

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE

45th Legislative Day

5/12/2023

Speaker Hoffman: "The House will come to order. Members, please be in your chairs. We shall be led in prayer today by Wayne Padget, the Assistant Doorkeeper. Members and guests are asked to refrain from starting their laptops, turn off all cell phones, and please rise for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Assistant Doorkeeper Mr. Padget."

Assistant Doorkeeper Padget: "Let us pray. Father, you know my needs and concerns. Bless me and those I love and may today bring me closer to you. And, Father, finally, bless this House and all who serve here. Amen."

Speaker Hoffman: "We will led... be led in the Pledge of Allegiance today by Representative Slaughter."

Slaughter - et al: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Speaker Hoffman: "Roll Call for Attendance. Leader Evans is recognized to report any excused absences on the Democratic side of the aisle. Leader Evans."

Evans: "Mr. Speaker, let the record show that Representative Collins, Will Davis, Jones, and Stuart are excused today."

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

Keicher: "Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Please let the record reflect that Representative Sosnowski is excused for today."

Speaker Hoffman: "Have all recorded themselves who wish? Have all recorded themselves who wish? Have all recorded themselves who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. There being 112

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Members answering the roll call, a quorum is present.
Representative Swanson seeks recognition."

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

Speaker Hoffman: "Please state your point."

Swanson: "Thank you. Today, at 1500 hours, or translated to 3 p.m., Western Illinois University Reserve Training... Reserve Officer Training Course, ROTC, will conduct their commissioning ceremony. Six cadets will receive... recite their oath of office and pin on the rank of second lieutenant. In a couple days, they will graduate from WIU and head off to their military assignments and to their military schools. Those cadets, who will soon be a second lieutenant, include Cole Anderson, who will be joining the Army Reserve and be a military police career field; Juddie Beauchamp, will be going on active duty and serving as an armorer, a female soldier going as an armor within the military; Jace Cadet, active duty, and he'll be in the transportation corp; Charles Janes, Army Reserve, and he, too, will be a military policeman; Sabrina Krog, active duty, and she'll be entering the infantry; Schuyler Wardlow, Army Reserve, and he'll be entering the ordinance field. All acrossed Illinois and all acrossed our nation, young men and women will pin on that butter bar recognizing them as a second lieutenant entering in their military career and becoming officers of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marines. I would... I would ask that we all give these six young, soon-to-be second lieutenants a round of applause. And as we thank... we thank them also for their service and for what they're going to be doing for our country. Thank you."

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Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Faver Dias is recognized on House Resolution 251."

Faver Dias: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I'd like to introduce two of my favorite constituents. I know we're not supposed to have favorites, but these are my twin boys, Anderson and Parker Dias. And they are here to present House Resolution 251 to me. It is an initiative of the American Lung Association. And asthma is something that affects our family profoundly. And so, I'm proud to have them on the House Floor with me today. House Resolution 251 says, whereas, asthma is a chronic lung disease that impacts 25.2 million people in the United States, including 4.2 million children. An estimated 188,519 children and 832,244 adults in the State of Illinois suffer from asthma. Asthma is a leading cause of childhood hospitalizations in Illinois. Asthma symptoms are severely worsened by environmental triggers, such as secondhand smoke, allergens, and outdoor air pollution caused by industrial sources and motor vehicle emissions. Guidelines-based care for asthma sufferers improves health outcomes, including quality and affordable health care coverage that provides access to and appropriate use of medications and treatments, and the universal alignment of Medicaid coverage across plans within the state. The month of May has been designated as Asthma Awareness Month and the date of May 2, 2023 has been declared World Asthma Day... by the House of Representatives of the 103rd General Assembly in the State of Illinois that we declare May 2023 as Asthma Awareness Month in the State of Illinois. We support the 2021 through 2026 Illinois Asthma State Plan, which strives to

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improve and expand asthma care, education, and self-management strategies in Illinois. Thank you so much."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Syed."

Syed: "I rise today as we celebrate Asian American Pacific Island... do I have to ask for a point of... point of personal privilege."

Speaker Hoffman: "Please state your point."

Syed: "I rise today, as we celebrate Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, to recognize the contributions of a legendary civil rights pioneer and anti-racism activist Yuri Kochiyama. Born in California in 1921, Kochiyama lived a normal life for her first 21 years. However, after... after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, federal authorities claimed that her ailing father was an agent of the Japanese government and detained him as a national security threat. He died just one day after his return home. Soon after, Kochiyama and her family were forcibly removed from their homes and placed at an incarceration site for Japanese Americans. That defining moment as a young adult and the subsequent years of racism she witnessed drove her to become an activist. In the 60s and 70s, while continuing her work for Asian American rights and with the civil rights movement, she became a high-profile advocate for Puerto Rican independence. In the early 2000s, Kochiyama shifted her focus to strongly condemning and combating the spread of islamophobia following 9/11. I chose to highlight Yuri Kochiyama because of the critical work she has done for the broader Asian American community as a... her work to advance civil... civil liberties in the protections for other communities of color. Her work is a reminder that when we uplift other communities, we uplift ourselves and that the

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fight for justice needs to be all encompassing. Thank you so much."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Ladisch Douglass."

Ladisch Douglass: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Members of the House. I rise today to welcome the family of Senior Legislative Coordinator Darrin Reinhardt. His family, including some members from Germany, are up in the gallery to the left. [Spoke in German.] Could I get a round of applause?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Caulkins, for what reason do you rise?"

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

Speaker Hoffman: "Please state your point."

Caulkins: "Thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise today to recognize the service of a man who's dedicated the last 20-plus years of his life to keeping the citizens of Illinois, specifically Chicago and Cook County, safe. Now, you won't see him faded at a rally or honored at a big retirement gathering. You probably don't even know his name, but I think it's important to honor his service here today. So, if you will please repeat his name with me. Jason Poje. Yes, Jason Poje. A 20-plus year assistant state's attorney and criminal prosecutor who worked tirelessly every day, long hours, weekends, holidays, to protect you and your families. Fortunately, Jason wrote a little goodbye email that we all need to read. And if you'd like to read it, I will send it to you, a copy of that email, but I'm not going to read it in its entirety. However... so in the interest of brevity, let me just read you a couple of quotes in Jason's own words. 'The simple fact is that the state and county have set themselves

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on a course of disaster. And the worst part is that the agency for whom I work has backed literally every policy change that had predictable and predicted outcome of more crime and more people getting hurt. Bond reform designed to make sure no one stays in jail while their cases are pending with no safety net to handle more criminals on the streets. Shorter parole periods. Lower sentences for repeat offenders. The malicious and unnecessary prosecution of law enforcement officers..."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Caulkins, please bring your remarks to a close."

Caulkins: "I'm almost finished."

Speaker Hoffman: "Good."

Caulkins: "'Over use of the diversion programs. Intentionally not pursuing prosecution for crimes lawfully on the books. All of these so-called reforms have had a direct negative impact with consequences that will last a generation. The unavoidable consequences are what we are witnessing in real time. An increase in crime of all kinds, businesses and families pulling up stakes, and bodies piling up.' Jason concluded his letter with this, 'I will not rise... or raise my son here. I am fortunate to have the means to escape, so my entire family is leaving the State of Illinois. I grew up here, my family and friends are here, and yet, my own employer has turned it into a place from which I am no longer proud to be and of which my son, five-year-old, is not safe.' I hope all of you will join me in honoring a real public servant who you all have driven out of this state. Listen to his words. Think about the crime and the destruction your policies have

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caused. You voted for this. Now, it's up to you to fix it.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Tarver, for what reason do you
seek recognition?"

Tarver: "A brief point of personal privilege."

Speaker Hoffman: "Please state your point."

Tarver: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to take a moment to
say happy birthday to my good friend of almost 20 years, the
little brother I never wanted, Kambium Elijah Buckner. Happy
birthday."

Speaker Hoffman: "Happy birthday. Representative, you're older
than him? Representative Hanson."

Hanson: "Point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Hoffman: "Please state your point."

Hanson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is National Correctional
Officers Week. And today, I want to take a moment to recognize
the men and women who serve as correctional officers across
our state. This is not an easy job. It's often an overlooked
job. But it's critically an important one. These individuals
deal with difficult and sometimes dangerous situations on a
regular basis while protecting our courts and correctional
facilities. There's no question it can take a significant
mental and physical toll. But fortunately, we're home to many
dedicated and brave correctional officers who are dedicated
to providing the proper care and rehabilitative services
needed. One of those wonderful individuals is our colleague
from Rock Island, Gregg Johnson. He's now retired from that
chapter of his life, but Gregg served as a corrections officer
and supervisor for 32 years. Thank you for your service,

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Gregg. It's an honor to serve and to learn from you every day. And thank you to all of our correctional officers working hard right now to keep our communities safe. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Thank you, Gregg. Leader Evans is recognized on House Resolution 276. Leader Evans."

Evans: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the great Members of the Assembly. I rise with this sad news. I live in the Avalon Park community of the 8th Ward of Chicago, where I've lived many years and proudly lived. And unfortunately, we lost a future leader of the 8th Ward of Chicago, we lost a future leader of Avalon Park, and we lost a future leader of Chicago Police Department and, quite frankly, the State of Illinois. This young lady was on track to do so much, but, unfortunately, she was taken away from us. And it's a, you know... Jason Mendonca was a good friend of her family. He helped me prepare this Resolution. So, just in her honor, I want to read the Resolution, make a few remarks about how much we miss her, we're going to miss her. But hopefully, the words of this Resolution will show you that in her short 24 years, only 24 years, that she truly made an impact to society.

WHEREAS, The Members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn the death of Chicago police officer Aréanah Preston, who was killed in the line of duty on May 6, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Aréanah Preston was born on June 7, 1998; she attended high school at UIC College Prep; she graduated from Illinois State University in 2019 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and law enforcement administration, where she was a

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member of the National Association of Colored Women's Club; she earned a Master of Jurisprudence from the Loyola University Chicago School of Law and was set to walk the stage on May 13, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Aréannah Preston spent three years with the Chicago Police Department and was assigned to the 5th District, which includes the Roseland, Pullman, West Pullman, and Altgeld Garden communities; and

WHEREAS, Since childhood, Aréannah Preston wanted to be a police officer; she was dedicated to making a difference to show young people that law enforcement could have a strong positive impact in every community; and

WHEREAS, After Illinois State University's inaugural Social Justice: Trip Through Genocide experience, Aréannah Preston was troubled by the underrepresentation of minorities in law enforcement and by too many incidents of police brutality claiming the lives of unarmed people of color; and

WHEREAS, Based on that experience Aréannah took action... she turned the thought into action by entering the academy for the Chicago Police Department with the goal of building trust between law enforcement and underrepresented communities; and

WHEREAS, Aréannah Preston was quoted after this trip, saying "I know a big thing for our trip was finding voices for those who didn't have a voice. When I got back, I wanted to be an officer. I felt like I could be a person to fight for justice. I wish everyday that I could go back. I had ideas but didn't know how to vocalize them. The trip made me a stronger person." She wanted to do something; and

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WHEREAS, Aréannah Preston will be remembered as an uplifting, courageous, and intelligent young woman with unlimited potential; and

WHEREAS, Aréannah Preston is survived by her mother, her father, her younger twin sisters, and numerous extended family members and friends that extend down here to the Capitol; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of this leader, of this champion, the Chicago police officer Aréannah Preston and extend our sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the Office of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker, Mayor-Elect, our Mayor, the chief of the police, and her family of Aréannah Preston as an expression of our deepest sympathies. Ladies and Gentlemen, we lost one of the best, but we must continue on in her... it's just very difficult. Must continue on in her thoughts because Avalon Park is filled and the Chicago South Side is filled with so many good folks. And we got to somehow figure out how to get them to the finish line. So, my ride home, that three-hour ride back to Chicago, is going to feel like six hours 'cause I'm thinking about tomorrow. She was going to be graduating. So, thank you for your time. Pray for our community. Pray for her family. And thank you, Jason, for getting these words together 'cause I couldn't do it. So, thank you so much."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Tarver."

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Tarver: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Marcus, for reading that Resolution. You and I had a conversation. Avalon Park is not terribly out... far outside of my district. Not terribly far out of Kam's district. And part of the conversation that we had is, you know, while we don't always want to look at penalty enhancements and things along those lines, when we look at a situation like this, when we're snuffing out the absolutely best and brightest that we have and individuals who actually want to go and do the right thing, maybe it's time to have a conversation about some of the policies that we pass. I know that's not a popular opinion, particularly on our side of the aisle, but I think it's a worthwhile one. I'm someone who always is all too happy to keep law enforcement from stepping outside of bounds, but we have to look at things the other way as well. The other thing I'll say about this story is the mom of one of those boys turned him in, and I really appreciate her for doing the right thing. And I know that will get lost in the story and it should be... the focus should be rightfully on the officer who was killed. But it's good to know that we have parents out there who are willing to hold their children accountable. Because if we had more of that, we'd probably have less of these very unfortunate and grave instances. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Cabello."

Cabello: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Officer Preston, from everything that I have heard, was an officer that was a rising star. In her short time, she did have a lasting impact on the Chicago Police Department. She will have a lasting impact on the police profession. Somebody that we can all strive to look at

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and try to be. She did what a lot of people can't do. A lot of people can't wear that badge, but 99.9 percent of the people that do, wear it with honor. She was a bright light in law enforcement, cut down way to early. Marcus, you and I were talking, you said that you think that she could've been eventually the superintendent on the Chicago Police Department. When folks like these are cut down and left dying on the side of the road or in a yard, we hope and pray that she didn't suffer. We hope and pray that those that did this horrible act will be brought to justice. I'm asking, along with Leader Evans, to make sure that she is never forgotten. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "The House will observe a moment of silence. Thank you. Clerk, Committee Reports."

Clerk Hollman: "Committee Reports. Representative Walsh, Chairperson from the Committee on Public Utilities reports the following committee action taken on May 12, 2023: recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment(s) 2 to House Bill 2875. Representative Lilly, Chairperson from the Committee on Appropriations-Health & Human Services reports the following committee action taken on May 12, 2023: recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 3698. Representative Mussman, Chairperson from the Committee on Elementary & Secondary Education: School Curriculum & Policies reports the following committee action May 12, 2023: recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment(s) 1 to Senate Bill 2243. Representative Walker, Chairperson from the Committee on State Government Administration reports the following committee action taken on May 12, 2023: recommends be adopted

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is Floor Amendment(s) 3 to Senate Bill 684. Representative West, Chairperson from the Committee on Ethics & Elections reports the following committee action on May 12, 2023: recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment(s) 1 to House Bill 351."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Hammond seeks recognition."

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

Speaker Hoffman: "Please state your point."

Hammond: "I would just like to take this opportunity to wish my little friend, Kam Buckner, a happy birthday. Happy birthday, Representative."

Speaker Hoffman: "We're moving to House Bills-Second Reading. On page 2 of the Calendar appears House Bill 676, Representative Hirschauer. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 676, a Bill for an Act concerning safety. This Bill was read a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendments 1, 2, and 3 have been approved for consideration. Floor Amendment #1 is offered by Representative Hirschauer."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Hirschauer."

Hirschauer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Floor Amendment 1 strikes a component of the omnibus Bill that pertain to the discharge of firearms within the county code. And it eliminates some opposition. I ask for its adoption."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Hirschauer moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #1 to House Bill 676. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all opposed 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment

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is adopted. Third Reading. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk.
Move that back to Second Reading, Mr. Clerk. Amendment #2..."

Clerk Hollman: "Amendment #2, offered by Representative
Hirschauer, has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Hirschauer on Floor Amendment
#2."

Hirschauer: "Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Floor Amendment #2 corrects an
error in drafting of the prepackaged explosive component
section of the Bill in which prepackaged explosive components
were erroneously treated like firearms and they should be
treated like ammunition. The other edits bring clarity to
what is required of law enforcement when serving orders of
protection and seizure orders. I ask for its adoption."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Hirschauer moves for the
adoption of Floor Amendment #2 to House Bill 676. All those
in favor say 'aye'; all opposed 'nay'. In the opinion of the
Chair, the 'ayes' have it. The Amendment is adopted. Further
Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Hollman: "Floor Amendment #3 is offered by Representative
Hirschauer and has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Hirschauer on Floor Amendment
#3."

Hirschauer: "I'd like to adopt the Amendment and discuss the Bill
as a whole on Third Reading."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Hirschauer moves for the
adoption of Floor Amendment #3 to House Bill 676. All those
in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all opposed 'nay'. In the
opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment
is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

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Clerk Hollman: "No further Amendments. But notes have been requested and not filed at this time."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Hirschauer on the notes."

Hirschauer: "I move to rule the notes inapplicable, please."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "She indicates she'll yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, you've requested the notes that have been filed be deemed inapplicable. Why do you believe they are inapplicable?"

Hirschauer: "I believe they don't apply to the Bill."

Windhorst: "Any further explanation as to why they don't apply?"

Hirschauer: "There were several notes filed on a whole host of things and none of them applicable."

Windhorst: "Does your Bill place a mandate on local law enforcement to maintain weapons that are seized pursuant to an order of protection?"

Hirschauer: "It does not. That... that already exists in statute."

Windhorst: "Well, it... it eliminates a provision, does it not, that allows for those weapons to be transferred to someone other than law enforcement upon the entry of an order?"

Hirschauer: "Within the Domestic Violence Act nothing has changed, but within the Criminal Code, in... in regards to orders of protection, that has changed."

Windhorst: "And that will mandate law enforcement take possession of weapons that it may not have to take possession of under current law. Is that correct?"

Hirschauer: "Yes."

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Windhorst: "And that would be a state mandate on local government that would be justification for the state mandates note that was filed."

Hirschauer: "There's no evidence to support that there will be an exponential influx of firearms that... that law enforcement will store. They are already storing firearms in many cases for evidence, for firearm restraining orders, and often for plenary orders of protection and emergency orders if folks choose not to transfer. So, there's no evidence that it will exponentially increase the burden."

Windhorst: "I believe that's the point of having the note is to find out what impact it will have on our local governments. And that, by your statement, shows and demonstrates that the note is appropriate and we should receive the note before we move forward."

Hirschauer: "The note does not give us that information. The court has to order for that."

Windhorst: "To the Motion, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the Motion."

Windhorst: "I have a feeling we're going to be doing a lot of this today with regard to notes. The notes exist for a purpose. It's to inform this Body and give us information so we can make a wise decision and make a wise vote on legislation that comes before us. These notes serve a purpose and have been put in law. Several have been added, even during my time in... in this Legislature. We shouldn't just be on a whim tossing them out just because we don't have the information readily at hand. This is rushing the process and is going to lead to bad legislation and bad laws that we will

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be coming back and fixing in the future because we don't do it right the first time. Let's get it right the first time. Let's get this information. Let's have this information before we vote. I urge a 'no' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Tipsword, are you seeking recognition on the Motion?"

Tipsword: "No, Sir. I'll wait until we discuss the Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Thank you. Motion has been made by Representative Hirschauer to rule the notes inapplicable. The question is, 'Shall the notes be ruled inapplicable?' All those in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 66 voting 'yes', 39 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And the notes are ruled inapplicable. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Hollman: "No further Motions."

Speaker Hoffman: "Third Reading. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 676, a Bill for an Act concerning safety. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Hirschauer."

Hirschauer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present House Bill 676, a commonsense firearm omnibus package that is the result of the continued work of the firearms working group. The Bill contains several safety reforms that will serve to make communities safer places for our constituents to thrive. Additionally, the package will address an important issue that every single one of us, regardless of what side of the aisle we sit on, can agree, keeping guns out of the hands of

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dangerous people. The Bill establishes a Task Force on Firearm Insurance to review policy options. Next, the Bill addresses the possession and sale of prepackaged explosive components by requiring a FOID card to acquire or possess them. The next piece in the omnibus ends the sunset of a successful diversion program. The First Time Weapon Offense Program is used in over nine counties and has shown to reduce nonviolent admissions into the Department of Corrections while retaining prosecutorial and judicial discretion. Next, the Bill clears up an important oversight within the Firearm Restraining Order Act by adding intimate partner to the definition of petitioner. And finally, HB676 clears up a section of the Illinois Domestic Violence Act that pertains to the firearm prohibition remedy within an emergency and plenary orders of protection. We are correcting a conflict between the emergency and plenary orders to clarify that firearm remedies may be granted at the emergency stage. This remedy is already being granted at the emergency stage in many courtrooms across the state. This change will ensure that the remedy will be granted equitably and that from Cairo to Chicago we are keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous people. The commonsense measures in this Bill will serve to make our communities safer. We know the risk of intimate partner homicide increases 500 percent when abusers have access to a gun and that leaving a domestic violence relationship is the most dangerous time for survivors and their families. Equipped with this information, it is critical that we close the loophole created by a drafting oversight that has prevented some judges from issuing the firearm remedy during

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the emergency stage. This Bill is supported by the Domestic Violence Community, The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence, and the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence, as well as the gun violence prevention organizations across the state, like G-PAC, Everytown, Giffords, and Brady. I ask for your 'aye' vote, and I'm happy to answer questions."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "She indicates she'll yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, I want to go through a few point... points in your Bill, one of which deals with the Amendment that was adopted today. In the initial legislation that... or initial Amendment that you filed, there was information... or a section relating to the counties code and county ordinances related to discharge of firearm near residences. Is that provision still in the Bill?"

Hirschauer: "It is not. It was struck in the Amendment."

Windhorst: "In committee we discussed the prepackaged explosive component portion of the Bill. During committee, you had mentioned there were examples... or an instances that had occurred where there may have been criminal activity using this materials or dangerous activity using these materials. I had... we had discussed that in committee that that may be provided later. I have not received any information. Do you have that information now?"

Hirschauer: "The use of prepackaged explosive components has been found far and wide to be used dangerously. There have been incidences of forest fires being started from gender reveal

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balloons or gags using these explosive devices. So, they are dangerous, and they should be regulated and available to folks with a FOID card."

Windhorst: "So, this limitation will require a FOID card for the possession of the item?"

Hirschauer: "That's right."

Windhorst: "And will make a criminal penalty for the sale of those items to someone without a FOID card?"

Hirschauer: "That is correct."

Windhorst: "It will make it a Class 4 felony, correct? For the sale of the item."

Hirschauer: "Yes. It makes it consistent with what is in the FOID Act currently."

Windhorst: "And this is a penalty enhancement for this item?"

Hirschauer: "No. It... it is properly classifying it where it would fall within the FOID Card Act."

Windhorst: "So, similar to a fee adjustment, not it being a fee increase, this is properly placing rather than enhancing or a sentence?"

Hirschauer: "Properly placing it where it should be."

Windhorst: "With regard to the changes in the Domestic Violence Act... actually, before we go there, let's discuss the First Time Weapons Offender Program, which is a program that has wide support. And I believe the Illinois State Rifle Association requested that that be extended on a standalone Bill, if I remember the testimony in committee correctly. One concern I had, the program will now be extended to those... currently, it's only for those under 21. It will now be extended to anyone, no age limitation, which I believe makes

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sense. The part I don't understand is why we're changing probationary term. Currently, the law is a minimum probationary term of 18 months to a maximum of 24 months. And we are changing that to a minimum of 6 months to a maximum of 18 months. So, we are taking what was the minimum probation term and now making it the maximum. If the program is working as everyone, I believe, acknowledges, why did we change the probationary term?"

Hirschauer: "As you eluded, this is a successful and popular program. I think of it as a tool in the tool belt of our state's attorneys. You know, to give... to give state's attorneys and judges more discretion when doing their jobs. And this change follows evidence-based practices and is continued to be supported by the folks doing the work."

Windhorst: "I would argue that actually by changing that term you're giving them less discretion because there not allowed to go up to the full 24 months that is allowed now. With regard to the Illinois Domestic Violence Act changes, there has been concern expressed from law enforcement. We touched on this when we debated the Motion regarding the notes, that current law is that individuals who have these orders against them, who are respondents to the order, can transfer firearms to another person who has a FOID card. Is that your understanding of the current law?"

Hirschauer: "Under the criminal order of protection, yes."

Windhorst: "That's you're understanding with the current law, though?"

Hirschauer: "The current law under the criminal order, yes."

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Windhorst: "We are now going to say that that option will not exist with this Bill."

Hirschauer: "Under the criminal order, there is still no change to the Illinois Domestic Violence Act."

Windhorst: "Sorry for that misstatement. But they will not be required to turn the weapons over to law... the sheriff, in essence, will receive the weapons?"

Hirschauer: "Yes. A criminal defendant would be required to turn their weapons over to law enforcement. Intimate partner violence has a ripple effect throughout families and communities. And the safest place for criminal defendants, for their weapons to be, is with our trusted law enforcement."

Windhorst: "We had discussed in committee the fact that this provision is going to put, law enforcement believes, more responsibility on them. It's going to burden many of the smaller departments in our state, and they oppose the Bill for that reason. Isn't that correct?"

Hirschauer: "That is what they have said."

Windhorst: "Yeah. The Sheriffs' Association opposes the Bill, correct?"

Hirschauer: "That is what they have said."

Windhorst: "Right. To the Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the Bill."

Windhorst: "This Bill has come forward, and we've had notes requested. Those notes have been deemed inapplicable. We do not have the full information we need to cast a vote on this Bill. This Bill is also bad legislation in its current form. We're making adjustments to the law that is working, that people agree is working for no basis. There's no rationale

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behind that change. We are adding penalty enhancements to the law, which are disfavored by the Majority Party unless it suits them. And we are putting additional burdens on law enforcement when they've not requested those burdens. I urge a 'no' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Rosenthal."

Rosenthal: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates she'll yield."

Rosenthal: "So, the question I have first of all is this county.. it says amends the county code from 300 yards to 100 yards. Is that still in this Bill?"

Hirschauer: "That was taken out in an Amendment."

Rosenthal: "And it's... it's still out now?"

Hirschauer: "It is not in the Bill that you are voting on."

Rosenthal: "Okay. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Olickal."

Olickal: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates she'll yield."

Olickal: "For the purpose of legislative intent, can you explain the change in the current statute from warrant of seizure to seizure order?"

Hirschauer: "Yes. The intent of this change is to clarify and create consistency because warrant for seizure has caused confusion. The change makes clear that this part of the remedy under Section 14.5 of the order of protection statute is a judicial order, not a search warrant. A petitioner may still obtain a search warrant if they can meet the required standard under the law through the firearm restraining order. Which this Bill makes clear they can bring at the same time and

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under the same case number as the petition for the order of protection."

Olickal: "Thank you. To the Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the Bill."

Olickal: "I want to commend Rep. Hirschauer, members of the working groups, especially the advocates who have turned so much of their pain, personal pain, to activism and advocacy. First, I would like to address the First Time Weapon Offense Program. This is a program that was implemented in 2018 with bipartisan support. It has been implemented in counties across our state. Has the support of the States Attorneys Association. The Chiefs of Police are also neutral. The program gives discretion back to prosecutors and courts, allowing them to consider the unique circumstances and nuisances of a given case. The second piece of this Bill I wanted to speak to is the undeniable link between domestic violence and gun violence. This Body has made it clear that we will no longer accept a system that puts the right to own a gun above the rights of individuals to live free from fear and violence. Domestic violence threatens the well-being of survivors across Illinois every day. In 2022 alone, there were more than 37 thousand contacts to Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline, well over 600 of those coming from my own district. These victims live in constant fear for their lives and well-being. The presence of a firearm in a domestic violence situation dramatically increases the risk of lethal outcomes, turning an already dangerous situation into a potentially fatal one. As we stand here today, we must confront the sobering reality that our current gun control

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measures are not enough. They are not enough to protect those who have taken the brave step to seek orders of protection against their abusers. And we can no longer ignore the fact that lives are at stake, and we must do more to ensure their safety. Keeping our communities safe and passing good criminal justice reform policy are not mutually exclusive.

This Bill is a testament to that. And I urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Keicher."

Keicher: "Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. Will the... or Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "The Sponsor will yield."

Keicher: "Awesome. Thank you. So, Representative, I... I want to go beyond some information that Representative Windhorst had shared earlier. And I'd like to stop on specifically the task force for firearm insurance. Being an insurance professional, there... there are a couple issues in here for legislative intent that I really want you to weigh in on. The... the task force's mission is to review public policy options related to the insurance of firearms in the State of Illinois and to review current and potential future insurance policy offerings for the safe and legal possession of firearms, offer policy recommendations related to that type of insurance. However, you only have two designated members of the insurance industry. And currently there's a lot of misconceptions about what type of protections exist in the space of insurance for firearm use, either safe, unintentional, and what have you, especially in the liability space. So, I would strongly encourage you to... to not only keep who's here, but to also expand the insured professionals that are in there. And what

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I would like to understand is a little bit of your legislative intent and to confirm that the Illinois Insurance Association, and the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies, and the American Property Casualty Insurance Association representatives and technical experts will be involved and engaged in the task force discussions."

Hirschauer: "Yes, they will."

Keicher: "I have your commitment on that?"

Hirschauer: "Yes, you do."

Keicher: "Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Tipsword."

Tipsword: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates she'll yield."

Tipsword: "So, I just want to kind of go over parts of how this will work. So, if a petitioner goes into court to get an order of protection, an emergency order of protection, and the emergency order is granted and firearms are to be relinquished, I just want to confirm that there will be no avenue for the respondent to transfer those firearms to anyone in the family?"

Hirschauer: "This is consistent with the fact that there is not an avenue for that under plenary orders of protection within the Illinois Domestic Violence Act."

Tipsword: "I'm sorry. Could you... could you say that again, please?"

Hirschauer: "So, currently, where we have confusion right now... currently, under the Domestic Violence Act, there is no provision for transfer of ownership. So, this is consistent with the current Domestic Violence Act."

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Tipsword: "Okay. So, currently, if an emergency order is granted from a judge, what happens to the respondent's FOID card?"

Hirschauer: "The FOID card is to be surrendered."

Tipsword: "Suspended, correct?"

Hirschauer: "Surrendered and suspended."

Tipsword: "Suspended, correct?"

Hirschauer: "Surrendered and suspended."

Tipsword: "Okay. And... and your modification to this would make that any firearms that that respondent has on their person at the time, which is now illegal for them to have because they have a suspended FOID card, they must transfer or relinquish those firearms to the sheriff's office?"

Hirschauer: "Yes, to law enforcement consistent with current law in the Illinois Domestic Violence Act."

Tipsword: "Semantics. Semantics is what you're... what you're playing here. So, what happens to... so, currently... just for everyone in this chamber, I deal with this daily. Currently, when an order of protection... an emergency order of protection is granted by a judge, the respondent has the ability to fill out a firearms disposition sheet and transfer his or her firearms to another legal gun owner who has a valid FOID card. You are taking that avenue away. So, my question then is, in my firearms collection, I have numerous firearms from my grandfather that have been in the family for generations. Under your idea, is there any avenue for me, if I was a respondent in this case, to transfer those heirloom firearms to my son?"

Hirschauer: "Currently, what is in practice is not what is stated in the Illinois Domestic Violence Act. What we have proposed

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is concurrent... is the same as what is in the Illinois Domestic Violence Act. If you are... if you are an abuser and the exigent circumstances are determined by the judge that it is unsafe for your... the survivor and their family for their abuser to have guns, then, yes. They will have to turn them into law enforcement, and they will not be able to transfer them."

Tipsword: "Okay. So, in your scenario, where was the due process in accusing me and finding me to be an abuser?"

Hirschauer: "Can you repeat that question?"

Tipsword: "In your scenario, you said that if that was me in that position and I was a danger, I was found to be a danger and shouldn't have those firearms because I was an abuser. In that scenario, I'm asking where is the due process that gave me the right to defend myself before you automatically arbitrarily decided I was an abuser and my firearms must be surrendered?"

Hirschauer: "While petitioning for an emergency order of protection, the exigent circumstances of the danger to the petitioner and their family members is the due process for the judge... is an exception, let me correct that. The exigent circumstances, meaning the danger to the survivor and their family, is an exception to due process and allows the judge to issue the firearm order."

Tipsword: "So, in that, the FOID process is purely administrative, correct? Do you understand that? Purely administrative. Simply by the emergency order being signed before any evidence is ever submitted from the respondent... because in an emergency order, it's only the petitioner giving their side. So, there is no respondent side. And once that emergency order is filed,

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the FOID card is automatically suspended. So, it's all administrative. You do know that, right?"

Hirschauer: "I don't... your question is..."

Tipsword: "Where's the due process?"

Hirschauer: "I answered that."

Tipsword: "No."

Hirschauer: "The exigent circumstance of an emergency order of protection is... allows the judge to grant the firearm order."

Tipsword: "From one side, without any evidence presented."

Hirschauer: "And as you know, as the process works, there is a return for the plenary order after an emergency order has expired."

Tipsword: "I do know. And do you know that once that administrative order has happened with the FOID card, it will be a year at best before the FOID card is reinstated to that respondent? And in your Bill, you believe that law enforcement should have those firearms. So, I want to kind of move on from this now 'cause we're not getting anywhere. We're just kind of spinning circles. So, at what point in time does the respondent get their firearms back that we, as the sheriff's office, have been holding for a year?"

Hirschauer: "At the end of the... when the order expires."

Tipsword: "When the order expires. Okay. So, you had said earlier that there was no evidence that there would be an exponential increase in firearms held by a sheriff's office. Is that correct?"

Hirschauer: "It's a case-by-case basis. It's all depending on the court."

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Tipsword: "Oh, back to those. Okay. Well, for the record, you did say there was no exponential evidence to show that there would be more firearms being held by a sheriff's office."

Hirschauer: "There is not because of the case-by-case basis."

Tipsword: "But the case-by-case basis turns into 100 percent of cases."

Hirschauer: "Not every case... as you know, not every case has a firearm remedy issued."

Tipsword: "But every OP filed voids the FOID. It is... it is to be surrendered and suspended immediately."

Hirschauer: "That's... that is a status quo. That is not what this Bill addresses."

Tipsword: "Okay. All right. So, let's move on."

Hirschauer: "This Bill addresses the firearm remedy component."

Tipsword: "Okay. Okay. Let's move on from this."

Speaker Hoffman: "Rep... Representative, we're going to implement a three-minute time limit."

Tipsword: "So, open and honest debate is not what we're here for, Mr. Speaker. I understand. Duly noted."

Speaker Hoffman: "I didn't say that."

Tipsword: "So, let's move on, Ma'am."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative... Representative, we're going to have a three-minute time limit. People can give you their time."

Tipsword: "I understand that. Thank you. So, let's move on. Is there anything in here that... for all of these firearms that the sheriff's office is going to have to be in safe keeping of while this process moves on? And I will tell you, it will be a tremendous amount of firearms. The bigger the county,

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the more firearms based on population. There's more OPs coming through the big counties than there are the small counties. But my question is, all of our evidence lockers right now are overflowing full. There is no room to put things. So, my question is, is there... is there any... any money in this for local sheriff's office to expand their evidence rooms to hold this... these firearms?"

Hirschauer: "There is no appropriation in this Bill. We acknowledge that storage is an issue for... for law enforcement, whether it be FRO acquisitions or evidence keeping, as you are saying. There are avenues available to law enforcement through the SAFER Communities Act, through LDGF cannabis revenue. And I will state on the record that I am here to help in the future with any... any ideas you may have."

Tipsword: "Well, I'm familiar with all of those avenues you're talking. And they are difficult to maneuver. And I would love to have a conversation with you off the record on how I can come up with more funds for my sheriff's office. So, let's move on, and let's say that we've taken these firearms. And because I don't have room in my evidence vault and there's... there's no funds for me to add on, I have to go rent some sort of a CONEX storage trailer to put out back to put these firearms in. So, after we go through the process, the two-year plenary order runs out. The respondent reapplies for their FOID, which is going to be another year at best, or three plus years down the road. Who's responsible for the damage to these firearms that's been sitting in a moist condition for three years that are now... once was prized family

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heirlooms, now are rusty chunks of iron? Who's responsible for that?"

Hirschauer: "There is nothing in this Bill that speaks to that but there is civil liability currently for... civil liability immunity for law enforcement. As you should know."

Tipsword: "I'm sorry. Please... please say that again."

Hirschauer: "There is... the Bill does not speak to this, but currently there is civil liability immunity for law enforcement."

Tipsword: "Okay. Civil liability. But at the end of the day, that respondent still has a rusty chunk of metal, and who's to blame?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Ugaste yields three minutes."

Hirschauer: "That wasn't a... what was your question?"

Tipsword: "I still go back to... never mind. Strike that. Well, I will end with this. In all of this discussion, I also heard that you are on the record saying that you trust law enforcement. And I think that that is a great step forward for you. And I will hold you to that as we move on. This Bill... to the Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the Bill."

Tipsword: "This Bill was not well thought out. There are unintended consequences in this Bill, or maybe intended, I'm not sure, that are going to harm the law-abiding gun owners in this state. There are just so many flaws in this. I... all I can do is urge a very firm 'no' vote and hope we can stop this today. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Swanson."

Swanson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

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Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates she'll yield."

Swanson: "Thank you. Representative, I've got a couple questions to start with. Is there any part of this legislation that will prevent illegal gun sales on the streets of Chicago?"

Hirschauer: "The Bill does not speak to that."

Swanson: "Okay. So, once again, we're dancing around the real issue of... of keeping guns off the streets of Chicago. Is there anything in this Bill that will prevent attorneys or judges to plea out gun charges when used in a crime?"

Hirschauer: "I'm sorry. Could you repeat that question?"

Swanson: "Sure. I use it often. Is there anything in this Bill that will prevent attorneys or judges to plea out gun charges when used in a crime? So often, we hear a... a individual uses a gun in committing a crime, but yet that plea... the gun is plea bargained out, which reduces the charges on that individual. Is there anything in this legislation that fixes that?"

Hirschauer: "That is judicial and prosecutorial discretion."

Swanson: "Okay. So, the answer, once again, is no. You know, we... to the Bill. We continue to throw the gun Bills out here, but yet we're not fixing the real issues. The real issues is a crime on the streets of Chicago. We're... once again, we're not punishing the criminals. We're going after the law-abiding citizens who have a FOID card. That FOID card has gone through a deep process through the Illinois State Police, everyone's vetted. We go through a process. We're vetted through federal record. We're vetted through state records. But yet, once again, we're attacking the individual who has the guns in their safes at home. And I would urge a 'no' vote. Thank you."

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Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Cassidy."

Cassidy: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just kind of shaking my head here. I'm hearing a great deal of a heartfelt concern about the poor abusers and their precious guns. We are talking about somebody who has been deemed to be an immediate danger to someone's life. Getting rusty ain't getting dead, people. Let's remember what we're trying to do. We are trying to prevent death. I am a survivor of domestic violence. Y'all ought to be ashamed of yourselves."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Davidsmeyer."

Davidsmeyer: "Thank you, Speaker Hoffman. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates she'll yield."

Davidsmeyer: "So, the purpose of this is because of an immediate threat of danger, an emergency, correct?"

Hirschauer: "Yes."

Davidsmeyer: "And in the Bill we give, the original Bill, we give law enforcement 48 hours for this emergency order to go and get the guns. Forty-eight hours, correct?"

Hirschauer: "Yes."

Davidsmeyer: "And if they don't collect the guns in 48 hours, what happens?"

Hirschauer: "In an Amendment that we adopted on the floor, the parameters are set out for law enforcement. If they... if they cannot reach the respondent, then they go back and make a report and the issue goes back to the judge."

Davidsmeyer: "So, if they don't get it in... after this emergency order, they're given 48 hours, which is 2 days. And if they can't get it, they send a note to the judge saying we tried, but we couldn't get it."

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Hirschauer: "Currently that is much better than what is in practice right now."

Davidsmeyer: "Wouldn't it be better if the person immediately transferred it to some other member of their family? Immediately."

Hirschauer: "You need to give service of the order, which is required within 48 hours."

Davidsmeyer: "I'm speaking to the emergency, right? There's an emergent situation. We are worried about the safety of this individual. We're giving them 48 hours, plus additional time if they ask for it. Right?"

Hirschauer: "In an emergency order, the respondent is... is often not in court. So, we are putting parameters for law enforcement to follow for when they need to reach the respondent so that we... the respondent can comply."

Davidsmeyer: "Yeah. So, the police can confiscate... okay. So, you mentioned... oh, what'd you call it? A gun task force or firearms task force?"

Hirschauer: "A firearm insurance task force."

Davidsmeyer: "Firearms... no, no, no, not... not that. There was group that you said got together to come up with Bills like this."

Hirschauer: "Our working group."

Davidsmeyer: "The working group. Who served on that working group? Do you know? Were you a member?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Rep... Representative Davidsmeyer, Leader Keicher yields three minutes."

Davidsmeyer: "Thank you, Leader Keicher."

Hirschauer: "I am a member of the working group."

Davidsmeyer: "How many members were on that working group?"

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Hirschauer: "Nine."

Davidsmeyer: "How many of them are members of the Majority Party?"

Hirschauer: "This is a Democratic working group. You are free to have Republican working groups."

Davidsmeyer: "Did you have anybody... are any of those members gun owners?"

Hirschauer: "Yes. Democrats are gun owners, too."

Davidsmeyer: "Not many of them, but... unfortunately, not many of them. I would appreciate if more of you would exercise your rights and stop trying to take away mine. This is... this is an opportunity for... my concern is that this is an opportunity for people who don't want someone to have a gun to go after them. Please... please vote 'no'."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Caulkins."

Caulkins: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "She indicates she'll yield."

Caulkins: "Thank you. Representative, how many orders of protection... emergency orders of protection, I believe is what we're talking about, expire without the defendant being, I guess, put in a permanent order?"

Hirschauer: "That data... I would be very interested in being able to compile that data. It is not publicly available."

Caulkins: "So, is... is there anything in your Bill... and a previous speaker talked about not being concerned about victims of domestic violence, which isn't true, by the way. But we're also concerned about the rights of an individual and their property. So, if... if an individual is... is not purported to be an abuser, but it turns out that that's not the case, that this is... this is unfounded, is there anything in your Bill

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that ensures that they get their guns back in a... in a timely fashion, returned?"

Hirschauer: "That is already in the current Domestic Violence Act. We are not touching that part."

Caulkins: "What... what is that, then, please? Because I... I'm unfamiliar."

Hirschauer: "They would show up with their valid FOID card, and their weapons would be returned to them. If they do not have a valid FOID card, they may even show up with someone... at the end of their order, and if it has been unfounded, they may show up with someone else with a valid FOID card and their weapons can be turned over to that person."

Caulkins: "So... all right. I'm... I'm a little distracted, I apologize. So, if a person is charged with domestic violence and got an emergency order of protection against an abuser, alleged abuser, and that emergency order of protection then goes back for adjudication and it's unfounded, all the person has to do is show up with somebody with a FOID card. Because they're not going to have their FOID card. It was taken as soon as the order was written and the Illinois State Police then revokes or suspends their FOID card. So, all they have to do is bring someone into court with a FOID card and they can get their weapons transferred to that individual? The sheriff then must give those weapons back to someone with a valid FOID card?"

Hirschauer: "Let me understand that you're talking about an... an order that has expired. So, it's no longer... it's no longer there."

Caulkins: "That emergency order that allowed the judge..."

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Hirschauer: "The emergency order is no longer valid."

Caulkins: "Right."

Hirschauer: "It was unfounded."

Caulkins: "Correct."

Hirschauer: "Then your... that is what is in current law today,
yes."

Caulkins: "So, all... all I have to do is show up with someone,
well, I have FOID card, and the judge is going to give me
their weapons?"

Hirschauer: "I have answered that question."

Caulkins: "So, why not allow..."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative, would you like additional
time?"

Caulkins: "I don't... does somebody want to do that? I already had..."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Wilhour."

Caulkins: "Fine. Thank you. I won't take the full three minutes.
I appreciate it. So, why not allow that to happen immediately
on the front end?"

Hirschauer: "Because immediately there is danger to the survivor
and their family. What you are talking about is the danger is
no longer there. The order is no longer standing and has been
unfounded. So, in your situation, there is... we follow the
current law."

Caulkins: "But... this is what confuses me. Because as soon as
someone's FOID card is suspended, they have to dispose of
their... their guns immediately. Have to... as soon as my FOID
card would be suspended, I have to get rid of any guns. And
I have to give them to someone who, in the current law says,
I cannot have access to. I can't give it to my wife and just

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say, hey, here's a form. I gave it to my wife and... but I still have access to the code to the safe or the guns are still in the house. I mean, the law is very clear that when a person loses their FOID card, they must immediately dispose of any guns they have. Under this, as you heard from Sheriff Tipsword, you have 48 hours. And then if you don't do it, you could have another who knows how long. Wouldn't it be better to allow the transfer, immediate transfer, out of my possession. Immediately."

Hirschauer: "You wouldn't know unless you were served. That's... you need to be served with the order..."

Caulkins: "But..."

Hirschauer: "And you're not... you are not there during the..."

Caulkins: "I... I understand. But when... when a person's FOID card is suspended, what action do the Illinois State Police take?"

Hirschauer: "This Bill is not speaking to that. That is already in statute."

Caulkins: "I understand. No, I understand that. But it's the process that we're talking about. We're trying to, I guess, help you understand that there is a better way to do this. There is a better way to protect victims of domestic violence. We're trying to make this better."

Hirschauer: "Representative, this... this Bill was driven by the experiences and knowledge of the victims of domestic violence. The folks who are intimately involved in this process."

Caulkins: "I understand that. But it's not..."

Hirschauer: "And I will let them speak for the policy."

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Caulkins: "...but it's not driven by law enforcement. It's not driven by people who have experience with... with how guns are transferred and how things are handled. You're imposing a... it's something that needs to be made better. And this is a flawed system. Mr. Speaker, to the Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the Bill."

Caulkins: "Ladies and Gentlemen, again, this is... this part of this Bill is not going to do what needs to be done to protect victims from an abuser who has a gun. We can make this better. We can do this by demanding that the current law be followed. That immediately that weapon, a gun, all guns immediately transferred to an independent party so that the abuser would not have access to them. There's also nothing in this Bill that demands that these weapons, these guns be cared for. There's nothing that protects someone from getting... or makes it sure that someone is going to get their guns back if they are adjudicated to be innocent. We need to do a better job of protecting victims of domestic violence. This isn't it. And I urge a 'no' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Weber."

Weber: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "She indicates she'll yield."

Weber: "Representative, you had talked about the firearms working group. I was curious, are they kind of to protect Illinois residents or strictly just to take firearms away from residents?"

Hirschauer: "Our working group addresses firearm safety and reform."

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Weber: "Would you agree that people having firearms to protect their families is important to safety?"

Hirschauer: "This Bill is..."

Weber: "I'm not asking... I mean, I'm just saying, wouldn't you agree that the right of someone to exercise their Second Amendment rights and have a firearm to protect their families is important to their safety?"

Hirschauer: "You do not have a right to be a domestic violence abuser."

Weber: "Well, I didn't say that. Right? So, do you... well, I guess since you commented like that, do you presume that everyone with a firearm is a criminal?"

Hirschauer: "This Bill speaks to emergency orders of protection which are brought by survivors of intimate partner violence. That is what this Bill speaks to."

Weber: "So, are you suggesting that everyone with an order of protection has been convicted of a crime?"

Hirschauer: "Are you suggesting that you do not support domestic violence survivors?"

Weber: "Well, I'm asking you. It's your Bill, right? You either know the answers or you don't. So, yes, order of protection, and I don't have a problem with that, right? What I have a problem with is the safety of Illinois residents. So... and I can't remember. Is it 10 days, 14 days, or 21 days for a plenary hearing? Fourteen? So, I just asked. It's 14 days for a plenary hearing. So, let's say someone goes in to a plenary hearing and it is deemed unfounded. Do they get their guns back and FOID card back instantly?"

Hirschauer: "We covered that with Representative Caulkins."

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Weber: "Well, you say you have this working group to protect Illinois residents. Well, when you say that you're going to take guns away from someone who has not been convicted of a crime, that once there's proven that there's no threat, why are they not getting their guns back immediately? Because you are literally putting people in danger by not allowing them to protect themselves."

Hirschauer: "We covered that process with Representative Caulkins."

Weber: "Well, you covered what? That we don't... people in Illinois don't deserve to protect themselves when deemed to be not a threat?"

Hirschauer: "We... we have not touched on that."

Weber: "Well, I'm asking you. That's why we're touching on it. So, if you have this working group, why would you not insist that people should get back their Second Amendment rights the moment they're deemed not to be a threat? I think it's... I really enjoy the fact that you're sitting over there laughing when we're talking about the Second Amendment. And it'll be the second time this week that I've mentioned that these are the tools that our founding fathers used to ensure the rights that we exercise today. And that you think it's funny when we're talking about taking those rights away from someone who have never been convicted of a crime is disgraceful. So, why isn't your working group..."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Weber, would you like additional time?"

Weber: "I would sure like it."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Ozinga. Three more minutes."

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Weber: "Yeah. Why isn't your working group finding out how we can get these guns and FOID cards back in the hands of innocent individuals as soon as possible? You would think that would be something that someone that wants to protect Illinois residents should be working on. How many years has it been a working group? This is more just anti-gun, gun grabbing.. I mean, you can see it when you're laughing there at taking away people's Second Amendment rights. So, is that something your gun group would be willing to work on? Returning people's rights as soon as possible once they've been violated without due process?"

Hirschauer: "We address firearm safety and reform. This policy was driven by the voices of survivors of intimate violence and domestic violence."

Weber: "And no one argues that. However, when someone is deemed not to be a threat, why are we not returning their constitutional rights as soon as possible?"

Hirschauer: "There is a... there is a process outlined for that."

Weber: "Well, that process can take over a year. That is ridiculous. So, anyway to the Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the Bill."

Weber: "You know what? This is just another way to violate people's due process, take away their Second Amendment rights while accusing people of literally being criminals before being convicted of a crime. Vote 'no'."

Speaker Hoffman: "The final speaker, Leader Cabello."

Cabello: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the Bill."

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Cabello: "Ladies and Gentlemen, this Bill is not supported by any law enforcements at all, excluding the, I believe, Cook County prosecutor's office. Law enforcement has a lot of issues with this Bill. On Tuesday in our committee hearing, I asked the Representative during their working group who was there. She had said it was a Democratic working group. I had said, why don't you include us? Why don't you include us? Because what you're doing when you do just one side or the other is you're forcing us to vote 'no'. Because we have no ideas into this Bill. None. This side of the aisle is no longer the party of 'no'. I'm dead serious. You can laugh all you want. But we are not the party of 'no'. We are the party of wanting to work together. But you're not letting us. I'm tired of this. Representative, I told you that there's very few things that I wouldn't work on. This is one of the things that I want to work on. This side of the aisle also supports the victims of domestic violence. For us to sit here and tell everybody that your side of the aisle or our side of the aisle is against something all of the time from here on out is idiotic. When we can work together, you know what, this chamber can do some really good stuff. Really good stuff. But until we work together, we're going to have these kinds of fights. You're driving a wedge between the people of the State of Illinois and everybody else. Other people have ideas too. Some people have some really damn good ideas. It's time that you listen. We may not agree, but you know what, we're willing to work. Our Leader, Tony McCombie, has said we are no longer the party of 'no'. Let us show you. And the only way that's going to happen is if you include us."

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Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Hirschauer to close."

Hirschauer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Bill was driven by the voices and experiences of survivors of domestic violence and their families. This Bill is focused on getting hands... getting guns out of the hands of abusers and dangerous people. The intersection of intimate partner violence and gun violence is deadly. Like all gun violence, the ripple effects of these intimate partner gun violence situations echo far beyond the intimate relationship. They affect children. They affect the community and the people who witness it, family members, and coworkers. Today, we have an opportunity to strengthen protections for survivors and their families. And we have an opportunity to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous abusers. I want to thank the amazing domestic violence community who has stood strong through this process and worked hard on this Bill. We see you. Most of us in this room see you. And we stand with you. I ask for your 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 676 pass?' All those in favor signify by voting 'aye'; all opposed 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 70 voting 'yes', 36 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Moving to page 3 of the Calendar, appears House Bill 1595, Representative Ann Williams. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 1595, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. This Bill was read a second time previously. No

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Committee Amendments. Floor Amendments 2 and 3, offered by Representative Ann Williams, has been approved for consideration. Floor Amendment #2."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Williams on Floor Amendment #2."

Williams, A.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Amendment reflects significant negotiations with the AFFI and the Department of Public Health, bringing the Department of Public Health to neutral on the Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Rep. Williams asks for the adoption of Amendment... Floor Amendment #2 to House Bill 1595. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all opposed 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Hollman: "Floor Amendment #3 is offered by Representative Ann Williams."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Williams on Floor Amendment #3."

Williams, A.: "This is a two-word change just to correct an error in Floor Amendment #2."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Williams moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #3 to House Bill 1595. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all opposed 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Hollman: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Hoffman: "Third Reading. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 1595, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Williams."

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Williams, A.: "Thank you so much. This Bill is an initiative of the AFFI. And it was designed to streamline the disciplinary process for paramedics. It has measures in here pertaining to streamlining discipline, providing that a licensure under DPH which is subject to discipline must be consistent and run concurrently with discipline under regional medical directors. EMS and paramedics are disciplined and have their licenses under two different entities. So, that's the reason for that item. It provides for union representation for members. And finally, it expands the opportunities to have paramedics moved between the systems. It's called the silver spanner program designed to address efficiencies and provide for shortages of paramedics and EMTs. So, basically, we say you can operate in another system, you just have to test in there. And if so, you're able to practice in the system. And we changed the deadline to two weeks. So, a test must be offered in two weeks and then you can be licensed to operate among different systems. So, happy to answer any questions. I am unaware of any opponents to this Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Hauter."

Hauter: "Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates she'll yield."

Hauter: "Well, thank you for all the work that you did to get Illinois Society of Emergency Physicians, Illinois College of Emergency Physicians, and I think public health as neutral or are they... are they not?"

Williams, A.: "They are neutral on the Bill."

Hauter: "Okay. Does this only apply to unionized ambulance and paramedics, or..."

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Williams, A.: "Yes."

Hauter: "So, this would only apply to... to the unionized workforce?"

Williams, A.: "Yes. It does not apply to private ambulance companies."

Hauter: "Thank you, again."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Williams to close."

Williams, A.: "I would appreciate an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "Today, 'Shall House Bill 1595 pass?' All those in favor signify by voting 'yes'; all opposed vote 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 112 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Mr. Clerk for an announcement."

Clerk Hollman: "Introduction and First Reading of Senate Bills. Senate Bill 90, offered by Representative West, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Senate Bill 333, offered by Representative Chung, a Bill for an Act concerning government. Senate Bill 851, offered by Representative Hoffman, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. House (sic-Senate) Bill 895, offered by Representative Johnson, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. House (sic-Senate) Bill 1071, offered by Representative Manley, a Bill for an Act concerning government. House (sic-Senate) Bill 1072, offered by Leader McCombie, a Bill for an Act concerning government. House (sic-Senate) Bill 1160, offered by Representative Hoffman, a Bill for an Act concerning safety."

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House (sic-Senate) Bill 1769, offered by Representative Hoffman, a Bill for an Act concerning government. First Reading of these Senate Bills. Introduction of Senate Joint Resolution 32, offered by Representative Marron. This is referred to the Rules Committee."

Speaker Hoffman: "Going to page 12 of the Calendar. On the Order of Postponed Consideration appears House Bill 2347, Representative Mayfield. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate (sic-House) Bill 2347, a Bill for an Act concerning minors. This Bill was read a third time previously."

Speaker Hoffman: "House Bill 2347, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Correction, House Bill 2347, a Bill for an Act concerning minors."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Mayfield."

Mayfield: "Thank you so much. After more than a decade, agreement has been reached on how to ensure services are placed.. are in place so that Illinois can raise the minimum age of.. I'm sorry.. the minimum age of detention. The agreement is between the proponents and the Illinois Probation and Court Services Association. And it's long been clear from the data that detention, especially for young children, is being used as.. in.. as a crisis response. Illinois has been a short-term crisis response, and this agreement creates a reporting mechanism to strengthen and fill the gaps in service. Further, the gradual phased-in approach in House Bill 2347 allows for planning and implementation. This amended Bill removes all opposition. I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Leader Windhorst."

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Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "She indicates she'll yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you. A couple of changes that were made by the Amendment, just so I'm clear. There was a provision originally that raised the age for commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice for first degree murder, and that has been removed. Is that correct?"

Mayfield: "That is correct."

Windhorst: "And the... what is now the minimum age at which a minor could be detained? Under this Bill."

Mayfield: "Okay. It is a phased in approach, but it goes up to age 13. So, we're phasing-in up to 13."

Windhorst: "And there are programs that are being designed to help deal with those early teen years or just pre-teen years..."

Mayfield: "Absolutely."

Windhorst: "...that will be in place of detention. I'm sorry. Go ahead."

Mayfield: "Right. Alternative services do currently exist, but there will be an expansion on those. But that's why we're phasing this in to make sure that we have the services in place for these children."

Windhorst: "And what is the phase-in, if you don't mind?"

Mayfield: "The phase-in as of July 1, 2024, so this won't even take effect until next year, we're going to raise the minimum age from 10 to 12. And then from 20... in July 1 of 2025, we'll raise it to the age of 13. There's a carve out for 12-year-olds charged with murder, aggravated criminal assault, aggressive battery, firearms, vehicle hijacking, all of them have been removed. And then there's a reporting mechanism to

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track any failures in the alternative system, so that if there are failures, we can either make adjustments or just not go that way."

Windhorst: "Well, I appreciate your efforts in the Amendment to improve the Bill, and it has improved the original Bill. I'm... I would prefer, if it were me, that we get those programs in place first, make sure they're working before we change the age. But I do appreciate what you've done with the Amendment."

Mayfield: "Thank you so much."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Mayfield to close."

Mayfield: "I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 2347 pass?' All those in favor signify by voting 'aye'; opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 61 voting 'yes', 45 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Moving to page 5 of the Calendar, appear... on the Order of Senate Bills-Third Reading appears Senate Bill 375, Representative Slaughter. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 375, a Bill for an Act concerning children. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Slaughter."

Slaughter: "Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Senate Bill 375 is an initiative of the Department of Children and Family Services. This Bill came out of the Senate unanimously on an Agreed Bill List. With that said, as this Bill matriculated through the

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legislative process here over in the House, we did want to slow this down just a bit to understand the details pertaining to the objectives of this Bill. This Bill puts forth provisions that allow DCFS to choose, develop, and implement a safety-based child welfare intervention system. This is a really important decision for DCFS because this is... this is indeed the tool that will be used to make critical child safety determinations in the home. It's important to know, DCFS has made a decision to implement a new system called the Safety Assessment and Family Evaluation Model. This is a best practice model utilized by several states across the country that promote a more comprehensive and wholistic approach. All we're doing here in Senate Bill 375 is removing and adding provisions that facilitate the implementation of this new system. When we took a current look at the... what was in current statute, which hadn't been updated since the 1990s, we wanted to make these important changes. In light of DCFS making these... this important decision, we were overly descriptive in committee about this matter, we presented the Bill, and then DCFS followed up with an important subject matter. We discussed several matters and issues that actually were not in the Bill but were germane to the Bill. I think both sides of the aisle will be comfortable knowing that DCFS will be required to report back to the General Assembly within three years and every year thereafter of the tool's reliability, validity, and effectiveness. I certainly appreciate the department's hard work on this initiative. Mr. Speaker, I urge a 'yes' vote."

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Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Lisa Hernandez for the purpose of an announcement."

Hernandez, L.: "Yes, Speaker, Representative Ford is excused for the day."

Speaker Hoffman: "Thank you, Leader. Representative Reick."

Reick: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to talk a little bit about the underlying reasons why this Bill is important. We had a little bit of a problem at the time it was presented because, frankly, we had not been informed as to what this Act was about. And therefore, if you look at our analysis or the vote in the committee, you'll see that we went out on partisan leave on this Bill. However, as the Sponsor noted, we are... we did have a very robust discussion, excuse me, in the... in the committee about the SAFE Act. And without getting to deeply into the weeds, basically what this is going to do is it's going to help DCFS in terms of cleaning up... not cleaning up but... but assisting it in making better decisions when it comes to investigating instances of abuse and neglect that is... that is it's charged to do. It gives investigators greater... greater tools in terms of making decisions based upon what they can see as develop... developments within a family structure that might lead toward better outcomes. This is a... this is a method of investigation that has been applied in, I believe, 20-some states already, as early as 20, I believe, 11 in Florida, and it's been in 2014 in Arizona. And what we heard from the people who have been on the ground in those states, this is a Bill... or this is an... a development that has really had a positive impact upon investigations in DCFS. As many of you know, I've been spending a lot of time

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and this seems to have been the lane that I've chosen. And while... again, while we voted partisan on the... on the Bill when it came through, we didn't understand it. We do, I think, understand it now. Not in full. And fortunately, we... we are going to be the recipients of reports from DCFS as to the implementation of the Act... or the process. And not only in terms of how we close cases, how cases are... how families are kept together or whatever, but also, I've been giving assurances by the agency that we're going to get reports as to case management within the agency. Things like how we've been able to retain investigators because they haven't been burned out or they're... they're just frustrated. So, we're going... this, I think, is a step forward. And I would urge... and I'm going to ask... ask the Sponsor if he would yield because I would like the Sponsor to expand on what I've said, if he has anything to add on that."

Slaughter: "Not really. But... yeah, it's just given the... the department a great opportunity to..."

Reick: "Yeah. I think..."

Slaughter: "...put forth the best practice. The department really does believe this is a more robust, wholistic, comprehensive approach. This is a big decision for the department. But when you think about the transformational change in regards to a needs assessment that will make the determinations regarding removal, intake, resources, placement, and ultimately, the reunification of the family, these are, I think, factors that we all, on both sides of the aisle, deem as very, very important. And we want to encourage and applaud the department

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in recognizing that as they choose this tool and embark on this endeavor."

Reick: "One thing I would add before I close, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that this is probably going to have an impact on the budget for the agency. We don't know at this point what that impact is. But the fact is, is that we've been working throughout the entire Session on working on ways to streamline DCFS operations so that maybe we can free up some money to put it where it belong. And it's things on the ground like this and investigations. I'm, therefore, going to urge that this... this Bill be passed. I would vote 'yes'. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Flowers."

Flowers: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Gentleman yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates he'll yield."

Flowers: "Representative, I was just reviewing your Bill, and this is the SAFE Assessment and the Family Evaluation Practice Model?"

Slaughter: "Yes. That's correct, Leader Flowers."

Flowers: "My question to you is, does this deal... does the safetyness of this model extends to when DCFS have the children in their custody and something negative happened to them that caused their death, that caused their harm while they are in the custody of DCFS?"

Slaughter: "I believe so. This tool would, I mean, universally have an impact on the entire system from beginning to end. So, yes, it would at least aid in evaluating those situations and circumstances."

Flowers: "Okay. Because I was just reading the..."

Slaughter: "Is that the Chapin Hall report?"

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Flowers: "The OIG? Yes. And it's so amazing that the OIG report comes up with all kinds of recommendations and DCFS has not implemented any of them. And so, I was kind of concerned about what it is that you're trying to do here, and I support you 100 percent. There's no effective date on here, and I was kind of concerned about that. So, just in case you could.."

Slaughter: "But to... to your point, Leader, because I think you bring up a good one, as the department has made these critical decisions, they are taking into account these recommendations. You and I have talked about this. I want to applaud the efforts that you've put into this throughout your entire career. We know that there's been a lot of attention on this. And many of the reports, contemporary reports, have... have been a factor in this decision and how they've been... been able to tease out the recommendations that the department is going to be embarking upon."

Flowers: "Yeah. This... this just appears to me to be counter intuitive in regards to what you're doing and what is being done. And so, I just want to make sure that we protect the children from maybe the bad parents or the poor parents, but also from the very people that's taking them out of that situation and putting them in a more dangerous situation. So, thank you very much. I appreciate you."

Slaughter: "That's... that's very, very critical. And again, one thing that we should all feel comfortable about is that the department will be coming back to the General Assembly to report on the effectiveness. So, great point, Leader."

Flowers: "Speaker, thank you. I would appreciate when they do come back before the committee that you ask the question why

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is it not that they're implementing the recommendation of the
OIG office. Thank you."

Slaughter: "We will do that."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Costa Howard."

Costa Howard: "Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates he'll yield."

Costa Howard: "Representative Slaughter, in committee there was
a great deal of focus on this actual program. But your Bill
does not actually have this program in it, correct?"

Slaughter: "That's... that's correct. So, the Bill's just allowing
for the department to implement such a program."

Costa Howard: "So, it's... is it fair to say that the... that this
Bill, all it does is provide the department flexibility to
put in whatever change program they... they need to?"

Slaughter: "Yes."

Costa Howard: "Okay. To the Bill. As Representative... the Minority
Spokesperson of Adoption & Child Welfare mentioned, this Bill
had some issues in... in our committee. The reality is, this...
the Bill is just a language change to provide flexibility to
the department to implement the changes that are needed.
However, we... and built into that is language that requires
them to come back and report to us. So, we will be asking
those questions when they come back to our committee because
we've been on top of this... definitely this Session. So, I... I
urge an 'aye' vote. This is a good program. We have had
subject matter hearings about it subsequent to our committee
hearing so that we as Members had a better understanding of
what this program really was. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Slaughter to close."

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Slaughter: "Yeah. Thank you, Chairwoman Costa Howard, for your leadership on this. I want to thank the Minority Spokesman Reick on his collaboration in this matter. Let's help DCFS improve. Let's help DCFS embrace and implement this best practice. I urge a 'yes' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 375 pass?' All those in favor signify by voting 'aye'; opposed vote 'no'. The voting's open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 111 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received a Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Representative Slaughter on Senate Bill 646. Hustle on back there. Read the Bill, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Clerk, please move this Bill back to Second Reading for the purpose of an Amendment. Read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 646, a Bill for an Act concerning health. This Bill was read a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #1, offered by Representative Slaughter, has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Slaughter on Floor Amendment #1."

Slaughter: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Bill creates a task force. The Amendment just clarifies that the task force members will serve without compensation."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Slaughter moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #1 to Senate Bill 646. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of

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the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. The Amendment is adopted. Third Reading. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 646, a Bill for an Act concerning health. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Slaughter."

Slaughter: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Senate Bill 646 is a Bill that creates a task force to support and coordinate strategic approaches to addressing trauma and to promote and establish Illinois as a healing-centered state. The task force will be led by the Lieutenant Governor's Office. It'll have a robust makeup consisting of 30 members. Again, there was a provision that was taken out that just clarified that the members will serve without compensation. We all know how important trauma is. There's been a lot of work and effort that has gone into this throughout the state. This task force is coming together to, again, support and coordinate all of these efforts. I urge a 'yes' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "Seeing no one seeking recognition, the question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 646 pass?' All those in favor signify by saying... voting 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. The voting's open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 111 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Representative Slaughter on Senate Bill 734. Out of the record. Representative Lindsey LaPointe on Senate Bill 1402. Out of the record. Representative Rita on Senate Bill 1543.

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Out of the record. Representative Kifowit, Senate Bill 1646. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Clerk, please move this Bill to Second Reading for the purpose of an Amendment."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 1646, a Bill for an Act concerning public employee benefits. This Bill was read a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #1, offered by Representative Kifowit, has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Kifowit on Floor Amendment #1."

Kifowit: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Floor Amendment 1 is a technical change. It still keeps the intent of the underlying Bill. What the Floor Amendment does is it allows for state universities, institution of higher education to allow promotional materials that may include going to student's educational counseling, debt reductions, student loan repayment or forgiveness, and other services intended to enhance the retirement saving opportunities. They are to receive zero compensation for these services. I ask for this adoption."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Kifowit moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #1 to Senate Bill 1646. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all opposed 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. The Amendment is adopted. Third Reading. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 1646, a Bill for an Act concerning public employee benefits. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Kifowit."

Kifowit: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senate Bill 1646 came over from the Senate as a comprehensive Bill. It has several Articles

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that it includes. This is technically like a cleanup Bill, so it... it includes a lot of different details. However, the Bill is structured in various Articles for the ease of reading. Article I provides that the boards of trustees of the Laborers' & Retirement Board Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund and (unintelligible) funds have the authority to issue subpoenas to compel attendance of witnesses. Article II amends the State's University Teacher's Retirement System, Public Employees' Deferred Compensation System, and university employee custodial accounts to prohibit companies who contract with government entities to provide record keeping services for public employee deferred compensation plans. Article III amends the General Provisions Articles of the Illinois Pension Code. Article IV amends the Deferred Compensation Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Article V amends the Firefighters' Pension Investment Fund. Article VI establishes a Member of the Chicago Teacher Pension Fund Annuity shall not be canceled if the member is reemployed by the Board of Education as paraprofessional or related service provider. Article VII allows Chicago teachers who are elected trustees of the Chicago Teacher Pension Fund up to 22 days paid leave. Article VIII amends the Downstate Teacher Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Article IX encourages retirees to work assisting in federal, state, and local elections without risking their pensions or benefits. I ask for your support."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "She indicates she'll yield."

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Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, I just have a few questions on the Bill. This is, I believe, it's filed a pension omnibus. Is that an accurate representation of what the Bill does? Covers many pension provisions."

Kifowit: "Correct."

Windhorst: "One of them I had a question on related to the School Code, where an active teacher who is elected trustee under the Chicago Teachers Article of the Illinois Pension Code will receive up to 22 days of paid leave of absence per year for the purpose of attending meetings and seminars of the Board of Trustees. How is the 22 days decided that that would be the number?"

Kifowit: "This came out... this was negotiated in the Senate. So, this is a number that came over for the Senate. I was not privy to those negotiations. But I'm assuming that they looked at the calendar of the board meetings, along with professional development, and came to that number."

Windhorst: "And this Bill also provides for Chicago teachers that they will receive credit for service as a teacher or administrator employed by a private school. Is that correct?"

Kifowit: "That's correct."

Windhorst: "Does the Bill contain any pension benefit increases?"

Kifowit: "Not to my knowledge. No."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Delgado."

Delgado: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Bill. To the Bill, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the Bill."

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Delgado: "I rise today in support of this legislation. And I want to just take a moment to remind the Body of the people that we affect every day with the legislative action that we take. I received a note from a constituent who teaches at Prosser Career Academy in Chicago, sharing that there was attendance clerk at the school who had been advocating for one of these changes for a few years. The clerk was Miss Leticia Lozano, and she looked forward to coming back to the school and serving as a substitute teacher when she retired. And she advocated through her union rep. to address this issue, and it's one of the issues that were debating today. And we have the opportunity to make that happen today. Unfortunately, Miss Lozano didn't get a chance to retire and come back because she passed away in December of 2020 due to complications from COVID, just a month before the vaccines were rolled out. Leticia Lozano wanted to continue serving her community and school. And while she wasn't able to see this come to fruition herself, her advocacy helped set this in motion and we remember her today. So, thank you to the Sponsor for bringing this forward. And on behalf of Leticia Lozano, I'd urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Kifowit to close."

Kifowit: "I want to thank Representative Delgado for her wonderful statement on regards of why we are here for the people we represent. And I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 1646 pass?' All those in favor signify by voting 'aye'; opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please

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take the record. On this question, there are 78 voting 'yes', 32 voting 'no', 1 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received a Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Representative Scherer, for what reason do you rise?"

Scherer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I rise for a point of personal privilege."

Speaker Hoffman: "Please state your point."

Scherer: "Yes, today, I have a group with me in the gallery behind me. And to my left... if you would guys would all stand up, please... we have the eighth grade students here on a field trip from Blessed Sacrament in Springfield. Let's give them a round of applause. Thank you for being here."

Speaker Hoffman: "Welcome. Remaining on page 5 of the Calendar, appears Senate Bill 1648, Representative Delgado. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill. Mr. Clerk, please move the Bill to Second Reading for a purpose of an Amendment."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 1648, a Bill for an Act concerning public employee benefits. This Bill was read a second time previously. Amendment 1 was... correction, Floor Amendment 1 is offered by Representative Delgado and has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Delgado on Floor Amendment #1."

Delgado: "Floor Amendment 1 addresses an issue related to another section of the Pension Code that has a similar issue. So, we added them both together."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Delgado moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #1 to Senate Bill 1648. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; opposed vote (sic-say) 'nay'. Mr.

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Clerk, the Amendment is adopted. Third Reading. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 1648, a Bill for an Act concerning public employee benefits. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Delgado."

Delgado: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senate Bill 1648 is a clarification to the Pension Code for the LABF and SERS regarding disability continuation annuity benefits. Section 11-159 and subsection 11-134(c) of the Pension Code provide for annuities for members who exhaust their ordinary disability benefits and withdraw from the service while still disabled. Such retired members are often not otherwise eligible to retire with an annuity because they have not met the minimum age in service requirements. This legislation simply clarifies the intent that the members in Tier 2 are in fact entitled to this disability annuity. And this is the current practice in both funds. According to COGFA, there isn't a fiscal impact associated with this... with codifying this practice. And I know of no opposition."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Reick."

Reick: "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "She indicates she'll yield."

Reick: "Representative, we had a conversation about this in committee yesterday. And the question came up is that what we're dealing with here are time gaps of between when disability benefits run out and when pension retirement benefits kick in. And there's a two... twofold problem here that we might have a situation where disability benefits extend out beyond the beginning of the retirement date and

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then we have a situation where the benefits may expire and leave a gap between the end of the disability eligibility and the beginning of retirement."

Delgado: "Yes."

Reick: "The question we had was, in the case of the first, where we're running benefits out beyond the beginning of the retirement date, are we paying once for two types of benefits? And on the other side, we had the question of whether or not of how and who was going to pay for this... the... and what kind of benefits we're going to be provided for and how... and who was going to pay for those that... the benefits in that gap period between the expiration of disability and the beginning of retirement? Can you... can you address that please?"

Delgado: "Yes. So, it's my understanding that it's the employer that pays for that gap. And again, when we went back to discuss how it's happening now, that is the current practice right now that they are employing. And again, it's not statistically significant in terms of the impact to the fund."

Reick: "Well, I believe... you know, regardless, we don't... we don't really have good numbers as to statistical impact on this. So, I don't think our questions as far as, you know, the employer's going to be put on the hook for this, it... it just didn't satisfy our questions and our concerns that employers might be on the hook for something that they really shouldn't be on the hook for. So, we voted 'no' in committee, and I would urge a 'no' vote on... on this Bill at this time. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Delgado to close."

Delgado: "Thank you. I would ask for an 'aye' vote."

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Speaker Hoffman: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 1648 pass?' All those in favor signify by voting 'yes'; opposed vote 'no'. The voting's open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 73 voting 'yes', 37 voting 'no', 1 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received a Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Representative LaPointe on Senate Bill 1674. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill. Mr. Clerk, please move the Bill back to Second Reading for the purpose of an Amendment. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 1674, a Bill for an Act concerning health. This Bill was read a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #1, offered by Representative LaPointe, has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative LaPointe on Floor Amendment #1."

LaPointe: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Floor Amendment 1 contracts the data collection element of the Bill and brought all parties to neutral."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative LaPointe moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #1 to Senate Bill 1674. All those in favor say 'aye'; all opposed 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Hollman: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Hoffman: "Third Reading. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 1674, a Bill for an Act concerning health. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

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Speaker Hoffman: "Representative LaPointe."

LaPointe: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senate Bill 1674 is an initiative of our Illinois Department of Human Services. And the Bill continues and codifies and puts into statute something we actually created in 2018, which is called the Diversion from Facility-Based Care Program. This Bill continues that by creating 10 short-term stabilization homes and 8 long-term stabilization homes. And these homes are for our Illinoisans that have developmental disabilities that live in state-operated developmental centers, or CILAs, or what we call ICF/DDs. And the intention with these homes is to be that higher level of care. So, when the residents of those homes are struggling with behavioral issues or medical issues or just their needs are spiking, that there is a place to go, for a short term 90 days, if long term, up to 2 years, to get stable. And part of the intent is to.. make sure people can stay in the community rather than live in the higher level of care."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "She indicates she'll yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, DHS currently has a program and this legislation will codify that program. Is that correct?"

LaPointe: "Correct. DHS and we, as a state, currently have seven short-term stabilization homes. We have an eighth one coming online. But with this Bill, it would allow us to have up to 10 and to codify it in statute."

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Windhorst: "And does the department believe it can satisfy its obligations with its current appropriation for this program?"

LaPointe: "Well, quote, unquote, 'current appropriation is... is a little unclear.' So, I will say that there is funding for the 10 and 8 homes that I've mentioned in the Governor's state Fiscal Year '24 introduced budget. And... and as we know, serving people in the community cost a whole lot less than state facilities."

Windhorst: "You had mentioned that the Amendment removed opposition. What was the opposition and how did the Amendment remove it?"

LaPointe: "Excellent question. And... and opposition is probably too strong of a word. Just stakeholders that have an interest in this. So, the Amendment was related to what data DHS would have to report on these homes on a quarterly basis. And AFSCME, of course, has a stake in our whole developmental disability system. So, AFSCME was a key partner in negotiating this Bill, including that Amendment."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Caulkins."

Caulkins: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates she'll yield."

Caulkins: "Representative, who is going to own these 10 homes?"

LaPointe: "Great question. So, just like a lot of our human service system, we fund them with state dollars. But it's actually our nonprofit organizations that respond to what we now call things like NOFOs to actually run the services. So, I'll give you an example. There's an organization called Envision Unlimited. They are one of two nonprofits that runs

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one of the... some of the current short term stabilization homes."

Caulkins: "So, only a nonprofit? I mean, we have... currently have a network of ICF/DDs and CILAs. Would a company, an individual who is currently providing DD services, be eligible to change their licensure or enroll in this program?"

LaPointe: "Enrolling's probably not the right word. But, yes, those providers that you are describing that currently provide some level of care to our folks with developmental disabilities, they would be free to respond to this opportunity just like any other provider, as long as they hit the requirements."

Caulkins: "And... and the funding, I mean, obviously we're talking about individuals that need a tremendous amount of care. They don't fit in the current model, ICF/DDs, CILA models. What are the rates? What... what are you forecasting a daily rate for an individual that might be eligible for this program?"

LaPointe: "Kind of to your first statement, these are designed to meet somebody's needs at a certain point in their life where their behavioral health needs, for example, might be spiking. Maybe they are well suited to live in a CILA, but there's a moment in their life where behaviors are increasing. And so, they need a short-term stabilization home. To your other question, I can't tell you the specific rates because that's not in the Bill. But when I... what I can do is give you a ballpark of how much these homes cost. So, that is 1.2 to 1.4 million a year for each of these homes that 4 people would live in."

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Caulkins: "So, we're going to guarantee the funding regardless of occupancy?"

LaPointe: "The funding is in the Governor's state Fiscal Year '24 budget proposal."

Caulkins: "No. No, I got that. No... but, I mean, we're going to fund this facility regardless of how many people are in it. Under the current system, the operators of CILA's, ICF/DDs are paid a daily rate based on occupancy. What you're... what I'm hearing is that we're going to set up these 10 homes and fund them. What... at a 1.2, 1.4 million dollars, whatever it is, but that's not important. But that we're going to guarantee the operators of these homes an income, a monthly stipend so to speak, whether there's four people, two people, eight people, or they have nobody. Which we know that's not going to be the case, but I'm... do you get the point of my question?"

LaPointe: "I do get the point of your question, and what you're insinuating is not accurate."

Caulkins: "No. I'm not insinuating. I'm asking you a question, Ma'am."

LaPointe: "So... so, the answer to that is no."

Caulkins: "I'm sorry."

LaPointe: "The answer to your question, then, is no. And let me give you... let me give you an example. So..."

Caulkins: "Okay."

LaPointe: "...part of funding mechanisms for residential entities such as... are in the Bill, are workers. And workers get paid when they are there showing up. And so, if a four-person home, for whatever reason, only has one resident at any given time,

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there's going to be less workers that are there. So, it... the funding structure isn't just like a capitated rate to a home no matter what."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Caulkins, would you like additional time? Representative Wilhour yields you three minutes."

Caulkins: "And, Rep., I'm... I think this is a great idea. I'm just trying to figure out how it's going to work. I mean, we have this respite. I mean, someone could be there for a week, someone could be there, you know, for two years. But are we going to fund these facilities, you know, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year at your 1.2 or 1.4, whatever it is, regardless of the census?"

LaPointe: "The answer to that question is no."

Caulkins: "Okay. So, how do we... how do we maintain these facilities? How do we... how do we maintain the staff? How do we pay for administrators? How do we pay for the operations? I mean, the rent, the heat, the liability, the transportation, the administration, the cook, activity director, all of these people have to be there every day, whether there's one person or four people or eight people in the home. How does an operator pay for this if... if you were only going to pay like we do at an ICF/DD or a CILA?"

LaPointe: "Not every worker would... would show up every day if there is just one resident in the home, for example. There's no reason to believe that we wouldn't fill these homes. And in terms of the larger funding question, you know, we don't put the ends and outs of... of how we fund in every single Bill. I've had extensive conversations with DHS about this and would

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be happy to walk you through the funding structures outside of this conversation in this chamber."

Caulkins: "Well, I think... I think it's important that we understand what we're doing. And this isn't... I mean, I'm not debating the necessity of... of these types of facilities because we don't have places to... for... you know, for the developmentally disabled who are in crisis. They don't... I mean, you know, the current system, CILAs and ICF/DDs, aren't equipped to handle some of these episodes and behaviors and we don't have mental health institutions. But I guess I just don't understand how we're going to make it work and how you're going to find an agency, whether it be for-profit or nonprofit, to support it when we have people moving in and out, the cost of it... I don't know. I look forward to hearing more about it. This... it just perplexes me that we're going to set something like this up in statute and not attach a way to pay for it, not have some type of a pay scale, something that we're going to do to make sure that the people we want to get into this business are going to know that they're going to get paid. They're going to be down times. There's going to be empty beds. It was always the biggest challenge to have an empty bed in a facility."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative, please bring your remarks to a close."

Caulkins: "Okay. It's all... and what the biggest... one of our biggest challenges, other than the hiring staff. And if you're going to hire somebody to come in three days a week and then the bed's empty, and now they don't come in, I don't know what you're going to do about that. But this is an issue that

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I... is not very well thought out, at least from what I'm hearing. I'm not sure that I can support it, but I do support the concept. And thank you very much."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Severin."

Severin: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "She indicates she'll yield."

Severin: "So, a question for you, Representative. If a resident is in a short-term facility, can they go to a long-term and then opt back to a short-term? Can they bounce back and forth? Is there a time frame on that? Two questions for the price of one."

LaPointe: "They could move from a short-term to a long-term. In terms of your time frame question, I do not have an answer to that."

Severin: "So, can they do it... is there a limit on how many times they could do that? Or are they... I was going to ask you that yesterday. I'm sorry I didn't ask you in committee. But it came to me again, so I wanted to ask you. Because I think it is important to know that answer."

LaPointe: "I can't give you an answer..."

Severin: "Okay."

LaPointe: "...on the time frame. But I will say, as you know, the idea is to codify short-term stabilization..."

Severin: "Right."

LaPointe: "...homes, which we're already doing. Also, create long-term stabilizations home for up to two years. We... we will continue to have our other housing options, including state-operated developmental centers that... it is... it could happen

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that somebody moves from a long-term stabilization to Murray Developmental Center, for example. That could happen."

Severin: "Okay. Thank you. I appreciate that. And I also appreciate the comment you made yesterday in my question that we're looking forward to having some of these facilities in Southern Illinois. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Halbrook."

Halbrook: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates she'll yield."

Halbrook: "Representative, you'd mentioned it earlier and just recently that this Bill would codify a program already in existence. How did that program come into existence and then why are we doing this Bill if there's already something in place?"

LaPointe: "The initial program came into existence from a Bill that this Body passed in 2018. And that created a structure for short-term stabilization homes."

Halbrook: "Okay."

LaPointe: "Seven of them exist today. Some in Northern Illinois. Some in Central Illinois."

Halbrook: "So, that was for short-term?"

LaPointe: "Correct. So, what this Bill does is codifies into statute up to 10 short-term stabilization homes and up to 8 long-term stabilization homes."

Halbrook: "So, you're adding additional facilities.. or homes?"

LaPointe: "We are. It's well documented that the amount of attention and resources that we have given to children and adults with developmental disabilities in this state is horrifyingly inadequate."

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Halbrook: "So, just to be clear, what's already in existence was a Bill done in 2018. It just wasn't a program that the agency created. It was done by legislative action."

LaPointe: "Correct."

Halbrook: "Okay. Well, I was just confused about how we were... anyhow, thank you for that clarification. So, these homes, are they... are they built by private developers with private money and the funding that you're asking for here is to fund the operation of those or fund the construction? What... what are these dollars used for?"

LaPointe: "It's to fund the operation. Just the same way that Envision Unlimited, for example, a DD provider in this state runs a CILA in several of our districts. Multiple CILAs."

Halbrook: "Okay. So, how is this population being served now? What... where are they housed at currently?"

LaPointe: "I'll give you a few examples. So, Community Integrated Living Arrangements are homes for small groups of adults with developmental disabilities where they live in a group setting and they're served by direct support professionals, also known as DSPs. Intermediate Care Facilities for People with Developmental Disabilities is another housing arrangement that we have for people with DD. And then another great example is our state-operated development... developmental centers, including Murray and Choate."

Halbrook: "Okay. So, I heard earlier about this potential to where residents can move from short-term to long-term and back. If... is there some compensation to the operators if that bed or that room stays open for a time? Will it... will their

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compensation continue? What is the guarantee there to make sure that that happens or is there a guarantee?"

LaPointe: "So, that sounds like a similar question that came from another Representative. The funding is built based on rates. The funding could fluctuate. To go back to the previous question, it... it's not that providers are going to be getting a flat rate and they're going to get all the money, even if they have no census in the stabilization home."

Halbrook: "Okay. The final question here. I just... I'm concerned about the dollars. And it says DHS believes that they can fund these homes with their current appropriation in the Governor's proposed budget. Can you explain what that statement means? Just so I have a clear... what... how that works and what you're asking for here today."

LaPointe: "What that statement is saying is that the Department of Human Services believes that they can fund the homes in this Bill with the money that is appearing in the Governor's introduced state Fiscal Year '24 budget."

Halbrook: "Okay. So..."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative, would you... would you like to bring your remarks to a close or have additional time?"

Halbrook: "I'm bringing it to a close. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Thank you."

Halbrook: "Okay. Just trying to get a handle on it. So, the Governor's budget would have to be passed to make that all work? All right. Thank you. No further questions."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Meier."

Meier: "Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates she'll yield."

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Meier: "As I'm looking at this Bill and listening to you talk, it sounds like proposals I've had. With the redefinition of Choate going on, proposals that I've had at Murray before, I would like to see a step down from an SODC, very similar to this, even on our state grounds. So, this could be used for somebody in crisis that's out in the public. And this could be used for somebody stepping down from an SODC into a little bit lesser. But if things were located on these properties, the psychiatrist, psychologist, the speech therapist, everybody else would be there to help these residents. So, is it possible that these could be located right next to one of these centers that the state's already running? Or even on that ground and we just use it in a little bit of a different definition to help as we move these residents to the best quality of life they can have?"

LaPointe: "Rep., that's a really interesting question and idea. I'm not... is it possible? I don't know for sure, but I think it's a really good idea. I think the... the spirit of what your asking is proximity. And keeping people proximate to where they were living before, where their loved ones are is really important. And what I am a hundred percent committed to that I told my good friend from Benton, Illinois, is that we have to make... we have to try everything... we have to make sure some of these homes end up in southern Illinois."

Meier: "We do have to... I worry about the financial part of it. That's why I like the proximity. We don't have enough psychiatrists. We don't have enough psychologists. So, I will be happy to keep working with you and hope you'll work with me because I believe these right next to our centers, we get

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to share that staff of expertise because we can't find it in other places. So, I'm going to support you on this Bill. It's something that I've tried for 10 years to get located right there so that for our residents that we can we can get them moved back in the public with the help that they need. And I look at this as kind of the in between place to help train them and get them there. And so, I've been pushing that for a long time. I hope we can kind of mold this into that pattern a little bit. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Haas."

Haas: "Thank you, Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "She indicates she'll yield."

Haas: "Thank you. So, communities often struggle with finding an appropriate placement for individuals that suffer from developmental disabilities as well as mental health issues. Would... would this be an option for those community residents that need... that may be in inappropriate placements to... to be filtered into these homes?"

LaPointe: "Can you clarify if you're talking about people with developmental disabilities?"

Haas: "Yes. Yes. For individuals with developmental disabilities."

LaPointe: "Yes. Yes. The idea is to have an alternative option when somebody is displaying a need for a high... higher level of care or behavioral health issues."

Haas: "Okay. So, when... when, you know, we hear a high number of emergency response calls that may be inappropriately hospitalized, things of that nature, this would be an appropriate resource?"

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LaPointe: "That is exactly right."

Haas: "Okay. Thank you. This, I think, is a great Bill. The prior speaker addressed some... some great points that are needed in our communities. This came through our... our committee on leave, all of our committee Members were in support. And I would urge an 'aye' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative LaPointe to close."

LaPointe: "I appreciate the questions. I appreciate that this Body truly understands the how we've handled housing and support for people with developmental disabilities has been horrifyingly inadequate. This Bill is a step in a direction to let people have more choices and to live their lives in the community if that fits their level of needs and that fits their choice. Especially want to thank my friends on the other side of the aisle for working together with me and others on this issue. I would appreciate an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 1674 pass?' All those in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 111 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no', and 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Mr. Clerk, Rules Report."

Clerk Hollman: "Rules Report. Representative Gabel, Chairperson from the Committee on Rules reports the following committee action taken on May 12, 2023: recommends be adopted, referred to the floor is Floor Amendment(s) 2 to House Bill 351."

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Speaker Hoffman: "Remaining on page 5 of the Calendar, appears Senate Bill 1988, Leader Burke. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 1988, a Bill for an Act concerning revenue. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Burke."

Burke: "Thank you. I believe there's a Floor Amendment that needs to be adopted."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader, I believe that was just filed today. Do you want to wait until it gets... it catches up?"

Burke: "Yeah. So, let's take it out of the record."

Speaker Hoffman: "Out of the record. Moving on to page 6 of the Calendar. Representative Ammons on Senate Bill 2031. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill. Mr. Clerk, please move this Bill to Second Reading for the purpose of an Amendment. Read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 2031, a Bill for an Act concerning education. This Bill was read a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #1, offered by Representative Ammons, has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Ammons on Floor Amendment #1."

Ammons: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senate Bill 2031, the Floor Amendment is simply changing the date, giving the State Board of Education enough time to amend the school report card. It moves it by a couple of years. I ask for its adoption."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Ammons moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #1 to Senate Bill 2031. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all opposed 'nay'. In the opinion of

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the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted.
Third Reading. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 2031, a Bill for an Act concerning
education. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Ammons."

Ammons: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The underlying Bill simply
changes some points of data collection for the school report
card for high school that includes demographics of students
and teachers in advance placement courses, standard courses,
special education courses, and English learner courses. And
I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "She indicates she'll yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you. I noticed this Bill passed unanimously in
the Senate and out of committee. Our analysis shows opposition
from the State Board of Education, the Principals
Association, and the Association of School Administrators. Do
you know what the nature of their opposition is?"

Ammons: "I do not know the nature of their opposition. Mine shows
they are no position. So, I'm not aware of that."

Windhorst: "Is there any concern that, particularly with the State
Board of Education, that they are at capacity with reporting
requirements and would potentially need additional money to
comply with the requirements?"

Ammons: "Unfortunately, I'm not aware of their opposition. So, I
couldn't speak to it at all."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Wilhour."

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Wilhour: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "She indicates she'll yield."

Wilhour: "So, this is a... we're delaying getting data put on the school report card, is that what this is doing?"

Ammons: "Yes. We're giving them enough time to add these additional requirements that's already collected to the school report card. Give them a couple of years to gather that information."

Wilhour: "What's the... what's the reasoning for giving them..."

Ammons: "The reason for what?"

Wilhour: "...giving them more time to do this? The... the concern is..."

Ammons: "Courtesy. Really, it's courtesy. Because they have... they already have student demographics that they collect on a report card, but these areas they do not. And so, we wanted to make sure they had enough time to collect the data."

Wilhour: "So, they're currently not... this is stuff that's not currently on the... on the school report card?"

Ammons: "It's not currently on the school report card."

Wilhour: "Okay. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Ammons to close."

Ammons: "I ask for an 'aye' vote, Mr. Speaker. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 2031 pass?' All those in favor signify by voting 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 97 voting 'yes', 13 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having

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received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Leader Gabel, for what reason do you rise?"

Gabel: "Speaker, let the record show that Representative Gong-Gershowitz is excused for the rest of today."

Speaker Hoffman: "The record shall reflect. On page 6 of the Calendar, Senate Bill 2218, Leader Evans. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 2218, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Evans."

Evans: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the great the Members of this Assembly. I'm presenting Senate Bill 2218 in an effort to help other unions throughout the state gather the needed data to evaluate bias in the same manner that CTU did. Senate Bill 2218 requires school districts to share rating data disaggregated by race and ethnicity data with union leaders at the school district level. Of course, we did this in school year 2022, Chicago Teachers Union, and we're looking to... to spread this beyond. I request your support."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "He indicates he'll yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Leader. Just to follow up on a comment you made to make sure I understood. The purpose of this Bill is to bring the whole state into similarity with what is occurring in Chicago. Is that correct?"

Evans: "I guess you could say that way. It's really not about Chicago. It's just about getting... sharing data and making sure that, you know, local union representation throughout

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the state has a clear understanding of, kind of, really what's going on. And, of course, with good data we can make better decisions."

Windhorst: "Does Chicago currently use this data?"

Evans: "It's my understanding that they do it. But again, it's really about the local representatives from the union just having the data. Most things are probably going good, but they want the data to make sure that there's fairness with regards to a... to teachers."

Windhorst: "And the... the Bill will provide a list of school board sequence of honorable dismissal lists that includes the race and ethnicity of a teacher if the... if provided by a teacher. Is that essentially what the Bill does?"

Evans: "Yes. For sure. Yep."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Evans: "Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Evans to close."

Evans: "I request your support."

Speaker Hoffman: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 2218 pass?' All those in favor signify by voting 'yes'; opposed vote 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 95 voting 'yes', 14 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Representative Mason on Senate Bill 2223. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 2223, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

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Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Mason."

Mason: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senate Bill 2223 is known as Louie's Law. It's named in memory of Louie Miceli who was lost to an opioid overdose. His amazing mom, Felicia Miceli, has advocated for this Bill, along with many other brave, strong moms and family members, in order to ensure that students and families have information available to prevent more loved ones from dying. This Bill requires the State Board of Education and the Department of Human Services to work in consultation with stakeholders, including the Illinois Opioid Crisis Response Advisory Council, to develop and update substance... substance use prevention and recovery resource materials for public, elementary, and secondary schools. This does not mandate any additional curriculum. It simply requires that the information be made available to the schools and on the... ISBE's website and shall be sent by email to all regional offices of education and school districts. Supporters include the American Academy of Pediatrics, the IEA, IFT, Illinois Association of School Social Workers. There's no known opposition. And this is a great bipartisan Bill that has passed unanimously out of House Committee and on the Senate Floor. It will be the first of its kind in the nation, and it will educate our youth, and it will save lives. So, I ask for an 'aye' vote in honor of Louie Miceli and the many, many others who have died during this epidemic."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "She indicates she'll yield."

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Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, I appreciate you bringing forward this Bill on a very important topic. You've mentioned this is not a mandate on school districts. If a school district does decide to participate, are they prohibited from using other maybe currently existing substance abuse prevention and recovery programs that they are currently operating?"

Mason: "No. They're not prohibited from doing so."

Windhorst: "You had mentioned those in support. Have you heard from the Illinois Prevention Network and whether they are supportive of the Bill?"

Mason: "Off the top of my head, I don't have the list, but there are other opioid prevention organizations. They may be one that are in support. I apologize. I can get back to you."

Windhorst: "Thank you."

Mason: "Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Halbbrook."

Halbrook: "Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates she'll yield."

Halbrook: "So, just to continue on the theme there, this is not a direct mandate to schools, but it is a mandate to ISBE and the DHS to develop the program and the materials?"

Mason: "Correct. It's... it's not a program, but it is resource materials."

Halbrook: "Okay."

Mason: "So, it's not an actual curriculum. It's just information."

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Halbrook: "And then... and additionally, are... are you trying to appropriate additional money to these agencies to develop this or not?"

Mason: "No. There is a provision that later, should a school decide to create a curriculum, they may apply, subject to appropriation, for funds. However, those funds, there is money available from the opioid settlement that could be applied to that. So, it shouldn't be a cost to the state."

Halbrook: "So, just to be clear on that last statement, if a school does the program, they can... they can apply for some dollars to offset the implementation of that in their local school from the opioid fund."

Mason: "Only if money has been appropriated, but again, they can also apply from the opioid settlement funds, which is likely where it would come from."

Halbrook: "But no GRF or anything else to fund that?"

Mason: "No."

Halbrook: "Okay. Thank you."

Mason: "Thank you."

Halbrook: "Appreciate your answers. No further questions."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Mason to close."

Mason: "I ask for an 'aye' vote. This is an epidemic. Our kids are smart. They need information to keep themselves safe. And I appreciate your support."

Speaker Hoffman: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 2223 pass?' All those in favor signify by voting 'aye'; opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there were 109 voting

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'yes', 0 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Leader Evans on Senate Bill 2228. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 2228, a Bill for an Act concerning State government. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Evans."

Evans: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the great Members of this Assembly. You know, Ladies and Gentlemen, the state is hiring. And the state's been hiring for a while. But you know we tell people after they fill out an application, we tell them, hey, see you in eight months, see you in six months, see you in a year. The hiring process for the State of Illinois has been broken for many, many years. We make people wait rather than hiring them. We send qualified people to other places. Other states have come into the 20... not even the 21st century, I don't know which one this is. But some people... this state, we're still in the 1800s with regard to hiring. Our Personnel Code was first adopted in 1955. It's been amended a few times but never really examined. Now, this Bill is not the ultimate solution, so don't go blaming me. This Bill, it starts the process at implementing modern processes for hiring. Okay. Modern process, we're going into the 19th century. This legislation is the first of many steps towards modernizing state hiring, reducing the time it takes to hire to grow our state's workforce. So, we complain about some of our agencies, they just don't have enough people. They just don't have the people necessary to process the requests of the people we're trying to help. So, we need to do something about that. In

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addition to overall updating language, just basic language to modernizing, this Bill will reduce hiring timelines in numerous ways. It expands on-the-spot job hiring, provisional hiring. It gets the new employees working while the administrative process is complete. It eliminates references to list that we don't even use. Other technical changes, eliminating grades and references to test, paving the way for greater reduction in hiring, moving away from in-person testing is saving weeks in the sequence. It also creates probationary separation, which enables agencies to cut months off the time required. And, of course, it speeds up our JCAR and Civil Service Commission process but keeps us in a... of course, doesn't take away rulemaking, but takes away unnecessary steps. It strengthens commitment to increasing flexibility for the state workforce and, of course, improves trans parity and access to workforce data. I humbly ask you to support this legislation, but let's keep our foot on the gas with regards to hiring. This is a first step. But there's a few other things that were not agreed upon, but we must expedite the hiring process. We're still hiring for many, many decades ago. Let's beef up IDOT. IDOT is slow because they need more workers. Our Department of Human Services, we need more workers. Folks on the side lines, let's get them working for the State of Illinois in a smart way. So, I request your support. And I thank you for our CMS leadership, of course, and our AFSCME leadership. Sit in with the Senate and try to figure this thing out. Again, this is an important first step. But we got to keep the foot on the gas and get to

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hiring to where we need to be in the State of Illinois. So, request your support for this important first step."

Speaker Hoffman: "Seeing no one seeking recognition, the question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 2228 pass?' Representative Swanson, I apologize. I didn't see your light. Representative Swanson."

Swanson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Sponsor yields."

Swanson: "Just a quick question as we're reviewing here. Does this remove veterans' preference points from the hiring process?"

Evans: "No."

Swanson: "I see you're still looking."

Evans: "I'm just double-checking, but it's no."

Swanson: "Because there is some language in here about removing eligibility lists. And I believe that veterans' preference points fall on the eligibility list."

Evans: "No. We just got rid of the list, but they still have hiring preference. I don't think that's where the veterans' preference is located."

Swanson: "Okay. Just wanted to make sure what the intent was."

Evans: "No. We love our veterans. Don't get me in trouble."

Swanson: "Thank you."

Evans: "I told you, don't get me in trouble."

Swanson: "All right. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Halbrook."

Halbrook: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates he'll yield."

Halbrook: "Representative, I... you know, we hear this in our appropriations hearings about how the agencies, it's just

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taking a long time to hire people. So, in concept I agree with the need to shorten that time. I'm not really sure I'm on board with being able to... all these agencies are this short of people, but I think we do have an opportunity that maybe we're losing people with certain skill sense and certain talent that is just going on into the private sector or somewhere else just because the timeline that it's taking to hire people on. I guess the question I might have for you, is... is there going to be any dollars involved or is this just to streamlining some rules and some different sections of the code? What... what is the crux of what we're doing here in 2228?"

Evans: "Well, it's really about removing unnecessary steps. I mean, even in our analysis, provisional hiring was not possible. Sometimes you got to get folks on. If you have maybe four or five people who leave at one time, you need to get some people hired quickly. So, just having a flexibility for provisional hiring was not allowed by law. That's common sense. Even going through our JCAR process and going through the Civil Service Commission, it was some duplication in steps for regards to issues and hiring. Those were addressed. It wasn't about solving one problem, just throwing money at it. It was working through the mechanism how we hiring. Having somebody wait four months to get a grade back when they qualify for a job didn't make sense. So, we went... we really went through and addressed, you know, a few hundred items that was causing problems. And the hope is that these items will solve the problem. It's not just about mass hiring.

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Again, it's like you were saying, it's smart hiring and eliminating unnecessary steps."

Halbrook: "Well, again, we've heard 30-plus agencies this spring and every one of them was talking three, four, five, six months to hire people. Again, I think we're letting some talent get away from us for this reason. Again, I think we agree in concept, but like the former Speaker, I hope that we're not creating lists of people putting them in an ineligible situation just because of a certain status or not. I guess if that's... if that comes to light later, we'll have to come back and review that. But again, I'm favorable to your Bill just to streamline this process. And so, with that, no further questions. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Evans to close."

Evans: "Again, we must straighten this out. You know, there's families that's missing out on opportunities. We letting our best talent leave the State of Illinois. And even if we don't hire a person, just having a person in limbo waiting for an answer, you can destroy a person's life, put them in a tough situation. If they're not hired, they can go on to another opportunity. Finality is what's needed for the working-class folks who apply. So, I request your support. And again, I thank everybody. But we got to keep the foot on the gas. There's more to be done, but this is an important first step. So, I thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 2228 pass?' All those in favor signify by voting 'aye'; opposed vote 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the

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record. On this question, there are 110 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Representative Mayfield on Senate Bill 2243. Mr. Clerk, please move this Bill to Second Reading for the purpose of an Amendment. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 2243, a Bill for an Act concerning education. This Bill was read a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #1, offered by Representative Mayfield, has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Mayfield on Floor Amendment #1."

Mayfield: "Floor Amendment #1 combines language from House Bill 3147 and House Bill 1124."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Mayfield moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #1 to Senate Bill 2243. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk, any further Amendments?"

Clerk Hollman: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Hoffman: "Third Reading. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 2243, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Mayfield."

Mayfield: "Thank you so much. The Amendment... House Floor Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 2243 is a culmination of years of discussion about improving literacy instruction so that every student in Illinois has the support they need to learn to read and write. It is a commitment to continue those discussions for years to

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come as the Illinois State Board of Education embarks on a journey to develop a comprehensive literacy plan in collaboration with stakeholders. Senate Bill 2243, as amended... I'm sorry. Senate Bill 2243, as introduced, was a one sentence Bill requiring the plan. This Amendment flushes out the details of what will be included in the plan and identifies tools that ISBE must develop after that to support school districts and educators. So, what's in the Bill? We added components from House Bill 3147 that deals with the licensure test. Rather than creating an additional test, this directs ISBE to work with a testing vendor to ensure a valid and reliable language and literacy subscore can be generated from the existing elementary education content test. So, it would be no additional test to be paid for, developed, or taken. That's very important. We also dealt with the early screeners that was in House Bill 1124 with university... universal early literacy screening that sparked a robust discussion. Now, the literacy plan will be the venue for continuing that important discussion. The plan will provide guidance on early screeners. It also eliminates the changes to the Reading Improvement Block Grant. I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Representative Faver Dias."

Faver Dias: "Page eight... page eight, paragraph seven identifies a number of examples of elements of literacy that that plan must include. Are those meant to restrict the focus of the plan or narrow the scope of literacy instruction?"

Mayfield: "Thank you for that question. Absolutely not. For legislative intent, notice that we call this a literacy plan

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not a reading plan. Literacy includes reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and visually representing. The items we identified in the paragraph are examples, but they are not limiting. Reading comprehension depends on language comprehension, the ability to not just understand language but to analyze it as well. So, thank you for that question."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates she'll yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Representative. I note on the Amendment there were a couple Republican 'no' votes in committee. And I believe the concern from some of our Members was the... about providing too much responsibility to the State Board of Education rather than perhaps the General Assembly taking on those responsibilities. If you could for us just address why you think it's appropriate to give the state board this authority."

Mayfield: "Let me just say that the state board on their website, and you can go there, there's a form that they put out. They have over 100 stakeholders. So, were talking about educators, principals, teachers, administrators. We're getting input from the local level, not just from the state level on this statewide literacy plan. We wanted to bring together all of the stakeholders to develop something that we knew could work and would be comprehensive enough that we could distribute statewide. Every one that wanted to participate was allowed to participate. We did not disqualify anyone. And this... then goes back to the local level. We're not mandating anything on the local level. So, I think that's important to add."

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Windhorst: "Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Mayfield to close."

Mayfield: "I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 2243 pass?'

All those in favor signify by voting 'aye'; opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 106 voting 'yes', 1 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Leader Keicher, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Keicher: "Mr. Speaker, please let the record reflect that Representative Weaver is excused for the remainder of the day."

Speaker Hoffman: "The record will so reflect. Leader Burke on Senate Bill 2247. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 2247, a Bill for an Act concerning assistance to persons with disabilities. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Burke."

Burke: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, Senate Bill 2237 (sic-2247) is regarding the ABLE Program, which is administered by the Illinois Treasurer. It is the program that is a savings plan for our residents and actually other residents of other states who participate in our... in our pooled program. Residents with disabilities who are able to save for their adult needs, much in the same way that people would save for post-high school... a post-high school college experience. So, the Bill... this..."

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so, we've established this. It's been in for a while. It's been very successful. So, this is just a couple updates. The first is that the program will now be referred to as the Senator Scott Bennett ABLE Program. And Senator Bennett was instrumental in establishing this program and was a big supporter throughout his life. It also clarifies that entities may make contributions to accounts, not just individuals. And a typical entity would be perhaps a trust that is making a contribution on behalf of a beneficiary and updates some of the FOIA provisions. And I know of no opposition. And I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "Seeing no one seeking recognition, the question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 2247 pass?' All those in favor signify by voting 'aye'; opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 108 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received a Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Senate Bill 2368, Representative Johnson. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 2368, a Bill for an Act concerning business. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Johnson."

Johnson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senate Bill 2368 would establish minimum structural standards for new and substantially modified commercial buildings. This legislation will also create access to more federal funding more quickly for the municipal pre- and post-disaster infrastructure projects."

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This Bill was passed unanimously out of committee, has bipartisan support, and I would ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates he'll yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, what is the reason for bringing this Bill forward?"

Johnson: "In recent years, Congress has allocated billions of dollars to help states and communities proactively reduce natural disaster risks and build climate resilience. Unfortunately, Illinois is one of six states that is not competitive for these federal funds today because we do not have a statewide building code or evidence that current building codes are widely adopted at the local level. It also at this... ensures that what happened at the Amazon plant in Edwardsville is not repeated again here in Illinois."

Windhorst: "So, we're taking potentially something that was occurring only in the local level and moving it up to a statewide code. Is that accurate?"

Johnson: "It's setting a minimum baseline for building structures that I would argue should be present in all 118 districts. I mean, I personally would hope that if a natural disaster would occur in my district that the buildings would... would be built at a sustainable level to protect all of those inside. Yes, Sir."

Windhorst: "Local jurisdictions can adopt a more stringent code. This is the minimum baseline. Is that correct?"

Johnson: "Correct, Sir. Yes."

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Windhorst: "So, to the extent it sets a minimum baseline, it does take away some local control on that... in that scenario. Is that accurate?"

Johnson: "It... it does not. It simply sets a simple structure. It doesn't impact any of the local county or city code decisions. It does not."

Windhorst: "All right. Thank you."

Johnson: "Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Davidsmeyer."

Davidsmeyer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "He indicates he'll yield."

Davidsmeyer: "So, you brought this through committee and had some individuals in there that had been affected by the recent tornadoes that went through. The couple lost their son when one of the warehouses collapsed. I just... I want to make sure that the goal of this is to ensure safe... proper safe building codes and not to force a... any type of energy agenda or anything like that. Is that fair to say?"

Johnson: "Absolutely, Representative."

Davidsmeyer: "I mean, we're not trying to get rid of natural gas and force electric vehicles or anything like that through this legislation. We're just saying that there needs to be a basic safety standard and that's what we're going with, right?"

Johnson: "Absolutely correct, Representative. Thank you."

Davidsmeyer: "Okay. I'm... I'm happy to support this. I did have a constituent who had a fire and their insurance wouldn't cover a new sprinkler system in their new building because they didn't have the county code that... that required it. This would

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actually require that, and it would've been covered by insurance. So, thank you."

Johnson: "Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Egofske."

Egofske: "Thank you, Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield, please?"

Speaker Hoffman: "He indicates he'll yield."

Egofske: "Just a clarification. So, this Bill mentions both county and Municipal Code can be implemented. Is that correct?"

Johnson: "Yes, Sir."

Egofske: "So, if the county implements more restricted code, can the municipal unit override that with their own code?"

Johnson: "I'll have to get back to you on that, Representative. That I don't know."

Egofske: "Okay. Thank you."

Johnson: "Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Halbbrook."

Halbrook: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield."

Speaker Hoffman: "He indicates he'll yield."

Halbrook: "So, Representative, I'm still not clear. I know our Leader on the floor... our Floor Leader asked this, and I wasn't sure if you answered it fully. And now, another question with the former speaker. So, if this... if this law... this legislation becomes law, does a county or municipality, if they have a lesser standard, have to adopt this standard?"

Johnson: "They would have to adopt this minimum structural standard. Yes, Sir."

Halbrook: "So, when you highlight minimum structural standard, what... what would they not have to adopt? It would just be this, right?"

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Johnson: "Correct. It would just be the structural design of the buildings."

Halbrook: "Okay. So, in... in essence, it would strip out local control to manage and do as they see fit best for their... their region or their municipality or their county?"

Johnson: "It would set a minimum standard for structural designs of any building within their municipality or their county. Yes, Sir."

Halbrook: "Well... while it may be some good, I'm concerned about a precedent that it may set here and what may be coming down the road. So, I... I would just urge caution as we move forward on a vote here. Thank you."

Johnson: "Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Weber."

Weber: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates he'll yield."

Weber: "I was just wondering if there's... and I apologize, I haven't read through here. But does this demand an immediate revision of all codes for every municipality, every county across the State of Illinois to enact whatever the state comes up with? And will that be limited to one time a year, twice a year, or once every 10 years that they'll have to revise all their code books?"

Johnson: "No. Counties and municipalities are not restricted on how their local codes address any other topics covered by the building code. So, no."

Weber: "So, I thought I was under the understanding that the state is going to come up with a code requirements for commercial or buildings. Is that..."

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Johnson: "Hold one second, if you would? This Bill will create a statewide standard within the framework of the existing Illinois laws on building and construction. Beyond that, I would have to get back to you, Representative."

Weber: "Well, I assume if it comes up with a standard... and as a contractor, when I go into the county and I want to get a code book, that every county and every municipality is going to have to revise all their codes to match what the state comes up with. I guess I'm curious how... how often will they have to revise those codes? Will the state codes stay the same year to year?"

Johnson: "Every three..."

Weber: "That's my question. So, is there a limit to how many times they can change the requirements?"

Johnson: "I don't know that if there's a limit as to how many times they can change it, but I can tell you that every three years these building codes come out. And that this Bill requires that by January 1, 2025 any local building codes include requirements for structural design that are at least as stringent as the requirements for structural design in a national model building code published during the past nine years. So, they have up to nine years."

Weber: "All right. So, I guess my concern is that this going to impact every municipality, every county with having to revise their code books without knowing how often to. You know, I prefer local control. To the Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the Bill."

Weber: "You know, I understand the reasoning behind this. However, I think that these codes should be, you know, local, county

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level, municipality level. Again, you know, the codes... as a contractor, I go into different areas. There is a multitude of different codes. And I think that should remain in local control. So, thank you, but no thanks."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Johnson to close."

Johnson: "I would like to thank many of you in here that have helped me work on this Bill. I would also like to thank Carla Cope, who turned her grief into action. She lost her 29-year-old son in that plant in Edwardsville. And I would ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 2368 pass?' All those in favor signify by voting 'aye'; opposed vote 'nay'. The voting's open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 85 voting 'yes', 19 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Moving to page 11 of the Calendar, appears Senate Bills-Second Reading. Senate Bill 1875, Leader Spain. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 1875, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. This Bill was read a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #2, offered by Representative Spain, has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Spain on Floor Amendment #2."

Spain: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Floor Amendment 2 simply makes some technical changes concerning email and other electronic means. I move for its adoption."

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Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Spain moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #2 to Senate Bill 1875. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Hollman: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Hoffman: "Third Reading. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 1875, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Spain on Senate Bill 1875."

Spain: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senate Bill 1875 is an initiative of JCAR, the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. Simply helps JCAR move from a paper process to a more electronic and email process so that we can make it easier for members of the public to submit comments. There is no opposition to this Bill. And I encourage an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "Seeing no one seeking recognition, the question is 'Shall Senate Bill 1875 pass?' All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'... by voting 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 107 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Moving to page 3 of the Calendar. Under House Bills-Second Reading, appears House Bill 2847, Representative LaPointe. Please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 2847, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. This Bill was read a second time previously. No

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Committee Amendments. Floor Amendments 2 and 3 have been approved for consideration. Floor Amendment #2 is offered by Representative LaPointe."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative LaPointe on Floor Amendment #2."

LaPointe: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Floor Amendment #2 reduces the Bill to just focus on one mental health prevention visit. And it brought all the stakeholders to neutral."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative LaPointe moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #2 to House Bill 2847. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. The Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Hollman: "Floor Amendment #3 is offered by Representative LaPointe."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative LaPointe on Floor Amendment #3."

LaPointe: "Floor Amendment #3 makes clear that we're just talking about one mental health prevention visit a year."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative LaPointe moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #3 to House Bill 2847. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all opposed 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. The Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Hollman: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Hoffman: "Third Reading. Read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 2847, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative LaPointe."

LaPointe: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. HB2847 is a Bill that opens the door to real mental health prevention and treats mental

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health care like what it is, and that is simply health care. Illinois and the entire nation, we are at a flashpoint of long-standing mental health crises. Both kids and adults have mental health needs more than they have ever had. And more than they have ever had, there's a willingness to actually seek support. So, this Bill is pretty simple in its final form. It requires most private insurance plans in Illinois to cover one annual mental health and wellness visit to a mental health professional or a primary care physician. This covered annual visit would come at no cost to the insured and it doesn't require a mental health diagnosis. It does have to be in-network. So, the idea here is to treat mental health care like health care. So, similar to annual physical, anyone who has this commercial insurance would get one annual visit a year. So, it incentivizes early detection and treatment rather than waiting for a crisis. And it helps to destigmatize mental health conditions. And just to be clear, if we pass this Bill, these new plans would cover this starting January 1, 2025. I was very proud that this Bill went out of committee on leave. Happy to answer any questions."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Representative Haas."

Haas: "Thank you, Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates she'll yield."

Haas: "Thank you. So, this, with the added Amendment, that took any opposition to this Bill off. Is that correct?"

LaPointe: "That is correct."

Haas: "Thank you. And when you talk about one well visit for a year, we're talking about just like when we bring... we go see our primary care physicians for a well visit or when we take

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our children to the doctor for... for their well visit for a year. We're talking about that type of well visit with a mental health provider, correct?"

LaPointe: "Correct."

Haas: "Okay. Thank you. And there was no opposition from the provider networks as well, correct?"

LaPointe: "That is correct. We had some great negotiations with the Illinois Life and Health Insurance Council, and they're neutral on the Bill."

Haas: "Okay. Thank you. And then what I'm seeing on... on our analysis and what some of my colleagues on this side of the aisle may see is that it's not showing that it was a unanimous vote in committee. But I want to reiterate that it was a unanimous... did pass unanimously out of committee. And I would urge an 'aye' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Seeing no one seeking further recognition, Representative LaPointe to close."

LaPointe: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the work of the committee and the work of Thresholds and the work of the Illinois Life and Health Insurance Council to get to a place that we could all agree on. When we pass this Bill, Illinois will just be the third state to do this. This is going to affect so many of our constituents. And at the end of the day, it's treating mental health care like health care. This is a big deal, and I appreciate a forthcoming 'yes' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 2847 pass?' All those in favor signify by voting 'aye'; opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? All voted

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who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 107 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Leader Keicher seeks recognition."

Keicher: "Mr. Speaker, please let the record reflect that Representative Ozinga is excused for the remainder of the day."

Speaker Hoffman: "The record will so reflect. House Bill 2875, Representative Ann Williams. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 2875, a Bill for an Act concerning utilities. This Bill was read a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #2, offered by Representative Ann Williams, has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Williams on Floor Amendment #2."

Williams, A.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Amendment simply addresses some of the concerns that were raised by regulated entities... I'm sorry, regulatory agencies and some of the utilities."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Williams moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #2 to House Bill 2875. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all opposed 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Hollman: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Hoffman: "Third Reading. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

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Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 2875, a Bill for an Act concerning utilities. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Ann Williams on House Bill 2875."

Williams, A.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Bill creates the Geothermal Energy Network and Jobs Act and is a unique and creative collaboration between Local 150, other labor organizations, and the environmental community. Basically, the Bill provides for the creation of pilot projects that involve thermal energy loops, allowing geothermal energy pilots to be established by a utility to allow interconnection and provision of generation of energy by geothermal sources within a cluster of buildings. Happy to answer any questions."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Representative Davidsmeyer."

Davidsmeyer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the Bill."

Davidsmeyer: "As... as we discussed in committee, I don't think this is a bad idea to push forward as an option, but it doesn't allow anything. It requires the utility to come up with a geothermal plan. And then it requires the ICC... if the plan is approved, it requires the ICC to require the utility to move forward with a plan. So, the only way that a utility could actually not be required to do this is by proposing a really, really bad plan and having the ICC say, oh, this is... this is stupid. So, that... that was the only issue that we had was that this is a mandate that the utility will have to move forward with this. And, you know, I... if it's... if it's on their own dime and on their own decision-making and it's the best thing for the price of their customers, I would be all for

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it. But mandating this type of thing, I'm... I'm opposed to. So, I urge a 'no' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Ann Williams to close."

Williams, A.: "Yes, and I appreciate the Representative's concerns. However, I would point out that this is an important step at moving us towards renewable energy resources. We know that the climate crisis is very real and escalating rapidly, and I think this is a great solution. It is not required to be approved. The ICC still has full control of whether the project is approved. So, with that, I'd ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Williams moves... the question is, 'Shall House Bill 2875 pass?' All those in favor signify by voting 'yes'; opposed vote 'no'. The voting's open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 75 voting 'yes', 30 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received a Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Moving to page 6 of the Calendar. On Senate Bills-Second Reading appears Senate Bill 74, Representative Meyers-Martin. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 74, a Bill for an Act concerning revenue. This Bill was read a second time previously. Amendment 1 was adopted in committee. Floor Amendments 2 and 3 have been approved consideration. Floor Amendment #2 is offered by Representative Meyers-Martin."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Meyers-Martin on Floor Amendment #2."

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Meyers-Martin: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senate Bill 74 merely creates a task force to address tax... property tax sale payment plan in my district..."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Meyers-Martin, we need to adopt the Amendments and then we'll go. So, Representative Meyers-Martin moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #2 to Senate Bill 74. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Hollman: "Floor Amendment #3 is offered by Representative Meyers-Martin."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Meyers-Martin moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #3 to Senate Bill 74. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all opposed 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. The Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Hollman: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Hoffman: "Third Reading. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 74, a Bill for an Act concerning revenue. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Meyers-Martin on Senate Bill 74."

Meyers-Martin: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senate Bill 74, as amended, creates a task force to study and recommend a payment plan option for homeowners in Cook County who have fallen behind on their property taxes. The Cook County tax sale process puts homeowners, especially seniors and those with disabilities, at risk of losing their homes. Black and brown

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communities are especially negatively impacted as the current system makes it harder for households to transfer generational wealth. Senate Bill 74 creates a task force to provide recommendations for a monthly payment plan option. A payment plan option which, while a simple idea, requires many partners for implementation. We have negotiated this task force language with county officials, local taxing districts, community representatives, resulting in no opposition and support from stakeholders, such as Cook County President's Office, the Cook County Treasurer's Office, and the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association. I ask for support of this Bill to bring those stakeholders to the table that create recommendations that can prevent homeowner displacement while ensuring that local governments continue to collect the tax revenue that they are owed. I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates she'll yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, this establishes a task force, this Bill. Is that correct?"

Meyers-Martin: "It does."

Windhorst: "I noticed the vote in the Senate was essentially split along partisan lines. And then there was a House Amendment, I believe Amendment 1, that provided that the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate would have an appointment on this task force. Is that correct?"

Meyers-Martin: "Yes. That was per the Governor's Office's request."

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Windhorst: "So, when the Bill went through the Senate the Minority Leaders did not have that appointment. Is that correct?"

Meyers-Martin: "Right."

Windhorst: "The Bill has gone through the committee process in the House unanimously. Is that correct?"

Meyers-Martin: "Yes."

Windhorst: "All right. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Halbbrook."

Halbrook: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "She indicates she'll yield."

Halbrook: "So, Representative, I... you... it's a property tax force, but you have it built into the title that it's a payment plan task force. So, is it just about developing payment plans or is there something else there?"

Meyers-Martin: "No. It was asked to create an implementation task force so that the payment plan would not be disruptive to other taxing bodies."

Halbrook: "So, what payment plan do you not want to disrupt to other... I'm not sure what you mean there."

Meyers-Martin: "If... if I understand the question correctly, this task force is designed to study all aspects of a effective payment plan so that homeowners would not be in the position to lose their homes should they find themselves vulnerable to a property tax sale."

Halbrook: "So, what currently is in... in statute or the current practice in Cook County for payments on property taxes?"

Meyers-Martin: "I'm sorry. Could you say that..."

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Halbrook: "Yeah. So, is it just one payment a year? Is there a payment plan now? Is it... I mean, downstate we have a payment plan. It's twice, and we pay two times."

Meyers-Martin: "Yes."

Halbrook: "Is there something different than that now in Cook County?"

Meyers-Martin: "No. There... there is no payment plan in place now. The... the persons who are vulnerable to a property tax sale have to come up with the entire amount. And many of them cannot. So, therefore, this... this task force is just coming together in order to create an effective way to assist people who are in danger of losing their homes to a tax sale. Now..."

Halbrook: "So... so, how do people get to the point of a property tax sale? How do they get to that point? I would've thought there would've been some level of remediation prior to that?"

Meyers-Martin: "Because they've been delinquent in paying the outrageously high property taxes that I find that happens in my district."

Halbrook: "Yeah. So, to that point, in the words of the new mayor of Chicago, Brandon Johnson, we've got to get to the root cause of this. These property taxes are out of control in Chicago and Cook County and across the entire state. We've had task force after task force, and... and some of them of... well, they've all failed because we don't get to the root cause of these matters. It's not because of a lack of a payment plan. It's a lack of a desire to do anything about the ever-escalating property taxes in this great state. Ladies and Gentlemen, this may be a good idea in concept, but

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I would agree with my colleagues in the Senate and vote 'no'.
Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Weber."

Weber: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "She indicates she'll yield."

Weber: "Hi, Representative. I just want to basically make a statement here in regards to your Bill. Not... not against this particular Bill, but to the Bill, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the Bill."

Weber: "So, I assume most of us in this room remember the Governor's tax relief task force that we were all on, or most of us were on, a couple years ago. There was a lot of recommendations that were given by both sides of the chamber. But in my recollection, not a single iota, not a single initiative or anything was taken from that large task force and implemented to give any taxpayers any relief whatsoever. Representative, you know, I firmly believe that maybe, you know, if we would've implemented some of those that maybe this task force wouldn't be needed. And inevitably, if we're going to have these task force over and over again, let's at least try to make sure that their recommendations are heard or see the light of day. So, thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Meyers-Martin to close."

Meyers-Martin: "I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 74 pass?' All those in favor signify by voting 'aye'; all opposed 'nay'. The voting's open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 94 voting 'yes', 11 voting

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'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Moving to page 2 of the Calendar, appears House Bill 351, Representative Tarver. Read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 351, a Bill for an Act concerning elections. This Bill was read a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendments #1 and 2 have been approved for consideration. Floor Amendment #1 is offered by Representative Tarver."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Tarver on Floor Amendment #1."

Tarver: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The... do you need me to explain the Amendments?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Yes, just briefly."

Tarver: "Sure. The two Amendments, one includes the State Board of Elections on the task force. The other Amendment, I believe, makes sure that the Republican... that the Minority Party has as many individuals appointed to the task force as the Majority Party."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Tarver moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #1 to House Bill 351. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; opposed 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. The Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Hollman: "Floor Amendment #2, offered by Representative Tarver."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Tarver moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #2 to House Bill 351. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all opposed 'nay'. In the opinion of

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the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. The Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Hollman: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Hoffman: "Third Reading. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 351, a Bill for an Act concerning elections. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Tarver."

Tarver: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Bill is certainly long overdue. The long and short of it is, it will preclude or prohibit individuals who have been elected from running for office again if they've been convicted of certain types of crimes, felony, bribery, perjury, and other infamous crimes. The second thing that it does is takes a look at the Election Code and provides a task force that will study the issue of what should preclude individuals from being able to run for office, maybe find some kind of nexus in between the type of crime committed and someone's convicted for and the office. So, many of you may know a couple things. One, Illinois is the only state in the nation that bars you from running for office based on the office sought as opposed to the type of crime committed, and we want to correct that. The other thing is, there's a huge disparity between the Municipal Code and the state code as to who can run for office. The Municipal Code says if you have any felony in your background ever, you're permanently barred from running for office at the municipal level. The state code essentially simply says you can have felony that you like, as long as it's not election fraud. So, I'm happy to answer any questions, and I want to make sure to make a couple points for legislative intent."

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Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Leader Spain."

Spain: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates he'll yield."

Spain: "Representative Tarver, thank you for bringing this measure forward and your great work on this topic. I was coming back into the chamber as the Floor Amendment was being adopted. Am I correct that in the original version of the Bill there was an error between the appointment of members to this task force where there was a disparity between appointments from the Majority Party versus the Minority Party, correct?"

Tarver: "That's correct. It wasn't my intent. There was a scrivener's error, and one of the Amendments is to correct that."

Spain: "Great. Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, to the Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the Bill."

Spain: "Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, this is an important initiative. I applaud Representative Tarver for his leadership. This is a measure to improve integrity in our public offices. I strongly support it. And I would additionally draw attention to... whether it was an error in drafting or not, we'll see measures come before this Body often that do not have a balance in terms of the appointments from the Speaker of the House, in this case, and the Republican Leader of the House. And I just... I really, really appreciate the work of Representative Tarver to say that's... that's not the way we should be doing business. We can work together in a bipartisan fashion. And even if there are drafting errors or clerical errors or scrivener's errors, we want to make sure that we have a united front in working

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together in this type of task force. And I would encourage that future initiatives that all of us may undertake as Members should be done with as much balance and bipartisanship as we possibly can. I urge an 'aye' vote on this Bill. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "He will yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you. So, essentially, the Bill does two things. Establishes a task force, which we've gone through. There was also an Amendment, an appointment for representatives from the State Board of Elections. Is that... is that correct?"

Tarver: "That is correct. And I have something to read into the record for legislative intent, if you would indulge me?"

Windhorst: "Please."

Tarver: "So, one of the things I want to be clear about is, while the Board of Elections certainly is a subject matter expert in this place... in this space, they're nonpartisan. They are not being appointed to the board to take a position either way. It's really more or less for their expertise. And so, just for legislative intent, the State Board of Elections is being added to the task force for the purpose of providing guidance related to existing laws and answer questions as directed by the other members of the task force. As a bipartisan board with the nonpartisan staff, the Board of Elections is not expected to engage in the substance of conversations related to policy changes of municipal offices."

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Windhorst: "Thank you. And the Sentencing Policy Advisory Council will be providing administrative support for the task force. Is that correct?"

Tarver: "That is also correct."

Windhorst: "There was some presentation in committee about their ability to provide that support. They expressed some concerns about their capacity. What will be done to alleviate those concerns?"

Tarver: "So, there were a couple concerns. Not... not only was it the capacity, I believe... I don't want to misspeak, but I believe one of the concerns was having the administrative capacity to help out, which is probably going to be a budget solution to help bring someone in. The other thing is, Kathy is, I believe, the only attorney that works in that space with SPAC. And so, one of the requests that she had for me, and I'm certainly willing to talk to, you know, our side about, is potentially having, and I hope you ask the same, someone from tech review, maybe a lawyer from tech review, who could help out at some capacity as well. I don't think they need to be official task force member. But just to support SPAC, that would be helpful. So..."

Windhorst: "Thank you. And if you would address the substantive law change which deals with eligibility to serve in office. What is the current law as it that relates to those positions created by the Constitution and their eligibility to serve after a conviction for a felony?"

Tarver: "The way it stands right now, the Municipal Code says if you have any felony ever you may never run for municipal office. The state essentially says you can have any felony

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and run for state office, as long as it's not election fraud. So, what happens is, right now... I think I mentioned in committee earlier, there had been 37 convictions of aldermen in the City of Chicago over the years. At any point, any of them could've turned around, even though they could not run for alderman again, they could turn around and run for State Rep. or State Senator or some state position. And again, this is a situation where the office sought is what bars you, not the actual crime committed. It doesn't have to be any kind of a nexus. So, the purpose of this Bill is really for us to lead by example and hopefully establish and reestablish some public trust. It's holding us to a higher standard than others. Because someone who does not... someone who's not elected who wants to run for state office and has a felony can do so right now. We would be holding ourselves to a higher standard, and I'm happy to do that."

Windhorst: "Okay. And the task force is designed to look at potential further law changes in this space. Is that accurate to say?"

Tarver: "That's correct, across the board."

Windhorst: "Thank you for bringing this Bill forward."

Tarver: "You're welcome. One more thing for legislative intent so that I don't... misspeak here. It talks about infamous crimes. And so, my understanding is that the definition infamous crimes is under Article VIII, Section 1 of the Constitution of Illinois. And it discusses public funds, property, and credit shall only be used for public purposes. So, I believe that is the... the intent when the Bill talks about infamous crimes."

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Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Wilhour."

Wilhour: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates he'll yield."

Wilhour: "Thank you. I just want to be... be really clear on this. This... this isn't just a task force. This is a task force in addition to the substantive of changes to the code that... that we're talking about here?"

Tarver: "This Bill does two things. The first thing is it bars individuals who are elected and convicted of certain types of crimes, felony, bribery, perjury, and other infamous crimes, from running for office throughout the state. That's the first thing."

Wilhour: "Okay."

Tarver: "The second thing that it does is to set up a task force to look at what types of crimes should preclude individuals from running for office. Maybe there's a rehabilitation period. There's something besides a Governor pardoning someone that will allow them to run for office."

Wilhour: "Okay. Thank you very much."

Tarver: "You're welcome."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Tarver to close."

Tarver: "I urge an 'aye' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 351 pass?' All those in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. The voting's open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 106 voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received a Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Moving to

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page 4 of the Calendar, appears House Bill 3698, Representative Lilly. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 3698, a Bill for an Act concerning health. This Bill was read a second time previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendment #1, offered by Representative Lilly, has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Lilly on Floor Amendment #1."

Lilly: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Floor Amendment #1 is a gut and replace. And I'd like to discuss on Third."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Lilly moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #1 to House Bill 3698. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all opposed 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Any further Amendments, Mr. Clerk?"

Clerk Hollman: "No further Amendments. But notes have been requested and not filed at this time."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Lilly."

Lilly: "Thank you, again, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, Floor Amendment..."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Lilly... Representative Lilly, would you like to move that the notes be ruled inapplicable?"

Lilly: "Oh. Yes, I would. I thought they were removed."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Lilly has moved that the notes be ruled inapplicable. Representative... Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Motion. We spoke about this earlier today. Notes have a purpose. They serve a purpose in this case to inform us about potential costs and other considerations that may be caused by this Bill. And I believe

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we have these notes and we should get this information before we vote on this Bill. So, I would urge a 'no' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Lilly has moved that the notes that have been filed and requested be ruled inapplicable. All those in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this Motion, there are 66 voting 'yes', 38 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And the notes are ruled inapplicable. Third Reading. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 3698, a Bill for an Act concerning health. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Lilly."

Lilly: "Thank you, again, Mr. Speaker. Again, it's a gut and replace. It's an initiative of the Department of Human Services where we are creating a Cultural Empowerment Program which will make grant in a... to community providers to provide support to faith-based organizations underserved by mental and behavioral health services and resource. This Bill is subject to appropriation. I rise for any questions."

Speaker Hoffman: "On this question, Leader Windhorst."

Windhorst: "Thank... thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "She indicates she'll yield."

Windhorst: "Thank you, Representative. You said this is subject to appropriation. Do we have a cost estimate to what would fully fund this program?"

Lilly: "The projection, as we discussed with... in committee, would be 1 million."

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Windhorst: "I'm sorry. I apologize. Would you repeat that?"

Lilly: "No worries. As we discussed in committee, 1 million."

Windhorst: "There is a provision in the Bill that provides that the program will begin operations no later than July 1, 2024. Is that... will that apply irrespective of the appropriation, or will there still need to be appropriation for that to be effective?"

Lilly: "What we... what we know is we've done this program during the COVID pandemic. And what we're doing is look to extend it. So, I think we will be able to begin the program July 24, but we do want to take the time to make sure it's completely full, thought through so that we are addressing the needs and meeting the mental health and behavioral health for the members. So, the... July 24 is our projection date."

Windhorst: "Thank you. Representative, there are still concerns on our side. I appreciate your answers. Obviously, there are often programs that may be beneficial or helpful, but we have costs associated with them and we want to make sure we're able to fund those and not just promise things that we can't deliver upon. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Haas."

Haas: "Thank you, Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Indicates she'll yield."

Haas: "When you began your description, you said that this was an initiative of DHS. is that correct?"

Lilly: "That is correct."

Haas: "So, when... when this Bill was first brought to committee... and our analysis indicates that this is a Sponsor initiative. Can you clarify?"

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Lilly: "Yes. After presenting the Bill to the Body, the DHS department came and spoke to me about how we can work together to address the needs of mental and behavioral health services in communities that are underserved. And I listened to their initiative, and I said, you know what? This could be something that we can start with. And they said, well, this is something we'd like expand. So, that's how we got to this particular program at this time."

Haas: "The initial Bill was not an initiative of DHS?"

Lilly: "It was not. It was a district initiative."

Haas: "To the Bill. There's a lot of concerns with... with this Bill. It's a... it's a grant and aid Bill, and DHS had discontinued grant and aid programs probably a decade ago. It indicates that the programs will be provided on a zip code identifying targeted communities. It's unclear what those zip coded communities will be. And when asked what those would be, it was unable to be provided. We were asked for more clarification on that, on how those zip code areas of targeted communities would be provided and the... in designated areas of need. The matrix that DHS indicated that they would be using was based on COVID data. And when questioned about the emergency health be... health pandemic being ended and that... that matrix based on COVID being... being adequate now, that was unable to be answered. So, that's dated... inadequate data. And then that needs to be disregarded. So, that needs to be cleaned up. This is building on an infrastructure that's already in existence. The... if there's going to be grant dollars being made available, it needs to be distributed to organizations that are already in existence rather than

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creating new. It also indicates that there could be one or more community providers, and there's been no clarification if there will be one or how many more community providers there will be for this significant amount of money that will be distributed. So, based on the lack of clarity and work that needs to continue to be done on this Bill, I would urge a 'no' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Elik."

Elik: "Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Hoffman: "She indicates she'll yield."

Elik: "Thank you. Representative, I have sort of an ongoing discussion with some leaders in my community regarding the... the peer providers services, such as the Certified Recovery Support Specialist program. So, is this program intended to expand the applicability of grant programs to those types of nonprofits and organizations?"

Lilly: "As I'm understanding the program, the intent is to utilize all available resources to provide relationship building and training and provide information about the Certified Recovery Support Specialist credentials."

Elik: "Okay. Do you know that at least one university in the state, I'm sure more, but Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville has a certification program for that? So... but I think my... my issue is more that, are we expanding the... kind of the opportunities for grant funds to other types of providers that may be able to provide this peer counseling service?"

Lilly: "Well, let me say, this particular culture and pilot program is looking to build relationship with local community

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mental health centers and ensure consumers experiences have a warm handout for the services and the grantees are being... going to work with the community mental health centers. So, that's the purpose of that. And the warm handoff is where I believe the CRSS specialist will come in, but there's also social workers, but they're also counselors. So, we're looking to create those relationships so that people who are in need of mental health and behavioral health service will have a warm handout and receive that service."

Haas: "Okay. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Seeing no on seeking further recognition, Representative Lilly to close."

Lilly: "Thank you for the insightful conversation. I ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "The question is, 'Shall House Bill 3698 pass?' All those in favor signify by voting 'aye'; opposed vote 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 70 voting 'yes', 36 voting 'no', 0 voting 'present'. And this Bill, having received a Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Mr. Clerk, Agreed Resolutions."

Clerk Hollman: "Agreed Resolutions. House Resolution 285, offered by Speaker Welch. And House Resolution 286, offered by Representative Kelly."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Evans moves for the adoption of the Agreed Resolutions. All those in favor say 'aye'; all opposed 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Agreed Resolutions are adopted. And now, allowing

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perfunctory time for the Clerk, Leader Evans moves that the House stand adjourned until Monday, May 15, time to be determined. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And we are adjourned."

Clerk Hollman: "House Perfunctory Session will come to order. Introduction and First Reading of House Bills. House Bill 4089, offered by Representative Ugaste, a Bill for an Act concerning revenue. First Reading of this House Bill. There being no further business, the House Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."