

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

100th Legislative Day

4/17/2024

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The regular Session of the 103rd General Assembly will please come to order. Will the Members please be at their desk? The invocation today will be given by Reverend Jeremy Wood, Salem United Church of Christ, Alhambra, Illinois. Reverend Wood.

REVEREND JEREMY WOOD: (Invocation)

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Senator Johnson, please lead us in the Pledge.

SENATOR JOHNSON: (Pledge of Allegiance)

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Due to {sic} revocations (renovations) in the Capitol, the Senate will be meeting in a temporary Senate Chamber here in Springfield's Howlett Building. While the temporary Chamber does not have a gallery, members of the public can still view the Senate's proceedings. There is a public viewing area in the Hall of Flags, also located on the first floor of the Howlett Building. Session will also be available to view online at www.ilga.gov. Lisa Yuscus seeks leave to photograph and video the proceedings. Is there any objection? Seeing none. Leave is granted. Mr. Secretary, Reading and Approval of the Journal.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Journal of Tuesday, April 16th, 2024.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Hunter.

SENATOR HUNTER:

Madam President, I move -- excuse me, to postpone the reading and approval of the Journal just read by the Secretary, pending arrival of the printed transcripts.

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PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Hunter moves to postpone the reading and approval of the Journal, pending arrival of the printed transcripts. There being no objection, so ordered. Mr. Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution 929, offered by Senator Ventura and all Members. It is a celebration of life resolution, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Resolution Consent Calendar.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution 928, offered by Senator Sims. It is congratulatory and Senate Resolution 930, offered by President Harmon and Senate Joint Resolution 56, offered by Senator Sally Turner. They are both substantive.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Mr. Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senator Johnson, Chair of the Committee on Education, reports Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 3606 Recommend Do Adopt, Senate Joint Resolution 49 Be Adopted. Senator Martwick, Chair of the Committee on Judiciary, reports Senate Bill 3658 Do Pass as Amended and Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 951 Recommend Do Adopt. Senator Villa, Chair of the Committee on Public Health, reports Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 1087 and Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 2637 Recommend Do Adopt. Senator Morrison, Chair of the Committee on Health and Human Services, reports Senate Bill 2760 Do Pass as Amended and Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 2655 Recommend Do Adopt. Senator Feigenholtz, Chair of the Committee on

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Financial Institutions, reports Senate Amendment 5 to Senate Bill 2234 Recommend Do Adopt. Senator Villanueva, Chair of the Committee on Higher Education, reports Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 462 Recommend Do Adopt. Senator Peters, Chair of the Committee on Labor, reports Senate Amendment 3 to Senate Bill 2568 Recommend Do Adopt.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Mr. Secretary, Messages from the House.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Message from the House by Mr. Hollman Clerk. Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives passed bills of the following titles, in the passage of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit: House Bill 4409. We have received like Messages on House Bills 4417, 4439, 4441, 4442, 4451, 4460, 4498, 4566, 4570, 4581, 4588, 4589, 4590, 4594, 4615, 4634, 4636, 4645, 4651, 4653, 4660, 4661, 4662, 4711, 4733, 4737, 4742, 4751, 4768, 4772, 4784, 4786, 4789, 4809, 4813, 4844, 4867, 4870, 4883, 4897, 4899, 4902, 4921, 4926, 4928, 4934, 4966, 4993, 5005, 5022, 5027, 5028, 5059, 5078, 5079, 5083, 5084, 5087, 5097, 5128, 5135 and 5143. Passed the House April 16th, 2024. John W. Hollman, Clerk of the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Mr. Secretary, House Bills 1st Reading.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 4409, offered by Senator Peters, an Act concerning criminal law. House Bill 4417, offered by Senator Halpin, an Act concerning education. House Bill 4439, offered by Senator Cunningham, an Act concerning government. House Bill 4441, offered by Senator Johnson, an Act concerning government. House Bill 4442,

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offered by Senator Johnson, an Act concerning local government. House Bill 4451, offered by Senator Castro, an Act concerning transportation. House Bill 4460, offered by Senator Cunningham, an Act concerning government. House Bill 4498, offered by Senator Stadelman, an Act concerning health. House Bill 44 -- 4566, offered by Senator Doris Turner, an Act concerning business. House Bill 4581, offered by Senator Ventura, an Act concerning children. House Bill 4588, offered by Senator Martwick, an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 4589, offered by Senator Hastings, an Act concerning transportation. House Bill 49 -- 4590, offered by Senator Loughran Cappel, an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 4636, offered by Senator Belt, an Act concerning revenue. House Bill 4645, offered by Senator Cunningham, an Act concerning State government. House Bill 4653, offered by Senator Villivalam, an Act concerning education. House Bill 4660, offered by Senator Sims, an Act concerning civil law. House Bill 4661, offered by Senator Cunningham, an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 4662, offered by Senator Lewis, an Act concerning public employee benefits. House Bill 4733, offered by Senator McClure, an Act concerning education. House Bill 4737, offered by Senator Castro, an Act concerning State government. House Bill 4742, offered by Senator Villivalam, an Act concerning employment. House Bill 4751, offered by Senator Stadelman, an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 4768, offered by Senator Villa, an Act concerning civil law. House Bill 4772, offered by Senator Castro, an Act concerning finance. House Bill 4789, offered by Senator Syverson, an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 4809, offered by Senator Martwick, an Act concerning State government. House Bill 4813, offered by Senator Sims, an Act concerning State government. House Bill 4844, offered by Senator

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Cunningham, an Act to revise the law by combining multiple enactments and making technical corrections. House Bill 4867, offered by President Harmon, an Act concerning civil law. House Bill 4883, offered by Senator Joyce, an Act concerning property. House Bill 4897, offered by Senator Koehler, an Act concerning State government. House Bill 4902, offered by Senator Lightford, an Act concerning education. House Bill 4921, offered by Senator Martwick, an Act concerning local government. House Bill 4928, offered by Senator Cunningham, an Act concerning State government. House Bill 4934, offered by Senator Porfirio, an Act concerning State government. House Bill 4966, offered by Senator Lewis, an Act concerning transportation. House Bill 4993, offered by Senator Sally Turner, an Act concerning health. House Bill 5005, offered by Senator Glowiak Hilton, an Act concerning State government. House Bill 5022, offered by Senator Feigenholtz, an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 5027, offered by Senator Joyce, an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 5059, offered by Senator Glowiak Hilton, an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 5078, offered by Senator Villivalam, an Act concerning local government. House Bill 5079, offered by Senator Doris Turner, an Act concerning education. House Bill 5083, offered by Senator Peters, an Act concerning employment. House Bill 5084, offered by Senator Hunter, an Act concerning State government. House Bill 5087, offered by Senator Castro, an Act concerning regulation. House Bill 5097, offered by Senator Simmons, an Act concerning State government. House Bill 5128, offered by Senator Fowler, an Act concerning government. House Bill 5143, offered by Senator Martwick, an Act concerning civil law. 1st Reading of the bills.

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Senator Cervantes, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR CERVANTES:

Thank you, Madam President. Point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Please state your privilege point, Senator.

SENATOR CERVANTES:

So, I'm excited today to welcome one of my high schools, Curie High School. We have our Government AP class here at the Hall of Flags, and we'd love to get a warm Senate welcome to our class here at Curie High School.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Welcome to the Illinois Senate, Curie High School. Awesome. Enjoy your AP course. Senator Morrison, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR MORRISON:

Thank you, Madam President. I rise for a point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Please state your point, Senator.

SENATOR MORRISON:

Thank you. This afternoon, I rise to recognize CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Illinois. It's a national association that supports and promotes court-appointed advocates for children who have been abused or neglected. They were formed in 1977, in Seattle. CASA's worked this way; a judge can appoint a CASA volunteer to a family who becomes part of the child welfare system to advocate for the child. The volunteers highly trained, from the child's community, and has the professional responsibility to acquaint themselves with both the child,

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parents, family, and everyone else involved with the case. The primary responsibility for the CASA volunteer is to always advocate first for the safety and well-being of the child. Illinois CASA was founded in 1993 and is the organizing body for 31 local CASA programs in 55 of the 102 counties in Illinois. Those programs recruit, train, and manage a network of over 3,400 volunteers. Today is Illinois CASA Lobby Day at the Capitol and Friday, April 19th is their 31st annual conference. I rise in support of this incredible program and all of their selfless, dedicated volunteers. Congratulations and thank you for celebrating in Springfield this week.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Welcome and congratulations, on your day. Senator Lewis, for what purpose do you rise?

SEANTOR LEWIS:

Thank you, Madam President. Point of introduction.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Please state your -- in your introductory, please.

SEANTOR LEWIS:

Thank you. To the Senate Floor today -- today I would like to welcome, Matt Scislowicz, who is Intern for a Day. Matt is 13 years old. He lives in Carol Stream, is an 8th grader at St. Isidore Catholic School in Bloomingdale, which was recently named one of 25 (29) schools in the entire country as a Microsoft Showcase school. This has fed Matt's ambition to become an engineer when he grows up. According to his little sister, he is the best big brother and one of the most humble and genuine people you will ever meet. In his spare time, you can find Matt at first base for the DuPage Revolution baseball team, or next fall playing football

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for Glenbard North High School. I ask all of you to provide a warm welcome for my intern for a day, Matt Scislowicz. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Welcome, Matt, to the Illinois General Assembly. Senator Villa, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR VILLA:

Thank you, Madam President. Today I have... Oh, sorry. For a point of an -- an announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

For point of personal privilege. Please state your point.

SENATOR VILLA:

Today I have a special guest from Muncie, Indiana, Daniel Rivera-Mills. Daniel is a senior at Ball State University studying economics with a minor in political science. He is also the son of Aurora University's first Latina President, Dr. Susana Rivera-Mills. That's also my alma mater, in case we didn't know. Daniel also works in the Indiana General Assembly, with the Senate Republicans, with a focus on the fiscal office state finances. I am proud to welcome him to the Illinois Senate and I ask that you all give him a round of applause and a warm welcome. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Welcome to the Illinois General Assembly. The Senate will stand at ease for a few minutes to allow the Committee on Assignments to meet. The Members of the Committee on Assignments will meet in the Senate's front room immediately. The Senate will stand at ease. (at ease)

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR HUNTER)

Senator {sic} Edly-Adams (Edly-Allen), what purpose do you rise?

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SENATOR EDLY-ALLEN:

Thank you, Madam President. A point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR HUNTER)

State your point.

SENATOR EDLY-ALLEN:

It was said, last week, that it's nice to get the flowers when you can smell them. And that's what we're going to do... And that's what we will do right now. Recently, Senator Johnson and I attended the official ceremony of Mayor Billy McKinney's jersey retirement from Northwestern. And when Mayor McKinney was here, a few months ago, we did not have the official resolution. So, I would like to read the official resolution into the record. Whereas, the Members of the Illinois Senate wish to congratulate Billy McKinney on the occasion of the retirement of his Northwestern University basketball jersey. And Whereas, Northwestern University Athletics and Recreation and the men's basketball program announced that Billy McKinney's jersey would be retired during the 2023-2024 basketball season at the Welsh-Ryan Arena. And Whereas, Billy McKinney scored 1,900 career points while playing for the Northwestern Wildcats, a school record that stood for 35 years, and led the team in scoring each season of his career; his total of 768 field goals still stands as the program's all-time record; he earned All-Big Ten recognition in all of his four seasons and garnered First Team All-Conference and All-American honors as a senior when he averaged 21.3 points per game; from 1975 to 1977 under Head Coach Tex Winter, he was named the first three-time team MVP in program history; he also played for the Northwestern University baseball team; and earned his degree in education in 1977 and was inducted into the Northwestern

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University Athletics Hall of Fame in 1986. Whereas, from 1978 to 1985, Billy McKinney enjoyed eight-year playing career at the NBA with the Kansas City Kings, Utah Jazz, and Denver Nuggets, the San Diego Clippers, and the Chicago Bulls; he averaged 8 points, 1.4 rebounds, 3.5 assists per game, eclipsed 3,800 career points and 1,600 career assists; he still holds the NBA rookie record for most field goals without a miss, converting 14 straight attempts in a 30-point outburst against the Boston Celtics; due to his quickness, he was nicknamed "The Crazy Hummingbird". (Whereas), Following his professional playing career, Billy McKinney served as an executive and scout for the NBA front office for over 30 years, becoming the first African American front office executive in franchise history; while working as a Chicago Bulls scout, he was the only scout to watch Scottie Pippen play in Arkansas, guiding the team to trade for Pippen in 1987 and forming one of NBA's greatest dynasties with Michael Jordan. And (Whereas), Billy McKinney became the first general manager of the expansion Minnesota Timberwolves in 1992; he later worked as the general manager for the Detroit Pistons and the WNBA's Seattle Storm; as the director of scouting for the Milwaukee Bucks, he was instrumental in drafting Giannis, I stumbled over this last time, Antetokounmpo, in 2013. Whereas, since 2019, Billy McKinney has served as Mayor of Zion, his hometown; he remains heavily involved with the Northwestern University's men's basketball program, serving as the team's radio color and analyst alongside Dave Eanet on WGN. And (Whereas), Billy McKinney will be the first student-athlete in school history to have his jersey retired. And by the Senate - Resolved, (By The Senate of the One Hundred Third General Assembly of the State of Illinois), in the 103rd Assembly that we

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congratulate Billy McKinney on his retirement of his basketball jersey. And please join me in a round of applause in recognizing Billy McKinney's retirement of his Northwestern jersey.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR HUNTER)

Congratulations, Mr. McKinney. And welcome to the Senate. The Senate will come to order. Mr. Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senator Lightford, Chair of the Committee on Assignments, reports the following legislative Measures have been assigned: Refer to Education Committee - Floor Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 998; refer to Environment and Conservation Committee - Floor Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 727; refer to Executive Committee - Floor Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 378, Floor Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 860, and Committee Amendment 3 to Senate Bill 2749; refer to Health and Human Services Committee - Committee Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 3256; refer to Human Rights Committee - Committee Amendment 1 to Senate -- to Senate Bill 2968, for the {sic} (refer to) Judiciary Committee - Floor Amendment 3 to Senate Bill 3331; refer to Labor Committee - Floor Amendment 4 to Senate Bill 2568; refer to Licensed Activities Committee - Floor Amendments 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 774; refer to Revenue Committee - Floor Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 3496, and Floor Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 3806; refer to State Government Committee - Floor Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 839 and Be Approved for Consideration - Senate Resolution 930. Signed, Senator Kimberly A. Lightford, Chair.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR HUNTER)

Leader Lightford, back in the Chair.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, please turn your

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attention to the Order of Senate Bills 3rd Reading. Senate Bills 3rd Reading. On the center of page 3, we are going to return to the order of Senate Bill 462. Sponsorship has changed to Senator Villanueva. Senator Villanueva seeks leave of the Body to return Senate Bill 462 to the Order of 2nd Reading, leave is granted. On the Order of 2nd Reading is Senate Bill 462. Mr. Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Floor Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Villanueva.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Villanueva.

SENATOR VILLANUEVA:

Madam President, I would like to adopt the amendment and present on 3rd.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted. Are there any further Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

3rd Reading. Now, on the Order of 3rd Reading is Senate Bill 462. Mr. Secretary, please read the lady's bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 462, an Act concerning education. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Villanueva.

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SENATOR VILLANUEVA:

Thank you, Madam President. As amended, Senate Bill 462 prohibits the consideration of donor status and legacy status in admission to public universities. This is legislation that has been happening and being passed throughout different states in our country. Most recently, it passed unanimously through the Virginia legislature. And I think it's a good bill. And I thank the staff who put this together and brought this to my attention. And I am here for questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Seeing none. The question is, shall Senate Bill 462 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. No worries. The Senate will stand at ease just for a moment, please. Have all voted the... Excuse me, the question is, shall start that over -- The question is, shall Senate Bill 462 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 55 voting Yea, 0 voting Nays, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 462 having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Please turn your attention and your Calendars to the bottom of page 4. We will be proceeding with Senator Syverson on Senate Bill 951, Senator Syverson. Out of the record. Okay, moving on to the order on page 5, Senate Bill 1087, Senator Tracy. Senator Tracy seeks leave of the Body to return Senate Bill 1087 to the Order of 2nd Reading. Leave is granted. On the Order of 2nd Reading is Senate Bill 1087. Mr. Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

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Floor Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Tracy.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Tracy, on your amendment, please.

SENATOR TRACY:

Thank you. I would like to adopt the amendment and explain it on 3rd, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted. Are there any further Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading is Senate Bill 1087. Mr. Secretary, please read the lady's bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 1087, an Act concerning health. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Tracy.

SENATOR TRACY:

Thank you, Madam Chair. This bill provides that the Department of Public Health is - would establish a public awareness campaign to assist the public in understanding the threat and importance of removing mold from indoor environments. And it provides for the Department of Public Health to follow up with rules, and the like, regarding this campaign. And many of you know that people are affected by mold, differently - often. And -- and

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it's very important to understand the detriment to people that have a very serious mold allergy. And so, I think if the public is made aware, it will help in the overall health of the communities that we serve. So, I would ask for an Aye vote and I'll entertain any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Any discussion? Seeing none. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1087 pass. All those in favor of will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 55 voting Yea, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1087, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Okay. We're going to turn our attention to page 6 -- page 6 please. turn your attention to the Order of Senate Bills 3rd Reading, with Senator Murphy, on Senate Bill 2665 -- 55 -- 2655, Senator Murphy. Senator Murphy seeks leave of the Body, to return Senate Bill 2655 to the Order of 2nd Reading. Leave is granted. On the Order of 2nd Reading is Senate Bill 2655. Mr. Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Floor Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Murphy.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Murphy, on your amendment, please.

SENATOR MURPHY:

Thank you, Madam President. I'd like to adopt and explain on 3rd.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Absolutely, Senator. Is there any discussion? Seeing none.

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All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted. Are there any further Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading is Senate Bill 2655. Mr. Secretary, please read the lady's bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 2655, an Act concerning State government. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY:

Thank you, Madam President. Just -- just to refresh quickly, this bill is creating a task force that will emphasize services for the DD population. And this amendment, just moves it under the MAC, the - which is the Medicaid Advisory Committee per Department request. So, I don't -- I'm happy to answer any questions. I'd ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Seeing none. The question is, shall Senate Bill 2655 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 54 voting -- 55 voting Yea, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 2655, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Stand {sic} (Staying) on page 6, we'll move to the order of Senate

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Bill 3130, Senator Fine. The lady indicates she wishes to proceed.
Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 3130, an Act concerning regulation. 3rd Reading
of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Fine.

SENATOR FINE:

Thank you, Madam President. Last spring, we passed legislation that gave the Department of Insurance and HFS the authority to transition to a State-based marketplace from a federally facilitated marketplace. This will allow Illinois to expand health care access. DOI has identified some areas where there needs to be updates for us to effectively manage the State-based marketplace, as well as bring Illinois in align with various federal, State-based marketplaces on the federal based platform. Some of the changes that are included are adding pregnancy as a qualifying life event, flat dollar prescription co-pay structures, network adequacy for standalone dental plans and behavioral health providers, and notice of market withdraws and terminations.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Seeing none. The question is, shall Senate Bill 3130 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On the question, there are 55 voting Ayes, 0 voting Nays, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 3130, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Please turn your attention to the Order of 3rd Reading. Senate Bills, on

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page 7 -- page 7 with Senate Bill 3592, Senator Stadelman. Then - the gentleman indicates he wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 3592, an Act concerning journalism. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Stadelman.

SENATOR STADELMAN:

Thank you, Madam President, Members of the Senate. Senate Bill 3592 does two things. First, it creates a journalism student scholarship program to encourage more Illinois students who are attending Illinois universities and colleges to pursue a career in journalism, especially, in areas of the State where there's not a lot of news coverage. The second thing it does, it creates a plan to help keep papers and news media ownership local. It does that by requiring a local news organization from selling without giving prior notice within 120 days before the sale occurs to DCEO and the affected employees. The problem we're finding that we have private equity firms are coming in, buying newspapers, consolidating them, until they provide very local -- local news content with no local journalists. And sometimes those newsrooms are shut down, as it would happen in southern Illinois, not that long ago, by requiring this notice the hope is other local newspapers, nonprofits, other corporations will have the opportunity to step in and help keep these publishers local. Happy to answer questions. I ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Senator

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Plummer, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR PLUMMER:

Thank you. Question of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The sponsor indicates he will yield. Senator Stadelman {sic} (Senator Plummer).

SENATOR PLUMMER:

Thank you, Senator, quick question. In this scenario where a local news organization is contemplating a sale, walk me through this 100- and 120-day notice process. What information do they have to disclose? How does it work?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Excuse me, if Members could lower their voices, please. We're in a debate. Senators, please lower your voices. We're in the middle of a debate. Thank you. Senator Stadelman.

SENATOR STADELMAN:

Thank you for the question, Senator. The process would be that a local news organization would have to provide notice to DCEO and employees that a sale is potentially going to happen. And within that 120-day period, once the notification is -- is made that would give an opportunity for local organizations, other local publishers to potentially organize - try to find a way to make an offer, potentially, to help keep that ownership local. A similar situation is that we ought to require companies, if they're going to shut down a plant or lay off employees, they have to provide a 60-day notice. So, it's similar to what that process - are already in place.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Plummer.

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SENATOR PLUMMER:

Well, a warn notice has actually 60 to 90 days. This is 120, so that's a little bit different. But a warn notice is, you know, more about a shutdown, a loss of employment; whereas, this is about the sale of an organization. I don't think the list of groups that you have to notify, that you just mentioned, was exhausted either. But this could severely impact our local media organizations. If the local newspaper and county XYZ decides they might want to sell. They turn around and notify a bunch of people that they might want to sell. Usually, when small businesses sell, it's a very confidential, quiet thing. Because they don't want competitors to come poach their employees, they don't want a newspaper situation. They don't want their ad sales to decrease. They don't want other digital organizations or something of that nature, to come poach their -- their advertisers. This seems to me that this could be very, very detrimental to a lot of local news organizations. I'm trying, to understand, how it is in their benefit, for it to become public for four months that they're contemplating a sale?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Stadelman.

SENATOR STADELMAN:

Senator, I don't think this is a difficult burden for business to meet. And again, the goal here is to keep newspapers, under local ownership, local media outlets under local ownership. Far too often we see hedge funds, private equity firms coming in, buying local media organizations, laying off people, reducing the news content and sometimes shutting down those newsrooms. It's in our interest to make sure that ownership is local. So, I would argue this is an important element - factor to try to encourage

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the sale to local ownership, so we can keep local news publishing at the community level.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Plummer.

SENATOR PLUMMER:

So, shouldn't it be up to the news organization, the newspaper? I don't even know, what all falls, under the -- the definition of local news organization. If that's radio, if that's everything else, but shouldn't it be up to them who - they want to sell to? And, if it is ultimately up to them, on who they want to sell to; should they not be allowed to sell to that buyer, in a transaction that doesn't decrease the value of their proceeds?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Stadelman.

SENATOR STADELMAN:

Reduce the value of the -- of their -- of their -- of their organization. Again, this is encouraging local ownership. I think we have an interest, here, as a State, to make sure newspapers stay local. They don't have to accept the offer, it's simply a notification requirement. Let local entities, local groups, know if the sale is taking place. Give them an opportunity to make a counteroffer, to keep it local. And if they choose not to accept that offer, they have all the right in the world to continue with a sale to another organization.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Plummer.

SENATOR PLUMMER:

So, the whole point of this, is to keep it local. Why do they have to notify their competitors, and other folks, that could

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come poach their employees or advertisers, if they're going to, also, just sell to another local entity or a local news organization?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Stadelman.

SENATOR STADELMAN:

Again, a point here. We're talking about hedge funds, private equity firms, that have, really, no interest in local news and government. It's -- our interest to make sure that ownership stays local. That's the point of this legislation.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Plummer.

SENATOR PLUMMER:

That might be the point of the legislation, but that's not, in fact, what the legislation says. If this was about hedge funds or private equity groups, it would maybe, specify the -- the -- the different types of groups that you're trying to protect these small businesses from. My -- my question was, if it's all about local business and local media organizations, why do they have to disclose to the world when they're selling to another local media organization? You know, we -- we had this debate, in a similar format, a few days ago, when it came to property owners. Since that conversation, where it was stated on the Floor that the -- the -- the -- the property owner support that legislation. My office's phone has been blowing up from people saying, "I had no idea that's what this bill did". Now we're looking at it, this is very destructive to our industry. I'm sure, it was in, good intent. You know, what we were trying to do in that bill? Here we are again. I'm sure the intent is good, but the bill does not

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accomplish the intent. So, if it's about protecting local media organizations from hedge funds, why is that not what the bill says? Because it says, "If the guy in my town that has a small newspaper wants to sell to the other guy in my town that has a small newspaper, he has to go out and disclose to the world four months, in advance, that he's thinking about selling it". He has to open up his employees and his advertisers to being poached, and it destroys the value of his business.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Stadelman.

SENATOR STADELMAN:

I think the legislation explicitly -- explicitly states what we're trying to do. You have to give notification to local entities, organizations, conglomerates. How is it going to know about a potential sale, if there's not some type of notification -- notification process, in DCEO? Otherwise, the sale could go through and they may not be aware of it. This is simply a notification process to let all the entities know, and we're trying to keep the ownership local, that this is taking place. So, I think the legislation does, exactly, what our intent is - providing notice to local organizations that a sale is taking place and gives them an opportunity to organize and make another offer.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Plummer.

SENATOR PLUMMER:

I, think, this is my final question. This bill will do the exact opposite of what's trying to accomplish. These hedge funds that have all this money - much more money than the local nonprofits, much more money than the local newspapers. Here's

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what's going to happen, Senator Stadelman, local news. My -- my district is full of local newspapers. Local newspaper A is going to decide he's going to sell to local newspaper B. The person that runs local newspaper B is excited to do the transaction, keep the jobs local, work with local advertisers, and keep local media locally owned. But the minute that deal is contemplated, newspaper A is going to have to publish to the world that they're thinking about selling, and you're sending a notice to the hedge funds throughout the world that that newspaper is available. And guess what? With their fatter wallets, they're going to come in and buy up all the local newspapers because you're notifying them of all the transactions and local newspapers, local media organizations will disappear because of this piece of legislation, on top of you notifying the hedge funds of all these newspapers that are going to be available for sale. Okay. You're also destroying value because most transactions are based upon certain metrics that aren't contemplated until the deal closes. And for that 4 months when employees leave and advertisers leave, right, the value of that property will go down. The value of that business will go down. So, our local media will be sold to hedge funds at a cheaper price because of this piece of legislation. This is common sense. I urge a No vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Further discussion? Senator Ventura, for what purpose do you rise.

SENATOR VENTURA:

To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

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SENATOR VENTURA:

So, my district has dozens of cities, and only one of those have local newspaper. That city, is the third largest, in the State; so, to say, that we have plenty of news or that this would continue to demolish newspapers, is just incorrect. We've been on that pathway for a long time. So, many other residents are left in my district without any local news, relying on these Chicago newspapers or national newspapers. Misinformation is rampant on social media, and individuals do not have great ways to confirm, especially local news, without reporters who are on the ground reporting on the issues that matter to them and their districts. So, I encourage an Aye vote so that we can ensure local newspapers and journalism -- journalism can continue, in our State. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Further discussion? Seeing none. Senator Stadelman, to close.

SENATOR STADELMAN:

Thank you, Madam President. I appreciate the discussion and the Senator's comments. He described a couple of scenarios that likely will not happen. Here's what likely will happen, has happened many times in the past, and it happened in southern Illinois. I think the newspaper was Southern Illinoisian and a private equity firm came in, purchased a local newspaper, no one was really aware of it. They came in, promised they were going to continue local news coverage. Did not. They laid off reporters, shut down news content and everything that the community had no more local news coverage. That's the more, likely scenario, that we're facing right now, when it comes to local journalism. That's

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what's happening and that's what we need to try to address. I think a simple notification process, is not a terrible burden to put on a corporation, a local news organization, that may be selling. Let's give an opportunity for local entities to purchase these papers and news, media entities and keep coverage local, keep reporters on the job. I ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The question is, shall Senate Bill 3592 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 43 voting Yea, 13 vote Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 3592, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Ladies and Gentlemen, please turn your attention to Senate Bills 3rd Reading. Senate Bill 3606, Senator Loughran Cappel. Senator Loughran Cappel seeks leave of the Body to return Senate Bill 3606 to the Order of 2nd Reading. Leave is granted. On the Order of 2nd Reading is Senate Bill 3606. Mr. Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Floor Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Loughran.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Loughran Cappel, on your amendment.

SENATOR LOUGHRAN CAPPEL:

I'd like to adopt the amendment and explain it on 3rd.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted. Are there any further Floor

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amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading, is Senate Bill 3606. Mr. Secretary, please read the lady's bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 3606, an Act concerning education. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Loughran Cappel.

SENATOR LOUGHRAN CAPPEL:

Thank you, Madam President. This bill, as amended, equalizes the reimbursement rate received by public school districts from the State Board of Education, when sending high needs, special education students to private and public special education day schools. With this adjust -- adjustment, public schools would be eligible to receive a reimbursement from the State Board of Education for tuition payments for high need special education students, beyond two times per the -- per capita student tuition charge for students not receiving special education services. Further, the bill ensures that the cost and tuition for public special education day schools are regulated by the Illinois Purchased Care Review Board and that special public special education day schools have representation on the Board equal to that of private special education day schools. This is, something that I've been working on, since I came in. So, it's been three years. The -- this amendment brings opposition to neutral. I'm open to any questions, but I also ask for a Yes vote.

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PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none. The question is, shall Senate Bill 3606 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 53 voting Yea, 1 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 3606, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Harriss -- E. Harriss, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR E. HARRISS:

Thank you so much. May you please make the record reflect that I intended to vote Yes on Senate Bill 3130.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Absolutely, Senator. The record will reflect your intentions. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, please turn your attention to the top of page 2, on the Order of 2nd Readings. Please be ready to move your bills, on the top of page 2, on the Order of 2nd Reading. We will begin with Senate Bill 2568, Senator Villa. Out of the record. Senate Bill 2608, Senator Preston. Senator Preston. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 2608, an Act concerning government. 2nd Reading of the bill. No committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

3rd Reading. Senator Eddie-Allen -- Edly-Allen, Senator. Out of the record. Senator Edly-Allen. Out of the record. President Harmon. President Harmon, on Senate Bill 3433. Please read the gentleman's bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

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Senate Bill 3433, an Act concerning State government. 2nd Reading of the bill. No committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

3rd Reading. Senator Bryant. Senator Bryant. Out of the record. Senator Collins. Out of the record. Senator Peters. Out of the record. Senator Ellman. Out of the record. With leave of the Body, we will return to Senator Peters, on Senate Bill 3649. Senator Peters, on Senate Bill 3649. But -- Mr. Secretary, please read the gentleman's bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 3649, an Act concerning employment. 2nd Reading of the bill. No committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

3rd Reading. Supplemental Calendar 1 has been printed and distributed to all Members desks. We will go to the Order of Supplemental Calendar No. 1. President Harmon, on Senate Resolution 930. Mr. Secretary. Mr. President, do you wish to proceed? The Gentleman indicates he does. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution 930, offered by President Harmon.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Mr. President, on your resolution.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Senate Resolution 930, declares April 17th as Phi Beta Sigma and Zeta Phi Beta Day at the Illinois State Capitol. Members of the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, incorporated, and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, incorporated from around the State are here in the State

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Capitol, today, advocating for maternal and infant health initiatives and higher education participation and affordability. You might recognize them from their -- their shades of royal blue and pure white. So, with Resolution 930, we commend the members of Zeta Phi Beta and Phi Beta Sigma for their commitment to community service and to recognize their collective contributions to making our communities a better place. I am not a member of -- of the fraternity, and -- and I know that we have a tradition with Members of the Senate who are recognizing their fraternities and sororities. So, at the moment, we don't have a Member of the of -- of the Senate who is a member of the sorority or fraternity. But, our own, Ashley Jenkins Jordan, is proudly wearing her blue, and I wanted to make sure that we recognized this fraternity and sorority, as well. So, please join me in voting, Yes.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you. Welcome, Zeta Phi Beta and Phi Beta Sigma, are D9 (Divine Nine) organizations to the General Assembly and, hats off, to our Chief of Staff. Is there any discussion? Seeing none. The question is, shall Senate Resolution 930 pass. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

There being no further business to come before the Senate, the Senate stands adjourned until noon on the 18th day of April, 2024. The Senate stands adjourned.