computers and other electronic devices ceased to operate. Businesses shut

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down. People died. The modern systems we depend upon just stopped. Some might compare this to Greek mythology, the story of Icarus, who flew too close to the sun. Despite the warnings of his father, Icarus, driven by ambition, arrogance, and pride, soared higher and higher until the wax-coated wings melted, and he plunged into the sea. Spain ignored their warnings, too, and it fell. At high noon last week, under a clear sky, Spain's electrical grid collapsed. Days earlier, they were celebrating. A hundred percent renewable power, they cried, a victory for the climate agenda. And then, darkness. The problem is basic physics. Solar and wind do not provide the stabilizing inertia that turbine-based systems like nuclear, hydro, coal, and natural gas naturally supply. Without that cushion, even the small disruption can cascade into total system failure. Spain learned that the hard way. And here in Illinois, we should take that as a loud and clear warning. We haven't shut down our nuclear plants, at least not yet, but we've had a moratorium on new nuclear construction for decades. Under CEJA, the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, we are aggressively phasing out coal and natural gas generation. These are the very sources that stabilize the grid to keep the lights on. We are not flying too close to the sun. However, we are climbing in that same direction, slowly, but dangerously. Spain's collapse wasn't an accident. It was engineered through political decisions that ignored engineering reality. The experts warned them, their system operators were silenced, and the media cheered them on. Does this sound all too familiar? Here in Illinois, we are repeating their mistake, but doing it with committees,

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regulations, and deadlines. I support clean energy, but I also support the truth, and that... the truth is simply this: We need a balanced, reliable energy mix. That means lifting the moratorium on new nuclear development. That means rethinking CEJA's forced and premature shut down of baseload generation. That means respecting the science of grid stability, not slogans of climate politics. While Reba McEntire once sang, 'The Night the Lights Went Out in Georgia,' what happened in Spain wasn't a song, it was real life. And we'd better not... we better make sure that Illinois isn't next. Because whether or not you believe in Greek mythology, the lessons are real. When you ignore the laws of nature and of physics, you're going to get burned. And when the lights go out in Illinois, there won't be a press conference big enough to explain it away. Thank you."

Speaker González: "Representative Haas, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Haas: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker González: "Please proceed."

Haas: "I would like to ask everyone to welcome... help me in welcoming my district office staff here today. I have my... they're sitting in the gallery, if they'd like to stand. I have my district director Jessica Kinnersley; my deputy director Alexia Brown; and three of my interns: Julio Ruiz, Aya Obeid, and Sarah Daniels. Please help me give them a warm Springfield welcome. And I also have one other point of congratulations that I'd... I'd like to bring up. Some of you not have noticed that Representative Moore left us a little

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early last week. He... he was recently married on Friday, so please help me in congratulating he and his lovely bride."

Speaker González: "Representative Jed Davis, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

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

Speaker González: "Please proceed."

Davis J: "Yeah, I just wanted to introduce my kids. My son was a 'no' vote on the introduction, but my daughter voted 'yes,' so she wins for the day. And it is Genevieve and Jude. They're here hanging out at the Capitol, so give them a welcome. Thank you."

Speaker González: "Representative Benton, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

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

Speaker González: "Please proceed."

Benton: "I just want to extend my gratitude and want to talk about the experience that I had yesterday as an adopted legislator for Mason County Farm Bureau. I was able to go out there and have a great experience riding on a planter. They let me drive a tractor. I don't know what they were thinking. I ended up having one of the best steaks I've ever had that was locally grown, and I'm pretty sure they knew the name, and then one of the best cheesecakes I've ever had. It was a very warming experience, and it felt like family going down there. So, I just want to thank the Illinois Farm Bureau for setting that up and Mason County for accepting me from Will County down there as a transplant. Thank you very much."

Speaker González: "Representative Hanson on House Resolution 302."

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Hanson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues of the General Assembly. It's an incredible honor every time we walk into this building to... to serve and to be a part of everything that matters to us in Illinois. I'm also always amazed at those that are brought before us, either to be recognized for an accomplishment that they made, incredible lives that... that ended too soon after accomplishing amazing things. But very proud today to present House Resolution 302 to you today, as we have the chance to recognize as a House the Illinois Special Olympics Winter Team delegation that competed in Turin, Italy this past winter. They're here in the Speaker's Gallery now. I'm going to ask all of you to please rise. A lot of us have different connections to Special Olympics. I know we... some of us have family members that have competed. Many of you have coached, participated, and supported the organization Special Olympics in Illinois and Special Olympics, the big organization, in some capacity. Today, we get the chance to honor real heroes. And Special Olympics is the largest international sporting event that honors those in the IDD community anywhere in the world. And we have the law enforcement officers that carry the torch for us. We have the... the Illinois team... the Illinois team photographer that documented your incredible journey and stories and... and all that you did. We have Coach Jim in the middle there from my neck of the woods. Coach Jim, by the way, was tasked at his send-off to avenge the U.S. loss to Canada, and great work, the whole team did. These Illinois snowshoers, and a lot of you came from north of here. I don't know how you trained because there was no snow down here than there was back home,

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or back to where you call home. So, their training more than paid off. We thought about you when you were in Turin, Italy. We thank Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias and his team for letting us fly a flag over our Capitol at the very same time that you were competing in Italy. So, that was the best way we could possibly show you from afar that we were thinking about you thousands of miles away while you were competing on our behalf. Your wins were incredible. Your stories you can share with your respective Representatives and... and your friends of... of Special Olympics today. It's my belief that we should support you as an organization, as this assembly and as a part of our budget. The work you do is more than just about athletics. We know that your programming in schools creates a future and... and health care opportunities that... that you might not have otherwise if it wasn't for your organization. So, thank you for all that you do. You are American heroes. You brought home bling. He brought home real medals. Mr. Speaker, happy to... to allow other... other of our colleagues to speak to the athletes and to law enforcement officers and to the delegation that are here from their respective districts. But, please, before we do that, let all of us congratulate you. Thank you for joining us today and for your incredible work on behalf of the United States and the State of Illinois. Please join me in a round of applause."

Speaker González: "Leader Morgan, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Morgan: "Thank you. Point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker González: "Please proceed."

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Morgan: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Representative Hanson for bringing this to our floor. I want to thank the Special Olympics athletes. Just saying thank you so much. You are an inspiration to all of us. I have an older brother who participated in the Special Olympics for many, many years, and my family received a lot more from the Special Olympics than we ever gave back. And so, we just want to thank you. To the athletes, to the coaches, you really mean a lot to us, so thank you for being here today."

Speaker González: "Representative Severin, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Severin: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker González: "Please proceed."

Severin: "Again, I want to welcome Special Olympians today and all the volunteers. And I want to say this that if you've never volunteered or been to a Special Olympics event, I challenge you to do so. There's about 18 or 19 events that are held throughout the state. And so, I would just encourage you as a... as a person here in the State of Illinois, if you have never been, once you go, you're hooked for life. And I just want to say this that I was a proud director for Special Olympics in Southern Illinois for about 11 years. And we had the first Special Olympian in the world to have a street named after him, Mark Franklin Street in my district. And so, I want to just do the... the oath with you today with everyone. It's 'Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.' And that is a tremendous oath, not just at all the Special Olympics events and the different tournaments that

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they have, but it's a great life lesson for each one of us. To let us win. We're not always going to win, but... but if we're not going to win, let us be brave in the attempt. So, I appreciate the opportunity, Representative Hanson, for you to... to bring these people to the House floor today. And I wear my... my Special Olympics badge and my pin for the 50th anniversary. And I take great pride and I take very serious the participating and sponsoring Special Olympics. So, again, thank you for being here. And, again, I challenge each one of you, if you hear my voice, whether you're on the floor or you're somewhere listening to the session today, if you've never been to a Special Olympics event, it's time to start. Thanks."

Speaker González: "Representative Ness, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Ness: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker González: "Please proceed."

Ness: "Thank you, Speaker. I would also like to congratulate all the athletes on a job well done and for being tremendous ambassadors for the country, for our... for the United States of America. And I'd also like to do a little special shoutout because our very own chief of police for the Village of Algonquin, Dennis Walker, is standing there. You are an asset to our community and to the state. Thank you so much for being here."

Speaker González: "Leader Stuart, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Stuart: "Thank you. A point of personal privilege."

Speaker González: "Please proceed."

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Stuart: "Thank you. I think Members in the... in the chamber will appreciate this. I want to make sure everybody is aware that tomorrow, Wednesday, is Soy Latte Day. So, courtesy of the Illinois Soybean Association, tomorrow morning Members and staff can get a free soy latte. It'll be in the Stratton Building, Room 200-6S. That'll be from 9 to noon or until they run out, so I suggest you get there early. They will also have baked good supplied by the Hope Cafe in Springfield. The Hope Cafe is a vital part of the Hope Vocational Academy. They provide on-the-job training for young adults with developmental disabilities. So, please, the Stratton, Room 200 tomorrow, your free soy latte. Everybody needs their caffeine. Make sure that you take advantage."

Speaker González: "The clerk is in receipt of motions in writing to waive the posting requirements for several bills. If there is leave, we will take these motions together in one motion. Is there leave? Leave is granted. Leader Lisa Hernandez on the motion."

Hernandez, L.: "Speaker, I move that the posting requirements be waived so the following bills can be heard in the following committees: Senate Bill 100 in Police & Fire; Senate Bill 2487 in Judiciary - Civil; Senate Bill 710 in Agriculture & Conservation; Senate Bill 191 in Appropriations-Elementary & Secondary Education (sic-Education Policy); Senate Bill 405 in Elementary & Secondary Education: Administration, Licensing & Charter Schools; Senate Bill 1531 in Energy & Environment; Senate Bill 1773 in Judiciary - Criminal; Senate Bill 248 in Restorative Justice & Public Safety; Senate Bill

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1158 in Transportation: Vehicles & Safety; Senate Bill 1160 in Transportation: Vehicles & Safety."

Speaker González: "Leader Lisa Hernandez has moved to waive the posting requirements. 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. There being 71 voting in 'favor,' 38 voting 'against,' 0 voting 'present,' and this motion, having received a constitutional majority, the posting requirements are waived. Representative Katz Muhl, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Katz Muhl: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker González: "Please proceed."

Katz Muhl: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to take a moment to welcome the entire staff from my district office who's here today. We've got Maya, Charlotte, Jack, and Jonathan all in the chamber. Please welcome them to Springfield. Thank you."

Speaker González: "Welcome to Springfield. Leader Keicher for the purpose of an announcement."

Keicher: "Mr. Speaker, the Republicans would request a caucus upon adjournment in Room 118."

Speaker González: "The Republicans will caucus in Room 118 upon adjournment. The Democrats will not caucus. Mr. Clerk, committee announcements."

Clerk Hollman: "The following committees will be meeting this afternoon: Meeting at 2 p.m. is Adoption & Child Welfare in Room 122B; Agriculture & Conservation in Room 115; the Insurance Committee in Room C-1; Transportation: Regulation,

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Roads & Bridges in Room 413. Meeting at 4 o'clock is Consumer Protection in Room 118, Energy & Environment in Room 114, Health Care Availability & Accessibility in Room C-1, Judiciary - Criminal in Room 122, and Veterans' Affairs in Room 413."

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

Clerk Bolin: "Agreed Resolutions. House Resolution 293, offered by Representative Rita. House Resolution 296, offered by Representative Swanson. House Resolution 298, offered by Representative Morgan. House Resolution 299, offered by Representative Kifowit. House Resolution 300, offered by Representative Kifowit. House Resolution 301, offered by Representative Kifowit. House Resolution 302, offered by Representative Hanson. House Resolution 306, offered by Representative Moeller. House Resolution 307, offered by Representative Walsh. House Resolution 308, offered by Representative Kifowit. House Resolution 309, offered by Representative Ryan. House Resolution 310, offered by Representative Mason. House Resolution 311, offered by Representative Rosenthal."

Speaker González: "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 stands adjourned until Wednesday, May 7, 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."

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Clerk Hollman: "House Perfunctory Session will come to order. Introduction of Resolutions. House Resolution 291, offered by Representative Cassidy. House Resolution 292, offered by Representative Halbrook. House Resolution 294, offered by Representative Morgan. House Resolution 295, offered by Representative Syed. House Resolution 297, offered by Representative Ness. House Resolution 303, offered by Representative Deuter. House Resolution 304, offered by Representative Keicher. House Resolution 305, offered by Representative Barbara Hernandez. House Joint Resolution 31, offered by Representative Kifowit. House Joint Resolution 32, offered by Representative Hammond. House Joint Resolution 33, offered by Representative Davidsmeyer. House Joint Resolution 35, offered by Representative Kifowit. House Joint Resolution 36, offered by Representative Meyers-Martin. House Joint Resolution 37, offered by Representative Kifowit. House Joint Resolution 38, offered by Representative Rosenthal. These are referred to the Rules Committee. Committee Reports. Representative Gabel, Chairperson from the Committee on Rules reports the following action taken on May 6, 2025: approved for consideration, referred to Second Reading is House Bill 460; recommends be adopted, referred to floor is Floor Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 460. There being no further business, the House Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."