

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

113th Legislative Day

5/17/2024

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

The regular Session of the 103rd General Assembly will please come to order. Will the Members be at their desks? The invocation today is going to be given by Pastor Scott Marsh from the Texas Christian Church in Clinton and Maroa Christian Church in Maroa. Pastor.

PASTOR SCOTT MARSH: (Invocation)

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Thank you, Pastor. Please remain standing for the Pledge. Senator Johnson, will you lead us?

SENATOR JOHNSON: (Pledge of Allegiance)

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Lisa Yuscus from Blueroomstream seeks leave to video today's proceedings. Seeing no objection, leave is granted. Mr. Secretary, Reading and Approval of the Journal.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Journals of March 7th and March 8th, 2023.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Hunter.

SENATOR HUNTER:

Mr. President, I move that the Journals just read by the Secretary, be approved unless some Senators has additions or corrections to offer.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Hunter moves that the approval of Journals just read by the Secretary. There being no objection, so ordered. Mr. Secretary, Reading and Approval of Journal.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Journal of Thursday, May 16th, 2024.

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PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Hunter.

SENATOR HUNTER:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

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

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolutions 994 through 999, offered by Senator Anderson and all Members. They are celebration of life resolutions, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Resolution Consent Calendar. Mr. Secretary, are there any Messages from the House?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

A Message from the House by Mr. Hollman, Clerk. Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has 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 307. We have received a like Message on House Bill 5324. Passed the House, May 16th, 2024. John W. Hollman, Clerk of the House. A Message from the House by Mr. Hollman, Clerk. Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has concurred with the Senate in the passage of a bill of the following title, to wit: Senate Bill 2959, together with the following amendment, which is attached to the adoption of

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which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit: House Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 2959. Passed the House, as amended, May 16th, 2024. John W. Hollman, Clerk of the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Mr. Secretary, House Bills 1st Reading.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 307, offered by President Harmon, an Act concerning education. House Bill 5324, offered by Senator Aquino, an Act concerning State government. 1st Reading of the bills.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, are -- if you are within the sound of my voice, please come to the Senate Chamber immediately. We are going to go through House Bills on 2nd, House Bills on 3rd, and Senate Bills on 3rd Reading, please come to the Senate Floor. Dave Dahl from WTAX Radio seeks -- seeks leave to take photos of today's proceedings. Seeing no objection, leave is granted. Senator Tracy, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR TRACY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Point of announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Please make your announcement.

SENATOR TRACY:

If I could have the Body's attention. We would like to welcome, nearly 24, 4-H Members from across the State of Illinois who are attending the University of Illinois Extension 4-H Legislative Connection event today and -- at the Capitol. These young youth represent 19 different 4-H programs from counties reaching or touching the border of Wisconsin to the far southern border of Illinois. And they represent nearly 100,000 4-H

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participants in all 102 counties. These teens represent the Illinois 4-H Leadership Team and 4-H members trained through the *Speaking for Illinois 4-H* program. As you know, if you've have seen them in the Capitol, they are a wonderful representation of our youth and the leadership values that they are being instilled with learning in these programs. We know many of you are 4-H alumni, and there's always a 4-H alumni group or that your lives have touched of 4-H, and we hope that you will continue to be part of the alumni or reach out to the 4-H groups. And, definitely we need to continue to support them. So, with that, I think they're out in the Hall of Flags and we'd like to give them a warm welcome.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Welcome to 4-H participants. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, we're now ready to go to House Bills on 2nd Reading. That -- that Order appears on page 12 of your printed Calendar. We will start with House Bill 303, Senator Harmon. President Harmon, on House Bill 303. House Bill 4179, Senator Bennett. Senator Bennett, on House Bill 4-7-9 {sic} (4179). Senator Hunter, on House Bill 4295. She indicates she wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 4295, an Act concerning government. 2nd Reading of the bill. No committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

3rd Reading. House Bill 4317, Senator Sims. He indicates he wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 4317, an Act concerning civil Law. 2nd Reading of the bill. No committee or Floor amendments reported.

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PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

3rd Reading. House Bill 4442, from Senator Johnson. House Bill 4582, Senator Sims. He indicates he wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 4582, an Act concerning finance. 2nd Reading of the bill. No committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

3rd Reading. House Bill 4660, from Senator Sims. He indicates he wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 4660, an Act concerning civil Law. 2nd Reading of the bill. No committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

3rd Reading. House Bill 4804, Senator Villivalam. Senator Villivalam, on House Bill 4804. He indicates he wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 4804, an Act concerning safety. 2nd Reading of the bill. No committee amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Mr. Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Floor Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Villivalam.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Villivalam, on your amendment.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

Thank -- thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to adopt the

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amendment and explain it on 3rd Reading.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

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

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

3rd Reading. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, we're going to now move to Senate Bills on 3rd Reading. We're going to pick up those bills that are ready for action. We're going to begin with a bill from Leader Lightford and that is Senate Bill 1400. She indicates she wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 1400, an Act concerning education. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Leader Lightford, on Senate Bill 1400.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you, Mr. President, excuse me. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, Senate Bill 1400, I'm proud to bring to you. If you guys recall there was Senate Bill 100, some years ago, that addressed student disciplinary challenges with expulsions and suspensions. This is a bill that the Illinois Education Association and the management groups and the advocacy groups have come together to address. What we walked away with, was a model that's created that would be implemented no later than July 1 of 2025.

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That creates policy guidelines for reciprocal reporting systems between school districts and law enforcement. School bus safety procedures, evidence-based early intervention procedures, and re-engagement of students who are returning to school after suspensions or expulsions. The amendment also, that became the bill, also kept the provisions requiring school districts to make efforts to provide professional development to all school personnel on trauma, responsive learning environments, and the requirements of the Parent Teacher Advisory Committee. We want to make sure parents are engaged and involved when there's disciplinary challenges with their students. We want to make sure after students have been removed from a school setting that they are reengaged and just not brought back into the same system to reoffend. But that they are reengaged with the expectation and that no more school instruction would be missed, as a result. I'd be happy to answer questions. Mr. President, thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Is there any discussion? Senator Koehler, for what purpose do you seek recognition? Senator Turner, for what purpose do you seek recognition? Seeing no discussion. The question is, shall Senate Bill 1400 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted to wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 54 Senators voting Yes, 2 voting No, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 1400, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Murphy, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR MURPHY:

A point of clarification.

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PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Please state your point.

SENATOR MURPHY:

Mr. President, thank you. I would like to be recorded as an Aye on House Bill 5104.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

The record will reflect your intention. Moving along with Senate Bills on 3rd Reading. We're going to go to page 6 of your printed Calendar near the top of that page, where Senator Doris Turner brings Senate Bill 2779. She indicates she wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 2779, an Act concerning local government. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Turner.

SENATOR D. TURNER:

Thank you, Mr. President. As amended, Senate Bill 2-7-7-9 amends the Counties Code, requiring the county to indemnify and hold harmless a physician who has been designated by the county or the coroner's office to perform autopsies for all of the physician's acts, omissions, decisions, or conduct arising out of the scope of the physician's duties of performing autopsies for the county, except those involving willful and wanton conduct. The bill sets forth a process and timetable by which the physician must inform the county of the case against the physician. The State's Attorney of the county, in which the body of the deceased person is found, may appear and defend on behalf of the physician, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

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PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none. The question is, shall Senate Bill 2779 pass. All those in favor of 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 56 Senators voting Yes, 0 voting No, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 2779, having received the constitutionally required majority, is declared passed. Next we have Senate Bill 3201 from Senator Toro, on Senate Bill 3201. She indicates she wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill. Senator - - excuse me -- Senator Toro seeks leave of the Body to return Senate Bill 3201 to the Order of 3rd Reading. So, check that Ladies and Gentleman, the amendment has already been adopted and Senator Toro wishes to move forward. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 3201, an Act concerning government. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Toro, on your bill.

SENATOR TORO:

Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. As amended, SB 3201 requires (Illinois) Law Enforcements Training Standards Board to deliver or approve a course to assist law enforcement officers in identifying and responding to individuals with autism spectrum disorder, consistent with national trends and best practices, within two years of the amended Amendatory Act. The Board may consult the Department of Public Health or Department of Human Services with developing and updating the curriculum. Every three years, law enforcement officers must complete training on

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autism inform law enforcement responses, techniques, and procedure as part of their minimum service training requirements. So, earlier this year, police in California shot and killed a 15-year-old boy with autism, his name was Ryan Gainer. He was having an autistic meltdown while carrying gardening shears. He's one of the many autistic individuals around the country who have demonstrated autistic behaviors that may be mistaken by police as threatening, violent, or non-compliant. This is a massive issue that affects so many people living with disabilities and their loved ones. This bill was brought to me by a mother of a son with autism, who worries about his future interactions with police. She worries that something like a routine traffic stop could swiftly turn into an officer interpreting his behaviors, like not making eye contact or needing to repeat as non-compliant. I have a nephew who's autistic, and I've taught so many students who are on the autism spectrum, and I know firsthand how much families, friends, and teachers have to learn to support loved one's diverse needs. And this should be no different with law enforcement. I'm proud to say that we've worked with members of law enforcement on this legislation to bring them into -- in support, and I hope we can all agree on the importance of this bill. And I ask you all for your Aye vote. I'm happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Is there any discussion? Senator Tracy, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR TRACY:

Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to speak to the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

To the bill.

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SENATOR TRACY:

I'd like to thank Senator Toro for bringing this important legislation. Many of us have friends and family members that are on the autism spectrum. And Senator Toro was gracious enough to work with law enforcement to get an amendment to remove their opposition and give them extra time to incorporate this training into their regular curriculum. And I think it's a very good bill. It is true, the public and the people that protect us need to understand that many of the commands and the like are perceived differently from with someone with on the autism spectrum. And I appreciate the Senator's effort to remove the law enforcement opposition and work with them to find a good solution. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Any further discussion? Senator Feigenholtz, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR FEIGENHOLTZ:

Question of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

The sponsor indicates she will yield. Senator Feigenholtz.

SENATOR FEIGENHOLTZ:

Senator Toro, is this your first bill?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Toro.

SENATOR TORO:

Yes, it is Senator.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Feigenholtz.

SENATOR FEIGENHOLTZ:

You're really lucky you're in the Senate and not the House.

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To the bill, Mr. President. Many of us have our lives touched by autism and have heard some stories about, incidents in police stations that have not been favorable and some that have been very favorable. I think that this legislation is going to make a huge difference once it goes into effect. And I, congratulate the sponsor for this. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Any further discussion? Senator Villa, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR VILLA:

Question of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

The sponsor indicates she will yield. Senator Villa.

SENATOR VILLA:

Senator Toro, I understand that you used to be a public-school teacher, is that right?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Toro.

SENATOR TORO:

Yes, I was a kindergarten teacher for the Chicago Public Schools.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Villa.

SENATOR VILLA:

So, given that expertise, our teachers the ones that are going to be coming to do these trainings?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Toro.

SENATOR TORO:

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Teachers have done many trainings in order to understand the needs of students with diverse needs.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Villa.

SENATOR VILLA:

Teachers are indeed amazing at understanding all of the needs with autism. This is really a tough bill to get some jokes in guys. I'm really trying, but congratulations on your first bill. This is absolutely amazing. I -- I have had some issues in my district as well. And I do believe that the police are going to benefit from this training. Thank you so much for bringing this bill, Senator Toro.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

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

SENATOR VENTURA:

Question to the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Sponsor indicates she will yield. Senator Ventura.

SENATOR VENTURA:

This is a very important issue. Why did you choose three years?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Toro.

SENATOR TORO:

Thank you for the question, Senator Ventura. There was some concern with law enforcement that they wouldn't be able to get the necessary, trainings ready in time. So, we made the period longer, but also made it mandatory.

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PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Ventura.

SENATOR VENTURA:

While I appreciate that you made it mandatory, don't you feel that you, as a powerful Senator should have been pushing back on law enforcement so that we make sure we protect the most vulnerable among us?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Toro.

SENATOR TORO:

Thank you, Senator. We work together to make sure that we can come to a compromise so that we can make sure that there's more comprehensive training for police officers, so they understand the needs of individuals with autism.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Ventura.

SENATOR VENTURA:

To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

To the bill.

SENATOR VENTURA:

I think that this is a great legislation, and it's a hard first bill for Senator to take on. And I really congratulate her for taking on some powerful issues here to make sure that we are protecting those among us. And I urge an Aye vote. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Further discussion. Senator Morrison, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR MORRISON:

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Question of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

The sponsor indicates she will yield. Senator Morrison.

SENATOR MORRISON:

Senator Toro, is it my understanding that the training board will develop a course and then model policies?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Toro.

SENATOR TORO:

Yes.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Morrison.

SENATOR MORRISON:

So, will the police be posing as models?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Toro.

SENATOR TORO:

Well, that is an excellent question, Senator, I don't believe that they will.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Morrison.

SENATOR MORRISON:

I'm not sure I understood your answer, Senator.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Toro.

SENATOR TORO:

I'm not sure that police will be posing as models.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Morrison.

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SENATOR MORRISON:

So, this is not an opportunity for police to pose as models to sell us a Calendar to support autism.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Toro.

SENATOR TORO:

Now that you bring it up, I think it might be a good idea.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Morrison.

SENATOR MORRISON:

Well, Senator, in a year when we're looking for additional funds to support so many people with disability, I think you've overlooked a very easy resource. However, I would ask everyone to vote Yes on this bill. Thank you for bringing it.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Any further discussion? Senator Preston, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR PRESTON:

To the sponsor, Mr. President. Senator Toro.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

She -- the sponsor indicates she will yield. Senator Preston.

SENATOR PRESTON:

Senator Toro, I've looked through this legislation, and while it's good, I don't see any provision mandating that there be donuts taken to the police officers. Why is that?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Toro.

SENATOR TORO:

I think that it's a great idea. And maybe it's something we

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can go back and look at. Maybe we can specify Stan's Donuts, not like a Dunkin Donuts. I think that would be the best idea.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Preston.

SENATOR PRESTON:

To the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

To the bill.

SENATOR PRESTON:

You know, I think this is a great piece of legislation, but I think I have to urge Members in the Chamber to vote No. I think it's not ready. You could take it back and maybe get some donut provisions inside of this to make sure that these trainings are properly held. So, you know, in all seriousness, Senator Toro, thank you. This is a great piece of legislation. I don't know, many of you may know my son is on the autism spectrum. I think this is great legislation from a great leader. I urge an Aye vote. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Seeing no further discussion. Senator Toro, to close.

SENATOR TORO:

I'd like to thank all of my colleagues for all their support and their funny jokes. We'll call them funny but thank you very much. This is personal to me. Like I've mentioned before, my nephew is autistic, and I've had so many of my littles in my classroom that are on the spectrum, and this is just another way to protect them and support their needs and the concerns of their family, friends, teachers that love them so much. Thank you everyone, I appreciate you.

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PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

The question is, shall Senate Bill 3201 pass. All those in favor of 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 58 Senators voting Yes, 0 voting No, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 3201, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, we're now going to shift over to House Bills on 3rd Reading. We're going to begin right at the bottom of page 6 on your printed Calendar. That is where Senator Porfirio brings House Bill 4478 {sic} (478). He indicates he wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 478, an Act concerning local government. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Porfirio.

SENATOR PORFIRIO:

Thank -- thank you, Mr. President. House Bill 478 transfers the Midway Flight facility, which is in my district, a National Guard facility located at 5400 West 63rd Street, from the State of Illinois to the City of Chicago for \$1. The property shall be used by the City of Chicago for a new police district building. It will revert back to the State and National Guard if the property is used for any other purpose. Some background, myself and some of my colleagues who represent the southwest side of Chicago. It's served by the 8th Chicago Police District. The 8th Chicago Police District is one of 25 Districts in the City of Chicago. It hasn't changed since 1967. It is now the busiest and 3rd largest police district

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in the City. It serves over 250,000 residents. That equates to 10 officers for every 10,000 residents, which is the lowest officer to resident ratio in the City. To equate that my -- the suburban portion of my City is actually served by more police in the City portion of my City. This past March, there is a referendum on the ballot, voters in my district voted 88 percent in favor of a new police district. There's a clear mandate from the public and from the people that they need and want this -- this location is ideal for that. I appreciate my colleagues support, and I think this is a great example of critical public safety infrastructure in the southwest side of Chicago. I'll stand Aye for any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Is there any discussion, Senator Preston, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR PRESTON:

To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

To the bill.

SENATOR PRESTON:

You know, this is a great piece of legislation. I want to commend the sponsor for your thoughtfulness and bringing this forth. As you said, so eloquently, this is a mandate from the people. Like you, the 8th District, does police and protects a part of my District in the 16th District. And it's just a very, very large territory. So, as we know, the summer months are coming and the City of Chicago, we are always overly concerned about the high levels of violence. You know, your thoughtfulness in this way will make the City of Chicago safer. So, I fully support this bill. Thank you for bringing this, Senator.

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PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Seeing no further discussion. Do you wish to close, Senator?

SENATOR PORFIRIO:

Thank you, Mr. President. I urge, an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

The question is, shall House Bill 478 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted to wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 Senators voting Yes, 1 voting No, 0 voting Present. House Bill 478, having received the constitutionally required majority, is declared passed. With leave of the Body, we are going to skip ahead to the very bottom of page 8 of your printed Calendar, where Senator Villivalam brings House Bill 4653. He indicates he wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 4653, an Act concerning education. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Villivalam.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

Thank you, Mr. President. House Bill 4653 is trailer legislation that, is regarding the reformation of training for our school officials. It corrects inconsistencies in current statute related to educator in-service training on the safe usage of trauma kits to respond to incidents of life-threatening bleeding. I know of know of no opposition and would ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Is there any discussion? Senator Preston? Is there any other

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discussion? Seeing none. The question is, shall House Bill 4653 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 58 Senators voting Yes, 0 voting No, 0 voting Present. House Bill 4653, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Preston, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR PRESTON:

It was, Mr. President. It was my intent to vote Yes on House Bill 478.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

The record will reflect your intention. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, we're going to now move to near the top of page 9 of your printed Calendar, where Senator Villa brings House Bill 4720. Senator Villa, on House Bill 4720. With leave of the Body, we're going to move to House Bill 4813 from Senator Sims. He indicates that he wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 4813, an Act concerning State government. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Sims.

SENATOR SIMS:

Thank you, Mr. President, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. House Bill 4813 is an initiative on the behalf of the Department of Innovation and Technology, where it's -- whether the Department shall review and amend as needed, the accessibility

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standards under the Information Technology Accessibility Act. This is starting in 2026. Currently, the Department of Human Services has those responsibilities, but this would move it over to the Department of Information Technology. I know of no opposition. Will answer any questions and ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none. The question is, shall House Bill 4813 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 57 Senators voting Yes, 0 voting No, 0 voting Present. House Bill 4813, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. House Bill 4875, Senator Edly-Allen. Senator Edly-Allen seeks leave of the Body to return House Bill 4875 to the Order of 2nd Reading. Leave is granted. On the Order of 2nd Reading is House Bill 4875. Mr. Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Floor Amendment No. 3, offered by Senator Edly-Allen.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Edly-Allen, on your amendment.

SENATOR EDLY-ALLEN:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor say, Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted. Mr. Secretary, are there any further amendments approved

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for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading, is House Bill 4875. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 4875, an Act concerning civil law. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Edly-Allen, on your bill.

SENATOR EDLY-ALLEN:

Thank you, Mr. President. As amended, House Bill 4875 is a modernization of Illinois existing Right of Publicity Law, which has been on the books since the 1990s. At that time, the internet was in its infancy and artificial intelligence, or AI, only existed in science fiction. In the last few years, we have seen an explosion of IA tools and IA generated, excuse me, AI generated content often created and distributed without authorization. While AI is a powerful tool with the potential to do much good, guardrails are necessary to protect artists and the general public. HB 4875 takes a balanced approach in dealing with the issues of the unauthorized use of digital replicas. This bill protects artists ability to control their voice, image, and likeness while still providing necessary exemptions to allow for artistic creation. Additionally, the bill targets bad actors while providing safe harbor for those who unknowingly contribute to the distribution of such content. The bill accomplishes this by creating a separate private right of action for the conduct of

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distributing, transmitting, or making available to the general public a sound recording or audiovisual work with actual knowledge that the work contains an unauthorized digital -- digital replica. The bifurcation leaves the current exemptions in the Right to Privacy Act, excuse me, Right to Publicity Act, as is, for the unauthorized use of an individual's identity that does not involve a digital replica and creates a separate set of exemptions for the unauthorized use of an individual's identity in a digital replica. Through extensive negotiations, we have removed all known opposition to the bill. I want to thank the Motion Picture Association, TechNet, the Software Alliance, and the Cable and Broadband Association, AT&T, Verizon and all other groups that have worked with us to address their concerns and improve the quality of this bill. With that, I'm available for questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Is there any discussion? Leader Curran, for what purpose do you seek recognition? To the bill.

SENATOR CURRAN:

I -- I want to first thank the sponsor. We had a robust discussion of this bill in the Judiciary Committee, and I raised several issues and had a good discussion with the sponsor and her proponents on those issues. And I do see with the -- the amendment that you adopted on the Floor today, you addressed each and every of those issues that were raised. In particular, I appreciate the change of the standard of apparent knowledge to willful disregard after we -- after the discussion we had. So, I just want to highlight the -- the changes. I think you did a very nice job of bringing all the opponents to neutral and -- and -- and bringing this bill to a very good, comprehensive resolution. And with that,

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I would encourage, an Aye vote. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Any further discussion? Senator Martwick, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR MARTWICK:

Thank you, Mr. President. Questions of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

The sponsor indicates she will yield. Senator Martwick.

SENATOR MARTWICK:

Thank you. Senator, I have a couple of questions regarding legislative intent. To start, Section 30(f) of your bill references federal law without discussing the actual content of the federal law. Would you be open to continued conversations to incorporate the specific language from the federal law you referenced in your bill?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Edly-Allen.

SENATOR EDLY-ALLEN:

Thank you, Senator Martwick, for that question. I am always open to suggestions on how to improve the legislation and would be happy to have a conversation in the future about ways to make this a better bill. The language you're referencing was included at the request of one of the business associations we've been working with. So, I want to make sure that our conversations are include all relevant stakeholders.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Martwick.

SENATOR MARTWICK:

Thank you, Senator. Next is the intention of Section 35

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(c) (3) to exclude portrayals of people in fictional works that, for creative reasons appear authentic -- appear authentic, but did not actually occur, such as Nixon announcing a mission to Jupiter in the Apple TV show *For All Mankind*, or a fictional movie about a future event.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Edly-Allen.

SENATOR EDLY-ALLEN:

Thank you, Senator Martwick, for that question. Yes, that is the intent of that Section. Our goal is to allow for the type of creative expression you described while making sure that a studio doesn't replace an actor. They -- they can't afford to hire with an AI replica of that actor.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Martwick.

SENATOR MARTWICK:

To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

To the bill.

SENATOR MARTWICK:

Thank you, Mr. President. And Senator Edly-Allen, I just want to commend you on your work on this bill. You took a very -- a robust approach to this, you worked very hard, and you were willing to listen to the advice of a very difficult committee addressing concerns from both sides of the aisle. This is the model of the way legislation should be passed. And I would ask for an Aye vote from everyone.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Further discussion? Senator Sally Turner, for what purpose

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do you seek recognition?

SENATOR SALLY TURNER:

Thank you, Mr. President. A question for the sponsor, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

The sponsor indicates she will yield. Senator Sally Turner.

SENATOR SALLY TURNER:

Thank you, Senator. I just had a couple of questions. I, too, am really engaged in AI. So, my question in regard to your bill... I'm not on Judiciary, so I didn't know the answers to these questions. Is there a fine or any kind of penalty for a violation?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Edly-Allen.

SENATOR EDLY-ALLEN:

Thank you for that question, Senator. It's existing right of action. So, whatever exists today would be the fine.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Turner.

SENATOR SALLY TURNER:

Thank you, Senator, but I'm, I guess, I'm unclear. What is that?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Edly-Allen.

SENATOR EDLY-ALLEN:

Again Senator, it is the existing remedies that already exist in law. Under the right of publicity.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Turner.

SENATOR SALLY TURNER:

I -- I don't understand what the penalty is. Is there -- is

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there a penalty in law? I don't know what that is.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Edly-Allen.

SENATOR EDLY-ALLEN:

Senator, this is a civil right of action. So, what the court would say is you cannot do this.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Turner.

SENATOR SALLY TURNER:

Thank you. I didn't mean to make it difficult. I just didn't understand. So, thank you very much. I appreciate it, that's all.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

See no further discussion. Senator Edly-Allen, to close.

SENATOR EDLY-ALLEN:

Thank you for the thoughtful questions. Again, I would like to thank all the stakeholders. The Senate Judiciary Committee Members, Matt Glavin from the Recording Academy, and my thought partner in this work, Representative Gong-Gershowitz. Also want to thank Senate staffer Kelsey for getting this, to this point. This is an important piece of legislation that offers individuals crucial protections in an ever-evolving digital world. And I ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

The question is, shall House Bill 4875 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 58 Senators voting Yes, 0 voting No, 0 voting Present. House Bill 4875, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed.

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We are now going to move, with leave of the Body down to the bottom of page 9 of your printed Calendar, where Senator Murphy brings House Bill 4939. She indicates she wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 4939, an Act concerning State government. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Before we go to Senator Murphy. Mawa & Jade from WBEZ FM radio seek leave to record audio of today's proceedings. Without objection, leave is granted. Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY:

Thank you, Mr. President. House Bill 4939 removes the requirements for State agencies to report -- State Librarian reports and documents and other publications of public institutions of higher ed. Currently, they all have to report that to the State librarian. They would still be repairing{sic}(preparing) the reports, but they don't have to report to the State. So, I know of no opposition and I'm happy to entertain any questions. I'd ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none. The question is, shall House Bill 4939 pass. All those in favor of 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 57 Senators voting Yes, 1 voting No, 0 voting Present. House Bill 4939, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. House Bill 4942, Senator Edly-Allen. Senator Edly-Allen, on House Bill 4942. She

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indicates she wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 4942, an Act concerning local government. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Edly-Allen.

SENATOR EDLY-ALLEN:

Thank you, Mr. President. As amended, House Bill 4942 amends the County's Code. It provides that the Illinois Department of Public Health must adopt rules regarding the specific information that must be reported by a coroner or medical examiner in every case in which a drug overdose is determined to be the cause or a contributing factor in death. The bill further provides that the coroner must also communicate whether there was a level of fentanyl in combination with any other controlled substance present to all law enforcement agencies in whose jurisdiction the deceased body was found within 24 hours after receipt of the toxicology results, regardless of whether the cause of death has been determined. In committee, this was on the Agreed Bill List and I would ask for a Yes vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Is there any discussion? Senator Rezin, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR REZIN:

To the bill, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

To the bill.

SENATOR REZIN:

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Thank you. I commend the sponsor on this bill. I know that, along with her leadership, and I've also had a bill, too; and have spoken with many families that have been affected by fentanyl poisoning. That, it's important to recognize that this is an epidemic, and that, you know, it needs to be recognized with the coroner's office as a poisoning versus an overdose, which helps families to better educate as to, you know, what went on with their loved ones. So, again, I asked for an Aye vote. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

There be no further discussion? Senator Edly-Allen, do you wish to close?

SENATOR EDLY-ALLEN:

Yes, Mr. President. I'd like to thank Representative Moeller, who brought this bill forward at the request of a constituent. And I would ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

The question is, shall House Bill 4942 pass. All those in favor 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 58 Senators voting Yes, 0 voting No, 0 voting Present. House Bill 4942, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, we're going to turn to page 10 of your printed Calendar, where Senator Joyce brings House Bill 4027. Remaining on page 10, in the middle of that page on your printed Calendar, Senator Castro brings House Bill 5087. Senator Castro, on House Bill 5087. Next, we have House Bill 5097 from Senator Simmons. Senator Simmons wishes to proceed. Senator Simmons seeks leave of the Body to return House Bill 5097 to the Order of 2nd

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Reading. Leave is granted. Now on the Order of 2nd Reading is House Bill 5097. Mr. Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Floor Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Simmons.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Simmons, on your amendment?

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. I would like to adopt the amendment and discuss it on 3rd.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor will vote Aye -- will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted. Mr. Secretary, any further amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading, is House Bill 5097. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 5097, an Act concerning State government. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Simmons, on your bill.

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Thank you very much. Mr. President, Members of the Senate, House Bill 5097, as amended, is -- is key legislation that will address haircare for DCFS youth that are in custody. Specifically,

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haircare and house -- hairstyles are key components of self-expression, identity; and connection to race, culture, gender, and religion. Children removed from homes, lose a piece of that, while they're in foster care. Black and LGBTQ+ youth are disproportionately represented in the child welfare systems. Too often, they are placed with families or in residential settings that may not allow them to use their hair to reflect their identity, or that do not recognize or understand how properly to care for their natural hair. So, this bill requires that every child that is in care, have a health care plan, I'm sorry, a Hair Care Plan that accounts for their cultural, racial, religious, gender and or other identities. The Haircare Plan is to be developed in consultation with the youth as developmentally appropriate. The caseworker is to discuss the Hair Care Plan with the youth monthly; and the Haircare Plan will be reviewed every 6 months at the time, as the case plan review happens. DCFS will be developing training and providing resources about culturally competent care to support those parents, those caretakers. And the department will promulgate rules to facilitate the implementation of those plans. Mr. President, this is -- this is a very timely piece of legislation. Those of you that were here in 2021 will recall when we passed the Jett Hawkins Law, which is a four-year-old child that had been suspended in -- in a school for wearing his hair in natural braids, kind of like the way I wear mine. And we passed, Senate Bill 817, at that time. It was a landmark bill that got national attention. I think it's wonderful that this legislation would extend those protections to kids that are in foster care who oftentimes, have experienced extreme injustice by broken systems across the board. So, I'll take any questions. And

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I thank you for your time.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Is there any discussion, Senator Syverson, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. Questions of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

The sponsor indicates he will yield. Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Because first of all, when I -- when I look at this, it's this bill goes a lot further than, I, what most people imagined or look at. This actually puts into law that children can make grooming decisions instead of adults, which we just believe goes too far. We're going to teach children in grade school that hair plays a role, not just a role. The bill says haircare plays an important role in a child's identity and self-worth. You know, being taught that self-worth is based on external items such as hair or clothes or the right shoes, is what's leading to the creation of these emotionally and mentally shallow children. No wonder so many children today are suffering from self-esteem and depression and feelings of self-worth. I think if we really want to spend resources to help these children. We should give these same dollars, potential millions of dollars, this is going to cost. We need to put these same dollars to helping foster parents with the real needs that they have in asking for extra help for tutoring or for counseling or for other issues that foster parents have been asking for with their -- with their children. I think if we want to help a child with their self-worth, we should start with their, character. Teaching them that they should learn to respect

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others. You know ultimately, if child puts other children first, is never going to be in want of friends. So, a couple questions, I guess, with this. The first question is, if a -- if a child that is in the State custody can decide on their hair program because it's so important to their self-image, in their culture. In a home where a -- where a child is living in their parents' home, where it's not under a State control. In that case, the adult still makes the decision for their child's hair. Do you think that this is going to create a problem for that child's self-image or, that child's importance? If the parent is saying, "no" to them on the hair that they want to have.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Simmons.

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Mr. President, will the previous Senator, please restate the question?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Sure. So, the whole crux of this bill is that it's important for a child for their self-esteem and their self-image, to have the hair that they believe is right for them. So, children that are in custody can make that, or in a foster home, those children can make that decision. If a child, though, is not under - not in foster care but in their own home with their parents, in those cases, the parents make the decision for their children's hair. If a parent is saying, "no" to a -- to their children's hair requests, do you believe that that's going to have a negative impact on that child's image or their self-worth?

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PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Simmons.

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Thank -- thank you very much, Mr. President. And I thank the Senator for -- for the question. I -- I... So directly, to respond to it I think that if -- if I understand the Senator's question correctly; if a child is placed into a residential setting or has a foster parent and the foster parent says, "no", you cannot have dreadlocks, you cannot have braids, you cannot have natural hairstyle, will that potentially be damaging to the child's self-esteem? I would direct the previous Senator to study after study that has been done on this topic, that the answer is Yes that would have a deleterious effect, potentially, could have a deleterious effect, on that child's self-esteem, self-worth, and that trauma could lead to an adult who then is disrespectful to our entire society, which is something we constantly pay the price for every year. So, the answer to that is Yes, which is precisely why I've brought this legislation forward, so that we can support those parents with the caseworkers to develop a plan that works for that child and supports the overall health of that household. And -- and I would also add a -- a strong relationship between the foster parent and that child.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Let me ask another question regarding costs. Now looking at -- looking at me here, haircare cost is not a big issue. But, as a parent of three children, someone who's been a foster parent who has taken children into our home, who has adopted a child, I know

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a little bit about what hair treatment and costs run. And if I had given into all my daughter's hair requests, I'd be broke today. What do you think is going to be the estimated costs of -- for this program? Knowing that, again, what the cost is for some of these more expensive braids, or dreads, or hair coloring - is there an estimate of what you think the cost is going to be, knowing that we have close to 30,000 children that are currently in the State's system?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Simmons.

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Thank you, Mr. President. I thank the Senator for the follow up question. The Haircare Plan will be discussed with each youth and responsibilities will vary depending on each individual child's needs and desires. This is not a responsibility that will fall solely on the caregiver. Ancillary to that, the Department must develop training resources to ensure their caregivers are adequately trained to meet the unique care related needs of youth. There are resources that currently exist, such as a - Oak Park, nonprofit, Styles 4 Kidz, which will do this actually at no cost. They offer free resources on their websites and You Tube videos and others at a minimum cost. They will also provide training to some agencies in other parts of the country, including California and Massachusetts. So, this has been done. And to -- to even more directly answer the Senator's question. No, there's no estimate on this because, you know, there's no way to predict how many of the 30,000 children will need anything done to their hair. I would add that, as a Senator that wears freeform locs, my hair's organic, I don't have to pay anybody to wear my hair in a natural form, which

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is the way I like to wear it. So, on any -- any numbers that are floating around out there are fallacious. And I think that we should press ahead with this legislation because it's long overdue.
PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Problem is when -- when we -- when we pass legislation, we have to look at the - what it -- what it actually says, in the ability of, potentially of abuse, that could occur. And in this, it's going to allow these children to have this done. And there's not -- there's not free services available out there for everybody knowing that the -- this may -- individuals are required to honor these requests. I think we'd be hard pressed to find people who are going to be treating or giving hair services to people for free. This also has - requires additional training for staff workers, foster parents, others that have to go through the hair program. Can you give me an idea of what -- what all be involved in or how much time it's going - they're going to have to take to go through the hair training program?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Simmons.

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Thank you, Mr. President. If I understood the Senator's question correctly, he's asking how much time... Is -- is, I guess, I'd like to ask -- clarify the question. Is the Senator asking how much time it would take to put together a Hair Care -- Care Plan for youth? I really could not -- I couldn't hear him, and I couldn't understand the question.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

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Okay, if we can have some quiet in the Chamber, please.
Senator Syverson, if you could repeat your question, please.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Sure. I guess two questions. First of all, the bill says that there has to be training for State workers. There has to be training for foster parents have to go through, to understand the haircare programs. But then second, to your other point of it, how much time it takes to have a, I think it says it's a, that they have to have a haircare program done and that has to be done, I think, annually. And how much time and effort is involved in -- in that part of it? So -- so both of those, how much time is -- is -- is it going to take to do that?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Simmons.

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Thank you, Mr. President. The timeline here for implementation of this bill. The bill will become effective January 1st of 2025. And by June 1st of 2025, the Department must promulgate rules to facilitate the implementation of all haircare plans.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Yes, but the question is - how -- how much -- how much time or what's -- how detailed is the training? Because it says that all the caseworkers and foster parents have to go through training related to haircare needs of youth in care. How extensive is that training program is the question?

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Senator Simmons.

SENATOR SIMMONS:

So, Mr. President, if I understood the -- the question correctly, the answer is that every six months the caseworkers will be developing this plan. And that's -- that will happen every six months.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Okay. I'm going to try... Yeah, and I appreciate that. That answers the -- the -- the six month program, I guess. Initially though, I think there - isn't there legislation -- isn't there wording here that says that they -- that the foster parents have to originally and the State has to go through some training on the issue of understanding hair care needs for the youth? Isn't there a training component of this, as well?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Simmons.

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Thank you, Mr. President. Is -- is -- the Senator is asking is there a specific training component included with this legislation? I just want to make sure I have the question. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you -- thank you to the Senator for his patience. There is not a specific training directive outlined in this legislation, but the folks that actually brought this legislation forward were youth that are a part of the Advisory Board that DCFS has put together. And so, the youth will have -- have lots of ideas about how to structure this. And I -- and I trust that DCFS and Loyola University, which is working with --

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working with DCFS, and myself, and the House sponsor on this legislation, to make that right.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. And -- and I'll wrap it up with this. You know, I know this is going to -- I know this is going to pass. But when we talk to people about this, it's, I think, they're surprised that we're going to set up a system where children can be making a decisions for themselves, as opposed to the -- as opposed to the adults. And this is going to end up having a cost. It's clear with this -- with the extent of -- of hair that spelled out in here, the - with styling, cutting, coloring, braids, loxs, twists, all the things that are going to be covered. There's going to be a cost for this. And I just think we have misplaced priorities. Our focus ought to be on that, child billing, building inner self-image. We should be working with foster parents and giving them the resources to help tutor these children so they can learn what's important. And they actually learn to read and write and do math. And so, I think this just goes too far. And let's let -- let's focus on the priorities. So, I appreciate, the debate, Senator and -- and I would urge that we go back to the drawing board on this one. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Further discussion? Senator Johnson, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR JOHNSON:

To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

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To the bill?

SENATOR JOHNSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. I want to commend the sponsor and the students who are part of the Youth Advisory Board of DCFS for bringing this forward. You know, it is actually great when a youth can be happy and show up as their true authentic selves. And that -- that's priceless. And I think there's a lot of misunderstanding about individuals with textured hair. And again, I think this plan is important because everyone doesn't understand how kids need to show up as their true authentic selves and be comfortable. And this is great for their self-esteem. But I want to make sure I also note, and it is also important that these children who are in DCFS care. These kids are bright, many of them are very bright and -- and at the State of Illinois, we provide many resources for the kids to continue to -- to thrive. This is a case of where maybe some foster parents do not understand how to care for textured hair, and we want to make sure they understand the importance of it. I agree that we have a lot of other things that we can focus on, and we do that quite well, in this Body. But I think it's really important to understand that it isn't as simple as just how much money you spend on the hair or the coloring your hair. This is a different thing. This is - has cultural significance. And is it really important for foster parents to be able to properly care for the youth in -- in care? This is important for their self-esteem, because we know that children have been traumatized simply because they show up the way their hair grows out of their -- their scalp. So again, I commend the sponsor and I hope you all will consider an Aye vote. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

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Thank you, Senator. We have 10 Members seeking recognition on this bill. Senator Rezin, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR REZIN:

Thank you, Mr. President. Question for the sponsor please.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

He'll indicate he yields. Senator Rezin.

SENATOR REZIN:

Thank you. Senator, could you, you mentioned that you're going to allow the Department to write the rules for that. And we've been struggling in JCAR sometimes when we just take the bill and say, "Department, you write the rules". So, from -- I'd like to get some intent -- and -- from you on the Floor. And if you could explain exactly, because the way that the bill is written, it seems like it's very broad to mean all haircare for children in the system. Can you go through and explain who this bill is meant for and try specific for intent, please?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Simmons.

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. And thank you, Leader Rezin, for the question. So, to -- to answer that question, the youth that are a part of this Youth Advisory Board that DCFS has put together will be advising the Department and will be available to advise JCAR on the implementation of those rules.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Rezin.

SENATOR REZIN:

Thank you. And we always appreciate when students and the

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future leaders are involved in the process. However, I just want to caution everyone that this is a program that you have said should be for -- call -- for children or, you know, certain areas for haircare, not everyone in the foster care system. So, to the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

To the bill.

SENATOR REZIN:

Thank you. Every Session we have a bill or a couple of bills that maybe we don't understand or, you know, I do, I know at least and I'm learning in - about particular areas. And this is one of those bills. After Senator Simmons presented the bill, I went back and reached out to my foster families in my district. And actually, I was surprised with their response, which was, this is an issue. I asked who paid for the haircare of their foster children? Are they reimbursed currently or not? And they said, "No, oftentimes they pay out of pocket." So, I learned something new that day and that's why I do appreciate you bringing this bill forward. I would caution you or the Department as the rules are written, we are concerned about an overly broad interpretation of the bill. So, we want to make sure that as the rules are written, it's -- it stays within the intent of the sponsor. But again, I reached out to my foster families who expressed that, Yes, this is an issue and that they are paying out of pocket. So, because of that, I do feel that this is a good bill and I'll be supporting your bill. Thank you, Senator.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Further discussion? Leader Lightford, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

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SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

To the bill.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Wow. I -- I - it blows my mind. That we're having a lengthy discussion about a part of the body that's on that individual's body. And as a child, I was just sharing with -- with -- with Senator Holmes here that I would ask my child, "Hey, what are we doing? Do you want a mohawk? You want a high-top fade? You want it low?" You know, because kids have an opinion about how they look. As adults, we have an opinion about how our hair looks. It's just as important to us as the blouse we put on or the pair of slacks we put on. It's the first thing that you see on an individual. And what bothered me about the discussion on this bill that really made me hit my button, Mr. President. We're talking about children who are in foster care. We're talking about children who have been separated from their families and perhaps they need to feel whatever it is they want to feel. Maybe that's the only thing that they have left. It's what they feel about themselves and for us to say it's too expensive! Blows my mind. Then you don't need to be a foster care parent. If you think you need to be reimbursed for everything you do for that child in your care. Now, this cannot be just a black issue. This is not a black, white issue. Everything that we bring forth is being made to be a racist or a black issue. I see a lot of white kids who have mohawks. They have color. Their hair is blue, their hair is pink, their hair is purple. And God forbid they're in the foster care system, perhaps they would like to continue with their punked out-look. What's so wrong with that?

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What's so wrong with it? I was attacked, as an adult, when I came to this institution for wearing braids. I was told that I was trying to be like Bo Derek. Yeah, it made me laugh too. That was the funniest I had heard. It was my own culture that I couldn't do or be in this institution, as an adult. As some point, we have to stop governing how we individually feel. There's a feeling. There's a feeling when my hair doesn't look right. I call it a bad hair day. There's a feeling, when you don't get your hair cut as a man, it's stickin all out. You want a haircut because it's the feeling. Kids feel the same way. They're human beings. We have to take them into consideration. And I would love it -- I would love it if every bill comes forth that we do not minimize the discussion to it being a racial issue. All of us have culture. All of us have culture. All of us have a different way we want to feel and look and be treated and be responded to. That's nothing to do with if you're Muslim, it has nothing to do if you're Baptist, it has nothing to do with religion. But if that person says, "Don't cut my hair, because it's my strength", then don't cut the child's hair. And if you don't know how to treat that hair, get help. The training component is important. The training piece is important. I was teased as a little girl because my hair was a little kinkier than some of the other children, so I felt bad about my hair. So, I got a perm. The first opportunity that my mother would allow me to put perm on my hair to straighten my texture, because I thought it was a bad thing. Shame on me, to let people like you, determine that my texture is not worthy of being treated with care. I want to commend the kids at DCFS for speaking up. For expressing how they feel when they cannot speak for themselves on how they look. That's one of the most important things. If you're pulled away from your

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family and you're sad, and then you have to look in the mirror and your hair looks bad. It's awful. It's an awful feeling. So, Senator, I appreciate you taking what you passed before, a step further, because we don't think about the vulnerable kids that are in foster care and what their needs are and how they must be feeling. So, I rise to ask everyone to support this legislation. The arguments that's being presented is unfair. It's completely unfair, it's unreasonable, and shame on the previous speaker.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Koehler, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR KOEHLER:

To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

To the bill.

SENATOR KOEHLER:

Many of you know that I grew up in South Dakota and, I have a long family history of South Dakota. There's an ugly part of the history of our state, where a lot of Indian children were taken from their families and put in boarding schools. The first thing that was done was they cut their hair. Think about that. Think about the culture of the Native Americans and what hair meant to them. The first thing they did was cut their hair. This is a racial discussion and I choose not to be racist. And I vote for this bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Further discussion? Senator Turner, for what purpose do you seek recognition? Senator Doris Turner.

SENATOR D. TURNER:

Thank you, Senate President. I want to commend Senator Simmons for bringing this piece of legislation. I think it's an

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extremely. extremely good bill that will bring a lot of support to a lot of a lot of children that don't necessarily have it and need it. I think that we can all agree that there are a number of issues and concerns around cross cultural placements in DCFS care, and one of those speaks to how children in DCFS care can maintain their cultural -- their cultural identity, which is not always easy. And one of the ways that children can do that is with their appearance and most especially their hair. When we talk about this piece of legislation, I think that what gets lost is we're not just talking about the style in which a person is wearing their hair. We're talking about understanding all of the haircare that goes into those -- those hairstyles and how you maintain that hair. And that's extremely important. I am a black woman, that's of an age, where when I grew up, there was, not very many different ways that black women, little girls wore their hair. And I was very fortunate because my mother was a licensed beautician and I was - my hair always looked very nice, and I didn't have to deal with a lot of the things that I heard other young girls have to -- have to deal with, with bullying and people talking about their appearance. Because, Senator Lightford is exactly right when she says that the way that your hair looks really speaks to you, your self-esteem and how other people perceive you. And -- and it's -- it's things that -- that kids have to deal with now, are things that none of us had to deal with when we were kids. And if we can take away that opportunity for that bullying, or for a child to feel that they're not accepted and -- and worrying about their self-esteem, I think that this is a small thing that we can do. I wanted the - previous speakers talked about the -- the amount of money that this is going to cost. You know, there are a number of

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opportunities in our communities where people understand the importance of haircare with our young black girls. And there are even in -- in Springfield, there's a -- a program called Girls Glory and one Saturday a month, they open up an opportunity for any young woman, young girl to come in and get their hair done in a style that they would like to have it done, whether it's braiding or whatever. And they leave not only with, -- a hairdo that they -- that they would like to have, but also a bag of hair care products so that they can maintain that hair. And can you imagine what sense of self-worth and sense of self-esteem that -- that child takes with them throughout the entire month. And -- and you can't put a price on that. You cannot put a price on that. So, I -- I really appreciate Senator Simmons bringing this piece of legislation. And I would ask that everyone support it. Because it really means, a lot to our children that are in our community.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Further discussion. Senator Tracy, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR TRACY:

Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to talk to the bill. I know.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

To the bill.

SENATOR TRACY:

I know we've had a lot of discussion on it, and certainly I very much understand the sponsors intention, and I think he's brought awareness. And I'm glad to hear we are talking about the children in the DCFS system because they've been ignored for too long. And... Thank you. They have been ignored and we have seen so

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many of those children fall to the wayside like trash. All of us have foster parents in our districts, and I'm wondering what they're thinking of this discussion. I recently had a foster parent who works in this very building come to me. She's taken foster children in, and she's thinking of quitting doing it. Because of the difficulty in working with the Department and getting the needs of the children she considers as her own while they're in her care. She had a child that couldn't get dental treatment. How important is that? How important? He wasn't going to have his secondary teeth come in, they were just missing. And finally, after our office's intervention, my great staff taking part in that, the child got necessary dental treatment. I'm concerned of -- of the cost and here's the reason, dental care/hair care. I'm concerned about the foster parents looking at one more haircare plan, being part of their thing when they can't even get necessary medical treatment for the children they represent, and they're dealing with having to balance what's best for their foster children and having to travel to take them to visit with the biological parents. And it is not easy. Is this one more thing that's going to cause somebody to say, "I'm done." The family I've dealt with recently, they're almost done. And they've had many foster children and provided them great homes. Foster children are vulnerable, we've all said it, they need our care and maybe now this discussion can broaden. They need our care and I don't know how much it's going to cost. I -- I have a reason to care because we're in a budget process right now. The Governor has asked all agencies to prepare for cuts. How much is this going to cost and how much will it come out of DCFS budget that they can't provide other services that these children need. And one other aspect, I -- I think got glossed over.

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Parenting is the toughest job in the world. Anybody that's been there, whether they're a parent or a foster parent, has realized that. And kudos to anybody that parents, because it is the toughest job in the world. You don't know if you're doing it right at the time. The best dad I ever observed is my husband, and many times my children will request things hair, shoes, whatever. But he's always said, you know, my job is to parent and guide you. I am not there to be your best friend. And I think that gets lost in this Chamber. We want to give all to everybody. Yes, we want children to feel good about themselves, but we lose the fact of what it means to be a parent. And that means to foster character, foster and nurture growth in so many ways. And -- and yes, hair is a huge part of it. Their appearance, their -- their feeling good about themselves, but they also know -- need to be of the understanding that the parent is the parent, and let's not lose sight of that. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Further discussion. Senator Edly-Allen, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR EDLY-ALLEN:

Thank you, Mr. President. To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

To the bill.

SENATOR EDLY-ALLEN:

I'd like to commend the sponsor for bringing this bill. I was in committee and had the privilege and honor of hearing from the youth in, from the Advisory Board in DCFS care. So, thank you to the sponsor for bringing this this bill. As a former teacher, I'm familiar with an IEP. It's an individual education plan, which

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helps us meet the very specific needs of a child, including their social emotional needs. And I am extremely comforted to know that if I were to become a foster parent, that I would be educated and receive training and education in the care of hair, that of a child who may need different treatment or care than what I am familiar with. So, thank you for bringing this bill, and thank you for listening to the children in DCFS's care who brought this to you. And I encourage an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Further discussion. Senator Bryant, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR BRYANT:

Thank you, Mr. President. And, gosh, there's been some really great things said in regard to this bill. And first, Senator Simmons, I really do want to applaud you, for bringing to the Floor, I think an issue that is really important, and the issue of training have no, no dispute about at all. And I think that is really important. Many of you know, I came I had a very hard life growing up. My grandparents helped raise my sisters and I. We had foster kids that lived in our home that we grew up with. And I know how important some of those issues are. So, I just have a couple of questions, and it really goes to the heart of the bill itself, beyond the training component of it, because I do think the training is very important. But as one of the previous speakers said, in parts of this State and I think almost the whole State, there's a real difficulty right now in getting foster parents and often it's because of what's mandated of them, but sometimes it has to do with the cost. Right. So, one question that I have is the cost of taking those individuals to have not -- not the

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training component of this, but the cost of going to get a hair, item done. Like for instance, the -- the bill's written very broadly, so it could include hair color. I would argue it could include hair removal, even because it says all haircare, even microblading for brows, it doesn't seem to separate those kinds of issues. So, should that come up as one of the issues, who's responsible for that cost? Is it the foster parent in the allotment that they're given, or is it the State? Because I don't know a foster parent one, who doesn't run out of money by the end of the month and then add that -- add their own dollars into that. So, can you tell me how this cost would -- who the cost would be incurred to?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Simmons.

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator, for the question. The first thing I want to clarify about this legislation is that it is an opt in for -- for the youth that are in care. So, any -- any young person that's in that's in care, can decide that they need a haircare plan. Any young person in this plan could decide they need no haircare plan. It is impossible to estimate the cost of that because we don't know how many youth would even want to participate in this. We don't know how many, free options might be available to them. So, that I think that's getting a little bit out of the -- out of the scope of the legislation. But I want to I want to point out again that the youth state, Youth Advisory Board of DCFS will be working with JCAR to promulgate the rules around this with DCFS. So, the cost is really not an issue here.

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PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Bryant.

SENATOR BRYANT:

Well cost -- cost is an issue, if you're the person that's footing the bill. Right? So, I'm just -- I just want to know before JCAR hears this, is it your intent that DCFS would pick up this cost or the -- the foster parent, and then that would come out of their monthly allotment? And -- and you say that it's opt in, right? Opt in, not opt out.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Simmons.

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Thank you, Mr. President. So, to just repeat what I said before, the Youth Advisory Board will be working with DCFS and JCAR to promulgate the rules on this. The rules, once they are promulgated, will determine where the cost will be compensated for if there even is a cost.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Bryant.

SENATOR BRYANT:

Okay. I think in committee, DCFS indicated that it would be a cost to them, but I don't really. Honestly, the cost is not really what I'm asking about. The -- what I really would like to know. Well, the -- I am asking about the cost, obviously, because I want to know if it's going to hinder us from having additional foster care parents. Right? Because if it ends up coming out of their pockets, because, you know, when you're talking about color and microblading, this the bill, I just I just want you to say what your intent is. Is it your intent that someone would be able

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to go and get microblading, hair removal, things like that, or because that isn't what you're what I've heard said so far. So, as JCAR's making up these rules, since this is really vague, what is your intent in this?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Simmons.

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Thank you very much. Mr. President. I thank the Senator for the question. My intent with this legislation is to respect the intent of the youth that are in care.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Bryant.

SENATOR BRYANT:

Okay. Thank you. And I also to finish, I want to applaud you for bringing this. I think it came from your Youth Advisory Council. Is that right? So, I would ask this Body then to look at House Bill 4241, which came from my Youth Advisory Council in regard to pervert educators. So, I plan to support your bill. I hope you will support the things that my youth said, as well. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

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

SENATOR VENTURA:

To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

To the bill.

SENATOR VENTURA:

I find some of the earlier questions to be very disingenuous.

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This is a good bill. When my girls were very little, very young, they found great joy in brushing their own hair. It was one of the first things that they could do by themselves. Today, my teenage girls are proud that they can French braid their own hair and find great confidence in their own appearance. The ability for them to take care of themselves is one step closer to being a functional adult one day. So, why is this relevant? They have significantly different hair than I do because of their father's genes, and I have been unable in some ways, to really explain which products or tools they can use to help with their thick hair and their curly hair. I have -- I've had to refer them to my friends or health care professionals for advice because their parent, myself, did not have that experience nor that skill set. But because I care about my children and their confidence and their identity, I went out of my way to make sure that happens. We need to support all parents and all children in finding their confidence, even, or especially if that means additional training or investments. They matter too, and that is what this bill is saying. So, I too commend the sponsor and the Youth Advisory Board, and I urge an Aye vote. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Further discussion? Senator Collins, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR COLLINS:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I mean, President. I would like to thank the sponsor for bringing this important piece of legislation forward. And just a real quick thank you to Leader Lightford, because we share some of the same experiences, and for those who have actually had lived experiences in the foster care system who

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are in this room. Hearing some of the discussion is very disheartening because you have to walk in those shoes in order to understand why this bill is important, and why we have to stop politicizing any and everything around DCFS. My mother died when I was 5, she was 28. I was in a room with her, when she was unresponsive, I still remember that. A lot of us don't think that kids remember things, but we do, especially when it's traumatic. I was raised in a very toxic environment. I experienced every level of abuse you can think of, every level of abuse you can think of, in the same room my mother died in, till I was 13. Then I go into a system where I'm retraumatized. So, there's a lot of things we can fix about DCFS, but when I think about the previous speakers comments around the parent making the decision and the child listening to them, or the cost of how much it will be to pay for their hair, their haircare. It's just really disappointing. Because throughout my time of being in the system or being homeless or going to nine different schools before I settled at one, where I can actually focus and graduate on time. I lived in different communities, different environments, and I always felt out of place. Because of the way I looked, my skin color, my hair. Because people let you know that you're different. They also let you know that you stand out with what you wear. I know what it's like to wear shoes with holes in them, to walk in the snow to school. I know what it's like to wear the same uniform every single day. I did it while I was in foster care too. And I know what it's like not to be able to take care of your hair, or want to have some of the same things you see your classmates with, but you can't get it because the person you live with can't afford it. I understand that. I also understand what it looks like when you live with

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someone who do have the money to provide those things, right. But I think that when you become a foster parent, you know, through the door that you're taking on a responsibility of that child being like your own. Also know, as being a mother myself, I have three boys, they all have different personalities, different styles, and I remember trying to go that route of telling my child what to do and not really listening to them, didn't work out so well. So, one likes to wear these little twisty things in his hair. The other ones likes to wear this afro that looked like he, you know, I only want to say it, but it's some type of tapered look. I don't like it, but he likes it. It makes him feel good. And the youngest one that's 11. Like he'll go with whatever style, you know, we -- we agree on. I say that to say that the child has to have some -- some type of say. Because they are a smaller version of us, and they have, and we're preparing them for the world. And we're either going to prepare them to be someone to allow people to run over them, or to be someone that can have an open line of communication to meet people where they are, to resolve things, so forth. But they have to be able to have an open line of communication, especially when they're youth in care, because there's a lot that goes on in youth -- with a youth in care that goes unnoticed. That's why representation matters. That's why the leaders like Kimberly Lightford matters. Because having a voice like hers, or a voice like Senator Feigenholtz, people who have those experiences help someone like me. That's why I'm here. Because anytime we talk about foster care, youth in care, I can tell you what it was like being in that system, having to go from house to house with a plastic bag. But we changed that. Now they have dignity. They don't have to take a garbage bag to each house now, we change that.

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Leader Kim Buckner did that with his bill. Right. The Notification Bill that I passed two years ago, which give voice to youth in care because they didn't have that voice. It was like a revolving door. I have that lived experience, right. This should not be a conversation that goes almost into an hour, which I like to put my foot to the pedal on Fridays. We should not go over for an hour talking about hair. We should not be doing that, especially when the prior administration cut 500 beds, where our kids are now living on floors or getting exposed to the penitentiary when they haven't even committed a crime. Let's talk about how we create more beds for them. Improve the transitional housing for them. Give them real opportunities, real stability when they get out of the system. That's what we should be talking about. That's what we need to be bipartisan on. So, I encourage an Aye vote. Let's stop playing game with these young people. Young folks have to be heard at the table because this is their lives. Their lives depend on this. Everything that we're doing today affects their tomorrow. And they should have say, so I encourage an Aye vote. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Further discussion? Senator Hunter, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR HUNTER:

To the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

To the bill.

SENATOR HUNTER:

You know, I'm really disappointed to hear this debate and this conversation on the Floor. I'm blessed to have not been able -- some people may call it lucky for not having to go into the --

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the system as a ward of the State. Ever since I've been a legislator, I've been meeting with the Statewide Youth Advisory council at DCFS. I've been training them, I've been mentoring them, sometimes I would stay down here on weekends and spend a whole weekend with these kids when they're having their retreat down here. And just to hear the stories of the experiences that these children are going through when they were in their family homes, as well as, foster parents and it was quite sad to me. And so that's why I worked so hard passing legislation to try to improve their quality of life. Okay. Because these kids, they did not choose to go through what they've gone through. Many of the kids shared with me that -- well, the African American children were sharing with me that they were wards -- well their foster parents were -- were Caucasian and they did not know how to deal with their -- their kinky hair. So, what did they do? Rather than take them to a beauty salon or somewhere else or whatever, they would just cut their hair off and make them -- make the girls look like boys. And some of the girls I thought were boys. And they share with me how traumatized they became when they -- they -- they were mistreated again with their foster parents who are living off the State and they're paid to care for these children. And my colleagues on the other side are so concerned about the money that's costing. Look at the lifelong trauma that these kids are suffering even today. And if they do not receive the treatment that they need, they're going to carry it over throughout their lives. Their children, if they decide to have children, they are going to be traumatized and then you have a cycle of trauma and you're talking about the cost. We're talking about -- you're talking about money. I'm talking about life long trauma. That's a

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cost that costs more than the money that we're talking about here. So why don't you all get up off this crap? This doesn't make any sense at all. Playing games with people's lives. We're supposed to be bigger than this. You know, I testified in -- in -- in Committee on this bill and just sitting here listening -- listening -- there listening to the comments on the other side was so sickening to me. Don't you all have a better life? Why don't you spend more time trying to solve some of the problems that exist in these states. Let's start with the children, because they are our future. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Further discussion. Senator Preston, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR PRESTON:

To the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

To the bill.

SENATOR PRESTON:

You know, this is a very important conversation and out of it was born a lot. We talked about cultural and ethnic identities, we talked about cost, we've spoken about parents' rights. Of all the roles I've ever had, being a parent is the one that's the most important to me. And one of the biggest issues in my house, is dealing with my children and their hair. All six of them. And when I think about it, I want my kids to cut their hair and have a nice clean shaven but my boys don't want to. My daughters want to let their luxurious hair flow when they go to the beauty supply to get it. It cost a lot. I want them to wear it natural, but they don't. And where my wife and I landed on this is, this is so important

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that we give them the autonomy to carry the hairstyle that they want, because it makes them feel good. I remember a woman on my block, Miss Summerall. May she rest in peace. She adopted kids all the time and I'll never forget two kids, in particular, who she adopted because when they came to our neighborhood, they had long braids. Shortly thereafter, they came back with their short haircut, and we teased them. I teased them, I called them, having a toilet bowl haircut. And probably, why I won't forget them is because after I did that, the next thing I knew that I was getting welded on by those kids. They were so mad. I was a kid, we tease kids, but that was traumatic for them. And so, while I'm always looking and listening to all of the debates coming from both sides to learn from either the other side, I think that it will behoove those who spoke about the cost and all of these things that seem innocuous to people on this side of the aisle, to learn and listen from the remarks that have been made today by us. Senator Collins has spoken so eloquently about her experience in the system. This could have led to something totally different for her because of how she felt, how she was treated. When I looked up a minute ago in our Constitution, it talked about us working in these Chamber to give people the opportunity to pursue happiness. And at the bare minimum for children who have lost the most precious thing to all of us, which is their families. With a bare minimum, we can allow them to have their hair that makes them feel good, makes them feel like they actually own something about themselves when they've lost everything else. So, I encourage, an Aye vote, and I hope the Chamber recognizes how important this issue, because when we talk about cost on this debate, we have to remember and reflect on what was said here today and think, can we really afford the

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cost of not doing this for these children in this State, who we are here to govern for? I don't think the answer is Yes. We have to do this. To the -- to the sponsor, I thank you for carrying this important legislation. I urge an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

The final speaker seeking recognition is Senator Belt.

SENATOR BELT:

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President. I -- I really wasn't going to speak to this issue. But -- but there's been so much said about it and there's -- there's a sense of tone deafness going on about this issue. And in the in the immortal words of Marvin Gaye, what's -- what's going on? I just don't understand what we're doing when we're talking about hair. I -- I get a haircut every week, and I don't have much hair. My -- my -- my -- my dad is - was born in Mississippi in 1938. Picked cotton. My mom, 1941, picked cotton. And they allowed me to wear whatever hairstyle I wanted. It's called tolerance. And if you're talking about being a good parent, and I had my mom, my mom and my dad was married to 2018, till my mom died. So, I grew up in the house with my mom and dad there, and they allowed me to express myself. Because see it's really about expression. The great football player, Hall of Fame football player said, if you if you look good, you if you feel good and if you feel good, you play good. If everything in the world is taken away from me and I'm in dark and I'm holding on and I'm grasping to whatever it is that I have left. My mom is gone. My -- my -- my dad is gone. And I -- and I'm in foster care and all I have is my identity. And it's my hair, it's my mane. Then to the -- to the - - to the sponsor of this bill, thank you for bringing this on because that's all I have. And so, we can sit up here and we can

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pontificate and we can -- we can talk about the parents and the system and how much it costs. We're assigning a value to somebody's health. It's how I see myself. I come up here every Tuesday because on Mondays I get a haircut. Right. And to Kimberly's point, it ain't about black folk. I see white kids as a probation officer, as a aftercare officer, I've seen white kids with rocker cuts, buzz cuts, but that's their expression. And it's not up to you to understand it. It's up to you to have tolerance and meet them where they are. We're so tone deaf in this place, but I thank God for this side of the aisle. Vote, Aye.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, before we go to Senator Simmons close. If everyone can just make sure their computers are awake so we don't have any problems when the -- the roll is taken. Senator Simmons, to close.

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. I sincerely thank, everybody that spoke on this bill, for your passion for backing up the bill, for talking about your lived experiences. I want to thank everybody for a robust debate, even my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for -- for trying to understand this issue and raise some issues. In closing, I just need to touch on a few things for the record. First of all, this legislation is opt in. So, it -- it is meant to be broad. There are going to be young folks in this bill that are black, they're going to be young folks in this bill that are white, they're going to be young folks in this bill that are LGBTQ+, and two spirit. I really don't care. If they decide they want to have blue hair, if they decide that they have Appalachia or they have a rash and they need to get that hair

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treated, or they need to get something done to their scalp, I want them to be able to sit down with the DCFS caseworker, the foster parent, and that child, together, and come up for a plan that will respect the health and dignity of that child who is already been robbed of so much of their humanity by the systems in this State that have been broken for a long time. It was brought up earlier that there's a false choice here, where we should be spending money on tutoring and math and values and character. I just have to say that I am sick and tired as a person who was born in Ronald Reagan's America, of having people who are three times my age try to lecture me about what good values are and what good character is. You know who taught me about good value and good character, was my mother. And no one can ever replace what my mother taught me. Everything I do is about what my mother taught me. That is where I learned my values, and that is where I learned my character. And I want these children whose mothers and fathers have been taken away from them, to be able to express that -- that is deep within them, and that is God given. For others earlier, that talked about how well we should be paying for dental care and not for haircare, I want to remind you that there is no cost associated with this legislation, and that a lot of the haircare or -- or scalp care things that these young folks are going to need may not even cost a dime. And I join you in saying that we need to support dental care and health care for our young people. Progressives have been talking about that for decades and decades and decades. I'll put my name on the first piece of legislation that comes from either side of the aisle, that will make sure that every child in this State has health care, has dental health care, has mental health care, has access to specialty care, and everything else that they need to

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thrive and be productive adults in this State. It was brought up earlier that parenting is the toughest job in the world. Again, I just have to say for the record, that I don't need anyone in this room to lecture me about what it means to be a parent, because my mother was a single parent and she raised me as the oldest child. My sister is 11 years younger than me. My brother is 15 years younger than me. You better believe that I co-parented. You better believe that I picked him up for school. You better believe that I fed them. You better believe that. That tried to play the role of a mental health practitioner when I had no such training to do that role. Because the systems in the state have been broken and have failed these children for two too long. And so, all I'm asking you to do today is support a piece of legislation that will allow these parents to bond with these children, to have a good relationship with these children, so that when these children become adults, they will love their parents, their foster parents, their foster parents will love them back. And we will have households that not broken and rooted in oppression. And we'll have young people that come out of these foster care systems that can serve as State Senators in this room someday. Just like my sister on this side of the aisle talked about a few moments ago. That is what the vision is here for today. That is what the intent is on this legislation. And in closing, I want to also point out for the record that the cost that might come out of this bill will not fall on the foster parents. This bill will not, will not retard the recruitment of foster parents in the slightest. I just - I really want to make sure for the record, I refute that. This is not going to make it harder for us to find foster parents. Because this legislation, if you read it, is clear that it will not fall

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on the foster parents. So, I ask everybody in this room to vote yes on this legislation. Hair has been targeted for too long in this country. If we go back to the Jim Crow era, the three things that were typically targeted were skin color, hair, and facial features. I don't think anybody in this room wants to be on the side of Jim Crow America. So, vote for this legislation and do right by these children. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

The question is, shall House Bill 5097 pass. All those in favor vote, Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted a wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 59{sic} (49) Senators voting Yea, 9 voting No, 0 voting Present. House Bill 5097, having received the constitutionally required majority, is declared passed. Senator Hunter, for what purpose do you seek recognition?
SENATOR HUNTER:

Mr. President, I pressed the speak button instead of the Yes button. Please -- please, give me credit for -- I forgot the name of the bill number. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

The record will reflect your intention. Senator Bryant, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR BRYANT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker {sic} (President). I would ask that the record reflect that I intended to vote Yes on Senate Bill 1400.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

The record will reflect your intention. Mark{sic} (Max) Cotton from WGEM Gray TV seeks leave to record video and audio of today's proceedings, and Edward (Andrew) Adams from Capitol News

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Illinois seeks leave to photograph and record -- audio record today's proceedings. See no objection. Leave is granted. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, if you turn your printed record (Calendar) to page 14, you will see at the very top of that page under Secretary's Desk Resolutions, Senate Joint Resolution 49 from Leader Lightford. She indicates she wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Joint Resolution 49, offered by Senator Lightford.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Leader Lightford, on your resolution.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, This is a bill that was brought before us, as a result of school social workers and school psychologists, school counselors and school nurses, and also speech-language pathologists working in schools wanting to gather this additional support system to help kids. So, what this bill does is it directs the Professional Review Panel and the State Board of Education to analyze and create a financial model that evaluates the impact of implementing recommended maximum caseloads for these services. I'd be happy to answer questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none. Because this Resolution calls for the expenditure of State funds a roll call vote is necessary. The question is, on Senate Joint Resolution 49 -- shall Senate Joint Resolution 49 pass. All those in favor vote, Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted a wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On

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that question, there are 58 Senators voting Yes, 0 voting No, and 0 voting Present. Senate Joint Resolution 49, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Next in the Order we have Senate Joint Resolution 54 from Senator Edly-Allen. She indicates she wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Joint Resolution 54, offered by Senator Edly-Allen.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Edly-Allen, on your resolution.

SENATOR EDLY-ALLEN:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Joint Resolution 54 declares the City of Zion as the 2024 Zinnia Capitol of Illinois. This is an initiative that is extremely important to my community and Zion, led by our township supervisor, Sherry Neal. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

The question is, shall Senate Joint Resolution 54 pass. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. We will now proceed to the Order of Consent Calendar congratulatory resolutions. Mr. Secretary, have there been any objections filed to any resolution on the Consent Calendar?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No objections filed, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the resolutions on the Consent Calendar be adopted. All those in favor say, Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, the motion carries and the resolutions are adopted. We will now proceed to the Order of

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Consent Calendar celebration of life resolutions. With leave of the Body all those resolutions read in today will be added to the Consent Calendar. Mr. Secretary, have there have been any objections filed to any resolution on the Consent Calendar?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No objections filed, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the resolutions on the Consent Calendar be adopted. All those in favor say, Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, the motion carries and the resolutions are adopted. There being no further business to come before the Senate, the Senate stands adjourned until the hour of 4 p.m. on the 20th Day of May 2024. The Senate stands adjourned.