

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
104th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

78th Legislative Day

2/26/2026

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

The regular Session of the 104th General Assembly will please come to order. Will Members please be at their desks? Will the guests in the galleries please rise? The written invocation today will be given by Pastor Scott Marsh, Texas Christian and Maroa Christian Churches in Maroa, Illinois. Pastor.

PASTOR SCOTT MARSH: (Invocation)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

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

SENATOR JOHNSON: (Pledge of Allegiance)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

We have a request from BlueRoomStream to video stream and from Capitol News to photo and record. Seeing no objection, leave is granted. Mr. Secretary, Reading and Approval of the Journal.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Journal of Wednesday, February 25th, 2026.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Glowiak Hilton.

SENATOR GLOWIAK HILTON:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

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

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Senator Glowiak Hilton, Chair of the Committee on Licensed Activities, reports Senate Bills 3325, 3496, 3620, 3645 and 3676 Do Pass and Senate Bills 2806, 2846 and 2879 Do Pass, as Amended. Senator Joyce, Chair of the Committee on State Government, reports Senate Bill 2859 Do Pass, Senate Bill 3643 Do Pass, as Amended and Senate Resolutions 460 and 487 Be Adopted. Senator Hastings, Chair of the Committee on Judiciary, reports Senate Bills 2816, 3379 and 3524 Do Pass. Senator Johnson, Chair of the Committee on Local Government, reports Senate Bills 2769, 2770 and 3565 Do Pass, as Amended. Senator Turner, Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, reports Senate Bills 3512 and 3640 Do Pass; Senate Bills 2756 and 3152 Do Pass, as Amended. Senator Ventura, Chair of the Committee on Human Rights, reports Senate Bill 3340 Do Pass, as Amended. Senator Ellman, Chair of the Committee on Environment and Conservation, reports Senate Bill 3422 Do Pass.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Mr. Secretary, Introduction and Reading of Senate Bills for the first time.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 4164, offered by Senator Sims, an Act concerning appropriations. 1st Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Mr. Secretary, Messages from the House.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

A Message from the House by Mr. Hollman, Clerk. Mr. President, I am directed to inform the Senate the House of Representatives has passed bills of the following titles, the passage of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit: House Bill 1088. We have received like message on

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House Bills 1391, 2539, 3454 and 3769. Passed the House, February 25th, 2026. John W. Hollman, Clerk of the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Mr. Secretary, House Bills 1st Reading.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 3769, offered by Senator Morrison, an Act concerning regulation. 1st Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Belt, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR BELT:

Point of announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Please make your announcement.

SENATOR BELT:

Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize a very special guest from the 57th Senate District who's with us in the gallery today. Tammy -- Tammy Bush(-)Hamilton. Tammy is here in Springfield because of a bill we have introduced this spring. Senate Bill 2771, Tammura's Act, which is named in honor of her daughter. Tammy joined us earlier at a press conference as we discussed our efforts to expand access to mental health care and strengthen suicide prevention across Illinois. She is here sharing her story and turning something deeply personal into advocacy that will help families all across the State. It takes an incredible amount of courage to do what she is doing, and we are grateful that she made the trip to be with us here today. So without any further ado, please join me in giving Tammy Bush a warm welcome to the Illinois Senate.

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Welcome to the Illinois Senate. We're going to the middle of page 4, it's House Bills 3rd Reading. This is final action. It's House Bill 598, Senator Villanueva. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 598, an Act concerning government. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Villanueva on your bill.

SENATOR VILLANUEVA:

Thank you, Mr. President. House Bill 598 includes 2 property tax proposals. The first one pushes back Cook County's 2023 property tax sale application for judgment and order of sale from March 10th, 2026 until December 1st, 2026. And this change basically allows the General Assembly to try to address the Tyler V. Hennepin property tax issue prior to Cook County commencing its property tax sale. This Body has already voted on this measure several times because you know, in the Senate, we try to do good work. Unfortunately, it fell short in the House, but we're trying to do it one more time. The second proposal, is basically beginning in the 2026 tax year that a qualifying taxing districts aggregate extension base shall be calculated as though the districts aggregated extension include the amount of an abatement received pursuant to the Energy Community Reinvestment Act. These provisions specifically apply to a qualifying taxing district that contains a nuclear power plant that was decommissioned, but that continue to store nuclear waste before January 1st, 2023. Again, the Senate has already voted on provisions of this bill several times. We're just trying to get it home, in order to give us some

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more time to try to address the larger issue that was determined during the Tyler V. Hennepin decision. And to try to do it right and make sure that we're keeping people in their homes and helping people in the State of Illinois. I'm here to answer questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Seeing no discussion. The question is, shall House Bill 598 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 43 voting Yea, 7 voting Nay, none voting Present. And House Bill 598 having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Okay, we're going to go back to page 2, we're going to go to Senate Bills 2nd Reading, we're going to start at the top of the page, Senator Preston on 2737, Senator Morrison on Senate Bill 2749. Senator Anderson on Senate Bill 2782. Senate Bill 2790, Senator Murphy. Senator Morrison, Senate Bill 2797. Senator Morrison, Senate Bill 2799. Senator Johnson on Senate Bill 2836. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 2836, an Act concerning local government. 2nd Reading of the bill. The Committee on Local Government adopted Amendment No. 1.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Have there been any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

3rd Reading. Continuing on down the list, Senate Bill 2878,

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Senator Morrison. Senator Cunningham on Senate Bill 2886. Senator Morrison on Senate Bill 2910. Senator Joyce on Senate Bill 3018. Senator Joyce. Senator Joyce. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.  
SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 3018, an Act concerning finance. 2nd Reading of the bill. No committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

3rd Reading. Now on Senate Bill 3106, Senator Halpin. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 3106, an Act concerning education. 2nd Reading the bill. No committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

3rd Reading. Senator Guzmán, on Senate Bill 3465. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 3465, an Act concerning health. 2nd Reading of the bill. No committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

3rd Reading. Senator Sims on Senate Bill 3593. Senator Faraci on Senate Bill 3632. Senator Faraci. Senator Faraci. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 3632, an Act concerning children. 2nd Reading of the bill. No committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

3rd Reading. Senator Edly-Allen, on Senate Bill 3720. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

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Senate Bill 3720, an Act concerning education. 2nd Reading of the bill. The Committee on Higher Education adopted Amendment No. 1.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Have there been any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

3rd Reading. Leave of the Body, we'll go back to Senate Bill 2886, Senator Cunningham. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 2886, an Act concerning health. 2nd Reading of the bill. No committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

3rd Reading. Just an announcement. Next Friday, March 6th, is deadline for committee amendments at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Next Friday at 3 in the afternoon is deadline for committee amendments. Leader Curran, for what purpose do you seek recognition.

SENATOR CURRAN:

For an announcement, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Please state your announcement.

SENATOR CURRAN:

Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to take a moment to honor the memory of a former member of our Senate Republican family, Dan Egler, who passed away last month. Dan grew up on a family farm in Indiana and proudly attended Indiana University, where he earned

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a bachelor's degree in journalism. He began reporting for the Chicago Tribune in the summer of 1969 before being drafted into the United States Army, where he proudly served his country before his honorable discharge in August of 1971. When Dan returned to the Chicago Tribune, he spent over 14 years covering the highs and lows of Illinois State Government as a reporter, and eventually as their Statehouse Bureau Chief. He left journalism to join Governor Jim Edgar's administration as an Associate Press Secretary and speechwriter, where he coined Governor Edgar's famous line that it was time for State government "to tear up the credit card". Eventually, Dan joined our Senate family, working for former Republican leader Bill Brady here at the Capitol and also out on the campaign trail. After retiring, Dan would often check in with our staff, and I learned after Dan passed away from my Press Secretary that he oftentimes had feedback and advice on my own presentations, which, as you've all seen, are lacking. So I appreciate Dan's guidance. Our thoughts are with Dan's two daughters, Liz and Melissa Egler and his bonus daughter, Liz's wife, Sandy Nickel and their two sons, Ben and Josh. Dan will be remembered as a brilliant writer, shrewd strategist, valued friend of many, and beloved father and grandfather. He will be truly missed, but his legacy will live on in -- in this building and around the State for many years to come. So with that, I'd like to ask for a moment of silence, Mr. President, for Dan to send our love and prayers to his family and all who loved him.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Members will observe a moment of silence. (Moment of silence observed) Thank you. Leader Curran.

SENATOR CURRAN:

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Thank you, Mr. President. I have another announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Please state your announcement.

SENATOR CURRAN:

I -- it is -- it is my pleasure to recognize, at this time, a truly dedicated Member, retiring Member of the Illinois Senate Republican staff, Ray Watt. Ray joined the Illinois Senate staff in 1992, and technically, he retired at the end of December. But we could not quite let Ray go yet, and we've had Ray sticking around helping us out. But, that -- that raised graciousness in helping us transition is coming to an end here. Ray came to the Capitol after a successful career in radio, in broadcasting, including his time at WYRT in Edwardsville, where his talent and professionalism caught the attention of Senate staff who actively pursued him. Prior to his Senate career, Ray worked in news and talk radio across Central and Southern Illinois and the Metro East, building a reputation as a trusted voice. He brought the same skill set to the Senate, where he helped translate complicated legislative language into clear, concise messages that Senators could share with their constituents to explain what really was happening here in Springfield. Radio stations across Illinois came to rely on his legislative summaries, always delivered with his signature sign-off, "in Springfield, I'm Ray Watt". Ray has worn many hats over the years, juggling countless responsibilities, including overseeing radio and media monitoring and doing it all with professionalism, intelligence, and dedication. And yes, it's true, he still has his reel-to-reel machine standing in his office, a reminder that while technology has changed, Ray's commitment to quality never has. He's a longtime Senate Republican staffer who

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truly believes in the goals and principles of the organization he serves, and is a man you want on your team. Ray is known for his ideas, his work ethic, his willingness to put in long hours, on and off the clock, not just to get his own work done, but to help others succeed. He has been a mentor to more people than we can count and has always been willing to lend a helping hand, guided by his kind heart and a sharp wit. Ray is an intelligent and thorough researcher whose deep knowledge of the issues has been invaluable resource to the Senate Republican Caucus and his fellow staffers. Now, outside of work, Ray seeks knowledge and inspiration from the heavens, both as an avid astronomer and through his faith, as a devout Catholic. Ray is a devoted husband to Trudy, a proud father to Ray Jr., and a loving owner of his rescue dog, Roscoe. Ray is known for dressing head to toe in black and sporting one of the most impressive mustaches in the Capitol. And has truly been an institution around here. In retirement once we let Ray walk out the door here, he plans on traveling out west to visit filming sites of his favorite westerns, take on long overdue household projects, and enjoy camping and fishing, two passions. Ray, you are more than a colleague, you are friends with so many in the building. We want you to know how deeply people rely on your talents, your friendship, and your steady presence. On behalf of our entire Senate Republican Caucus, thank you for your decades of dedicated service, your loyalty and your commitment to this institution. You will always be a part of the Senate Republican family. We want to wish you and your family all the best in a happy retirement.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Congratulations. Senator Hunter, for what purpose do you

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seek recognition.

SENATOR HUNTER:

For the purpose of an announcement, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Please state your announcement.

SENATOR HUNTER:

Thank you very much. Good afternoon, everyone. As you all know, we lost a legend last week. Someone who we all admire. Someone who was a hardworking man. Someone whose dedication to service we should all strive to embody. And that someone -- and that someone is the late Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr. Resolution 637 honors his life and legacy. He was a civil rights icon who work -- who left a mark everywhere he went. And he and - - and the work he did here in Illinois will never be forgotten or gone unnoticed. He built a strong foundation for advancing the rights of black Americans and poor people, fighting for over 60 years of social -- for social justice and equality, creating programs such as Operation Push and the National Rainbow Coalition, and leaving such a prominent impact in the progress -- process. Sorry. Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr. was a man who spent his entire life fighting for everyone. He remained dedicated to civil rights, traveling all across the country and the world to assure that Americans and other people basically had a fair chance. That is a life that we all should seek to live, inspire one another, creating a world of unity and equality and as he once reminded us, keep hope alive. To Reverend Jackson, we thank you and honor you for all that you have done, not just for Illinois, but for -- for around the nation and mankind. Thank you, Mr. President.

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We'll observe a moment of silence. (Moment of Silence). Thank you. We will now proceed to the Order of the Consent Calendar. Celebrations 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 been any objections to any resolutions filed on the Consent Calendar?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No objections filed, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the resolutions on the Consent Calendar be adopted? All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the motion carries and the resolutions are adopted. Mr. Secretary, Messages from the House.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

A Message from the House by Mr. Hollman, Clerk. Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate the House of Representatives has adopted the following joint resolution, in the adoption of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit: House Joint Resolution 57, offered by Senator Cervantes. Resolved by the House of Representatives of the 104th General Assembly of the State of Illinois, the Senate concurring herein, that when the two Houses adjourned on Thursday, February 26th, 2026, the House of Representatives stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 18th, 2026. And when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Thursday, March 19th, 2026. And when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Friday, March 20th, 2026. And when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until March 24th, 2026 or to the call of the Speaker and the Senate

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stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026. And when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 4th, 2026. And when adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Thursday, March 5th, 2026. And when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 10th, 2026. And when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 11th, 2026. And when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until Thursday, March 12th, 2026. And when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until March 13th, 2026. And when it adjourns on that day, it stands adjourned until March 24th, 2026, or to the call of the President. Adopted by the House, February 25th, 2026. John W. Hollman, Clerk of the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

On the Order of Resolutions is House Joint Resolution 57. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Joint Resolution 57, offered by Senator Cervantes.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Cervantes moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of immediate consideration and adoption of House Joint Resolution 57. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, say Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Cervantes now moves for the adoption of House Joint Resolution 57. All in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. There being no further business to come before the Senate pursuant to House Joint Resolution 57, the Senate stands adjourned until noon on the 3rd day of March, 2026, or to the call of the President. The Senate stands adjourned.