

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The regular Session of the 103rd General Assembly will please come to order. Will Members please be at their desks? The invocation today will be given by Pastor Curt Fleck, Civil Servant Ministries, Springfield, Illinois. Pastor Fleck.

PASTOR CURT FLECK: (Invocation)

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

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

SENATOR JOHNSON: (Pledge of Allegiance)

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

WGEM requests permission to record video. Leave is granted. WAND TV seeks permission to record video. Leave is granted. Mr. Secretary, Reading and Approval of the Journal.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Journal of Wednesday, May 24th, 2023.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Hunter.

SENATOR HUNTER:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Hunter moves to postpone the reading and approval of the Journal, pending arrival of the printed transcripts. There being no objection, so ordered. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, please come to the Senate Floor for Floor action. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, please come to the Senate Floor for Floor action. We will be doing 3rd Readings, thank

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

you. Ladies and Gentlemen, we are on the Order of 3rd Reading. The Order of 3rd Reading. On page 8, House Bill 2782. Blueroomstream.com seek permission to video. Leave is granted. On the Order of 3rd Reading is Senator Villivalam, House Bill 2782. Mr. Secretary, please read the gentleman's bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 2782, an Act concerning finance. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Villivalam.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

Thank you, Madam President. House Bill 2782, as amended, is an initiative of the Illinois State Treasurer. It amends the (Illinois) Sustainable Investing Act to require investment managers prior to their selection as a fiduciary to a public body or public pension system to disclose to that body or system how they integrate sustainability factors into their investment decision-making. I know of no opposition. I would ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Senator Plummer, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR PLUMMER:

A question of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The sponsor indicates he will yield. Senator Plummer.

SENATOR PLUMMER:

Senator, thank you for -- for bringing this legislation. It's my understanding that the State of Illinois already requires

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

these factors to be considered. So, I guess I'm just curious to understand why these new disclosures are necessary in your view or in the view of the -- the Treasurer.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Villivalam.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

So, the reason for these changes that it strengthens public investments. It improves evaluation of investment managers. It promotes transparency and accountability. It -- it provides for a duty of care, consideration. And that's -- that's the reasons that these -- this legislation has been introduced in -- as an initiative of -- of the State Treasurer.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Plummer.

SENATOR PLUMMER:

Why, I'm not really sure - at the end of the day, pensions are to make sure that people have a safe and -- and healthy and stable retirement. I'm not really sure what these considerations have to do with making a return on investment for the people of Illinois. If you have any insight into that, I'd -- I'd appreciate hearing about it. I know this piece of legislation follows several other pieces of legislation where the Treasurer seems to be going down, doesn't seem to be, the Treasurer is going down the path of, you know, ESG and DEI and all of these other things that impact the return on investment for our pensioners and the people who rely on these investments. I know the Treasurer has stated that factors like corporate leadership, diversity board, diversity, greenhouse gas emissions, the DEI, ESG, all these things should be considered in investments. Can you educate the Body on what any of

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

these factors have to do with the long-term performance of -- of stocks?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Villivalam.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

So, first, again, just to clarify, these are -- these are additional factors to be brought to the attention of the investors as tools for them to consider as they're making their investment decisions. Secondly, I would -- I would say that the -- the -- the few points that you made, you're kind of cherry picking some of the sustainability factors that are included. So, I'm just going to read off the full list. Corporate governance and leadership, independence of board members and auditors, transparency and reporting, shareholder rights, ethical conduct, business model and innovation, supply chain management, business model, resilience, product design and physical impacts of climate change. There's so many different factors here that are considered sustainability factors. So, it's not just human capital, social capital, it's corporate governance and leadership. Its business model and innovation. And again, these are tools, additional tools in the toolbox for investors to consider as they're making their investment decisions.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Plummer.

SENATOR PLUMMER:

I appreciate that response. I wasn't trying to neglect anything on the list. I was just seeking some brevity. But, you know, going back to the question I asked, some of those things that you just mentioned make a lot of sense, right? If -- if -- if

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

a business is implementing some of those factors effectively, it's going to increase their performance. The ones that I highlighted and the question that I asked was specifically how do those items impact the long term share performance of the investments that our pensioners are relying on for a stable retirement?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Villivalam.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

I believe having more factors to consider as part of the tools in the toolbox as they -- as folks make investments for the funds that exist is -- and the ones that are listed is appropriate. And I think that's what the Illinois State Treasurer has found in his -- his experience, and that's why they brought this legislation forward.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Plummer.

SENATOR PLUMMER:

So, I guess can the sponsor -- and this came up in committee and we've still not gotten an answer on it. But can the sponsor define the phrase anticipated risk adjusted financial returns as referenced in the bill? And I'd like to know who determines that and is that determination of taking into account both the sustainable investing models and the traditional investing methods that we've relied on for many decades?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Villivalam.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

Again, I -- Senator, I would -- I would refer to you the fact that it's one of the disclosures that has to be made as part

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

of a complete package of factors that are being considered for the investments that are -- that are being looked at.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Plummer. Thank you, Senator, to the bill.

SENATOR PLUMMER:

So, this is really troubling. And I know on its face this seems like a fairly minor piece of legislation. But sitting, you know, as Republican spokesman on the Financial Institutions Committee over the last few years, we've seen bill after bill after bill flow through that committee, come through this Chamber, that again, on, -- you know, standing on their own two legs, maybe not a major factor, but what we've done is -- is we've pushed, you know, the Treasurer's Office is driving this initiative, but we're pushing all of these new factors and we're pushing all of these new methodologies and we're pushing all of these new theoretical concepts onto our pensioners. And everyone in this Body might like the sound of some of this stuff. But in committee, when we ask the Treasurer's Office the first time this bill came, they completely denied that ESG and all of this had anything to do with the legislation. You know, a 2 or 3 weeks later they come back and all they're talking about is ESG. They couldn't provide any data that shows that ESG policies help investments outperform traditional investing considerations. And at the end of the day, I don't really care about ESG. I don't care about all this other stuff. What I care about is our pension system. What I care about is that people who have worked hard and put money in the system and rely on these investments to provide them a stable retirement. And legislation like this makes their future more risky. Legislation like this, if you look at the data, if you look at the actual data that's put

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

out there by Fidelity, by Vanguard, by T. Rowe Price, by BlackRock, by all these organizations, there is no data that shows -- in fact, the data shows the inverse. The data shows that long term companies that focus on these policies and investment managers that put these policies ahead of traditional investment philosophies generate a lower return over the medium and long term for their investors. So, by instituting these policies, what we're doing is we're ensuring lower returns in the medium and long term for the people of Illinois that depend on these investments for a safe retirement. So, it might sound good. It might look good in the newspapers. It might make people sleep better at night because it's you know, it's the -- it's the philosophy of the week. But long term, this hurts the people of Illinois. It's hurt -- it hurts our pensioners. And it guarantees that our investments will continue to underperform the pension systems of many other states. I urge a No vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Further discussion? Seeing none. Senator Villivalam, to close.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

Thank you, Madam President. Unfortunately, I could not disagree more with the previous speaker. This legislation simply requires these bodies to disclose to the systems on how they're integrating sustainability factors into their investment decision making, disclosure, prior to their selection. The sustainability factors include corporate governance and leadership, which also means transparency and reporting, shareholder rights, ethical conduct. Yes, it includes environment -- environmental factors, which also include hazardous materials management, human capital.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

It includes responsible bidder policies, employee health and safety, social capital, data security was included in social capital, business model and innovation supply chain management as I mentioned earlier, these are sustainability factors that would require the system -- would require them to disclose that. And it doesn't even mention the fact that there are still the traditional factors that are being considered, which include stability of organization, team strategy, investment process, fees, risk adjustment returns, performance and performance track record. Again, this is about disclosure, transparency and accountability. This is about having more factors looked at so we can make the best investments possible for those funds. I know of no opposition. I would ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The question is, shall House Bill 2782 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 35 voting Yea, 19 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. House Bill 2782, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Okay. Proceeding on to Senate Bill 2485, Senator Loughran Cappel. 2845, Senator Loughran Cappel. The lady indicates she's ready to present. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill. House Bill 2845. Mr. Secretary, please read the Lady's bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 2845, an Act concerning employment. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Loughran Cappel.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

SENATOR LOUGHRAN CAPPEL:

Thank you, Madam President. This bill adds to the definition of public works under the Prevailing Wage Act, the removal, hauling and transportation of biosolids, lime sludge and lime residue from a water treatment plant or facility, and the disposal of biosolids, lime sludge and lime residue removed from a water treatment plant or facility at a -- at landfill. I'm open to any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Loughran Cappel.

SENATOR LOUGHRAN CAPPEL:

I'd like to pull this from the record.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. The record will reflect. Mr. Secretary, please remove this Senate -- House Bill 2845 from the record. Capitol News, Illinois seek permission to photo record. Leave is granted. Ladies and Gentlemen, please turn your attention to the Calendar on page 8. Continuing on with House Bill 2-3-0-0. 2300, Senator Castro. The lady indicates she wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 2300, an Act concerning finance. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Castro.

SENATOR CASTRO:

House Bill 2300, as amended, expands the Illinois Works Job Program Act. The bill expands the Program that qualifies to also include the Climate Works Preapprenticeship Program, or the Highway Construction Careers Training Program, in addition to

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Illinois Works Preapprenticeship Program. Additionally, House Bill 2300 restructures the qualifying programs to include not only State funded works projects, but also public works projects, in general. Furthermore, the bill increases the goal of the Illinois Works Preapprenticeship Program by requiring that at least 50 percent of the labor hours of each prevailing wage classification must be performed by graduates of the program, which is currently at 10 percent. Additionally, the bill adds lack of graduates of the Program, to the list of exemptions the Department may consider, in awarding a waiver of the goal requirement. The bill adds that a contractor or subcontractor must put in their certification, the Department, and administrating agency, if they did not comply with labor hour goals and did not receive a reduction or waiver. Lastly, the bill provides that in the event that a contractor or subcontractor has intentionally failed to comply with Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative, the Agency may: 1. Terminate the contract or agreement: 2. Prohibit the violator from participating in public works projects for up to three years: 3. Charge a penalty of up to 25 percent if -- of -- of the contract or: 4. A combination of these actions. We heard this in Senate Executive Committee, and it passed out unanimously. I ask for its support.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Senator Anderson, for what purpose do you rise.

SENATOR ANDERSON:

To the bill, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR ANDERSON:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

I rise in support of this legislation. I want to thank the -- the sponsor for the discussion that we had, in Committee, yesterday. And just for those on -- on my side of the aisle, this is not a prevailing wage expansion. Rather, this is just expanding the number of graduates from this apprentice program that -- that are hired. So, I rise in support. And -- and thank you, Senator, for this legislation.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Further discussion? Senator Hunter, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR HUNTER:

To the bill, Madam.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR HUNTER:

I'd like to thank the sponsor of this legislation. This is a great bill. Our communities need it greatly, drastically, we're desperate for this bill. Let's vote Aye.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Castro -- Senator Preston, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR PRESTON:

Thank you, Madam President. To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR PRESTON:

This is a great bill. This is a bill that actually changed my life. I was on a trajectory coming from a notoriously -- notorious community on the south side of Chicago, where I didn't

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

see many opportunities to become entrepreneurial, to become productive, productive member of society. But I did get into an apprenticeship. The carpenter's apprenticeship, and that set me down a path that would ultimately lead me to this moment to be able to pick this mic up and actually champion this type of program that's going to help young people, young women and young men all throughout the State of Illinois, but particularly in my district. So, I want to thank the sponsor for bringing this legislation. And I pray that all of us vote Aye on this unanimously because it's good for the entire State. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Tracy, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR TRACY:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Question of the -- or Madam President. Question of the sponsor, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Sponsor indicates she will yield. Senator Tracy.

SENATOR TRACY:

Senator Castro, would you clarify that if a contractor is unable to meet the -- the goal of hiring apprentice workers, that they just don't exist? Is there an opt out provision or something that accommodates that situation?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Castro.

SENATOR CASTRO:

Great question, Senator. Yes, there is a waiver that is built into the legislation for that purpose. Yes.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Tracy.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

SENATOR TRACY:

Thank you for that clarification.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

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

SENATOR REZIN:

Thank you, Madam President. To the bill, now. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR REZIN:

Yes. Thank you, Senator Castro, for this bill. Previous speaker asked my question. Thank you for answering it. Our concern is that and I understand you're trying to get to the bad actors, so thank you for that. Our concern is that we -- that this bill would allow the smaller businesses to get tripped up in it if they couldn't increase at the goals that have been set. I understand that there is a waiver process. I hope that the waiver process isn't too cumbersome, which we hear oftentimes too from small businesses to go through the process. But this is a good bill and I ask for its support. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Castro to close.

SENATOR CASTRO:

Well, I thank -- I thank everyone for the support. I also want to thank my colleagues, not only in this Chamber, Madam President, as well as, you know, Senator Fowler and others who are on Illinois Works. This is something that we've all been working on. So, I appreciate the robust support and I ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

The question is, shall House Bill 2300 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 49 voting Yea, 5 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. House Bill 2300, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. The Senate will stand at ease for a few minutes to allow the Committee on Assignments to meet. The Members of the Committee on Assignments, please come to the Senate's front room immediately. The Senate will stand at ease. President Harmon, in the Chair.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR HARMON)

Leader Lightford, in the Chair.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Mr. Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senator Lightford, Chair of the Committee on Assignments, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Refer to Executive Committee - Motion to Concur with House Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 646 and Floor Amendment 1 to House Bill 579; re-referred to Assignments - Appointment Message 1030244 and Appointment Message 1030245; Be Approved for Consideration - Floor Amendment 1 to House Bill 2205 {sic} (2204) and Floor Amendment 2 to House Bill 3551. Signed, Senator Kimberly A. Lightford, Chair.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator McClure, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR MCCLURE:

Announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Please state your announcement, Senator.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

SENATOR MCCLURE:

Thank you, Madam President. The Senate Republicans will caucus for approximately one hour in Room 400 in the Capitol.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Senate Republicans request a caucus for one-hour in Room 400. Senator McClure, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR MCCLURE:

Sorry, Madam President. That caucus will be in 108, not 400.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senate Republicans request a one-hour caucus in Room 108. Ladies and Gentlemen, I have an announcement: at 12:30 the Senate Executive Committee will meet in Room 212 at 12:30. The Senate stands in recess to the call of the Chair. The Senate stands in recess.

(SENATE STANDS IN RECESS/SENATE RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The Senate will come to order. Mr. Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senator Castro, Chair of the Committee on Executive, reports Motion to Concur - House Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 646 and Senate Amendment 1 to House Bill 579 Recommend Do Adopt.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Mr. Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution 335, offered by Senator Tracy. It is congratulatory.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, we will return to the Order of Motions to Concur and follow by House Bills 3rd Readings. Motions to Concur; House Bills 3rd Readings. Beginning with President Harmon, on House Bill 579. House Bill 579 Senator Gillespie seeks leave of the Body to return House Bill 579 to the Order of 2nd Reading. Leave is granted. On the Order of 2nd Reading is House Bill 579. Mr. Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Floor Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Gillespie.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Gillespie.

SENATOR GILLESPIE:

Thank you, Madam President. I'd like to adopt the amendment and speak to it on 3rd, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

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

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

3rd Reading. On the Order of 3rd Reading is House Bill 579. Mr. Secretary, please read the lady's bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 579, an Act concerning regulation. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Senator Gillespie.

SENATOR GILLESPIE:

Thank you, Madam President. House Bill 579 creates the Illinois Health Benefits Exchange, creating a State-based marketplace for the State of Illinois. It will allow for the expansion of State based health care options and allow for better coordination with the Department of Health and Family Services and the Department of Insurance. It will be operating on the federal platform for plan year 2025, on an interim basis, and then would transition to a full State-based insurance marketplace, in plan year 26. It will have an Advisory Committee that is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. It will have its - a Director also appointed. It will be funded through assessments to carriers on the exchange at 2.75 the -- the current federal based exchange payment with a cap of 3.5 percent. And with that, I'd open for any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Senator Syverson, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you, Madam President. A couple of questions of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The sponsor indicates she will yield. Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Senator, wasn't in committee, but what population is this exchange addressing or going after?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Gillespie.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

SENATOR GILLESPIE:

Thank you, Senator. It will serve us all populations that are currently served on the marketplace. It will also allow for the expansion of, for example, a basic health care option, which would be a lower cost option, modeled after the Medicaid plan, for example, targeting lower income families that aren't otherwise able to afford the current offerings on the federal marketplace.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Then would this run alongside of or be competition with ACA, or is this in lieu of the ACA?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Gillespie.

SENATOR GILLESPIE:

It would be a commensurate with the ACA and just offer some additional models, different variations.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

So, an individual could choose if they wanted to go to an ACA subsidized plan or this exchange subsidized plan. I'm just trying to think of what is the -- what is going to be the core differences between there their based the premiums are -- are based on income and have a slew of different benefit options. So, how will this differ from what ACA is doing?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Gillespie.

SENATOR GILLESPIE:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

It would be similar. It would just expand it to some populations that currently aren't able to afford coverage on the federal model. So, it would offer the ACA federal assistance programs and it would offer -- it could, I mean, there's a variety of different things you could do. But one option would be to offer a basic health plan model similar to the Medicaid program offering that model would receive federal funding, so we could use that funding to help offset some of the premium costs for lower income families.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

I guess when we talk about a basic health plan that we go back a couple questions. One, this Body has said over the last 10 years, we don't want basic health plans. We want not only the current plans, but even this year, we've added another, I think, 11 new mandates. Because, we said, we don't -- people need better than basic and they deserve to have full coverage. So, now we're almost reversing that back and we're saying let's offer a basic plan that doesn't cover all those mandates that we felt were important and passed. So, I guess I'm a little confused of what would be included in a basic health plan. I know you mentioned it would be similar to Medicaid, but Medicaid is pretty broad in its coverages. So, do we know what would not be covered under a -- under what would be considered a basic plan?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Gillespie?

SENATOR GILLESPIE:

Basic is just the nomenclature given it, it doesn't indicate

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

the scope of benefits. So, in the example that I'm talking about, it would be Medicaid coverage with -- through the Medicaid network, but being -- be able to offer to individuals who would pay a premium for it so they wouldn't be Medicaid eligible, they'd pay a premium for it, but it would be a lower cost premium than what they could otherwise get on the exchange.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

So, then this -- this expanded Medicaid -- so it would be a Medicaid platform, Medicaid network, I'm guessing it would be a Medicaid reimbursement rate, as well. So, individuals that would sign up on that would pay a -- a lower premium, there'd be no match, I don't think from the federal government, if it's a -- if they're over the Medicaid level, they would pay a -- a premium for that and they would use the same Medicaid network that's currently, in place, for Medicaid?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Gillespie.

SENATOR GILLESPIE:

There would be no federal match in the sense that it is under the existing Medicaid program. But there is some federal funding available for states who want to offer this kind of an option on the exchange. So, we would get some federal support for it, although it would be different than the way it works under the Medicaid program.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Just a couple more questions. Under the ACA, premiums can be as low as \$1 a month. How would the exchange -- we talk about the exchange being a lower cost. How -- what do you envision rates to be that would be lower than what -- than what ACA rates are based on your premium from the Medicaid level up to, I think around 100,000 of income where it's on a sliding scale. How do you foresee the exchange rates being different than ACA?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Gillespie.

SENATOR GILLESPIE:

Senator, I think when you're referring to a \$1 level premium, that's not the -- that's not the premium, that's the net to the insured with the federal subsidy. So, this would be similar in -- in effect, but it would be handled in a different way. So, there's qualification requirements to get the federal subsidy, as -- as you're very familiar with. And this would -- not every individual will qualify for that. And so, this would be an option that would be a lower cost premium because of the way the Medicaid network operates and because of the separate federal funds, you can get to support it, but they wouldn't have to meet the qualifications for a subsidy in order to get the lower rate.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Yeah. So, from a -- so, from a rate that the consumer would pay, the rate would not be necessarily less because the current rates run from a dollar on up based on what your income level is. So, from the consumer standpoint, the cost would be about the same. And it -- it sounds like what's really driving this is the

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

expansion of the Medicaid portion of it, that this is a like a foot in the door of a Medicaid for all type contract. I guess the concern would be or maybe you can tell me, too, if we're enrolling people in a Medicaid lookalike plan and the providers have to accept Medicaid rate, which would be lower than what private insurance rates would be, what impact is that going to have then on hospitals and medical providers if we expand the Medicaid rate payments to medical facilities now, what would be the outcome of that?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Gillespie.

SENATOR GILLESPIE:

Well, Senator... I -- I would disagree that it -- it's not necessarily going to be a lower cost to the consumer because while the -- while it might be the same cost that a consumer who qualifies for the federal subsidy could get, it would be a lower cost for those that don't qualify for the federal subsidy. So, I wouldn't say it's going to be exactly the same. With regard to, the -- the scope of the program, and the provider network, you know, there's a lot of flexibility we could do there because it's not governed by the Medicaid rules per se. There's different ways of reimbursement, we could do it with providers. So, there may be opportunities, for example, to package a rate in a way that would equal out to something close to a Medicaid rate but do it in a way that a provider finds more attractive and would be willing to sign up for.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

There's one more question then. You'd mentioned a couple of times that people would -- this would be a program for those who did not qualify for ACA. Who doesn't qualify for ACA? I know if you're Medicaid eligible, you don't. But other than that, who doesn't qualify for ACA? My understanding is it covers -- it covers anyone for it -- to any income level, it's just lower income pays a lower premium, but that everyone is eligible. So, is there -- is there a population that's not eligible under ACA?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Gillespie.

SENATOR GILLESPIE:

No. The -- the population might still be eligible for ACA, but take for example, somebody who's -- whose income fluctuates on a month-to-month basis. They may, in some situations, be eligible for the subsidy and then in another month, not be eligible for the subsidy. So, this would be a -- a more stable kind of a program where they wouldn't have to deal with that month-to-month uncertainty, for example.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you, Madam President, for your indulgence. And just to the -- to the bill. I guess the concern we have, with this is, we have created a number of health plans in Illinois. We have Medicaid for low income, we have ACA, which is a federal subsidized plan where people pay as low as \$1, and they have a choice of different products that they can go with. This is creating yet another one, which is going to be very confusing for individuals, not sure which to sign up for, exchange or ACA. And is there really a need for

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

the State to get into -- into this program? So, I am concerned about that. Most of this sounds like it's ultimately about expanding Medicaid for all, which is -- which is certainly going to be a huge hit to hospitals and to -- to ultimately the taxpayers. So, I -- I have concerns with this, I think we should just make improvements to the current ACA and not confuse the public with multiple plans. So, I appreciate the work that the sponsor did on that. But again, this will be another expensive State-run government program that at a time that I think is going to be hard pressed for us to do. So, thank you for your time. And thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

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

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Question of the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The sponsor indicates she'll yield. Senator Simmons.

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Thank you, Madam President. Does this State-based exchange, is there anything that can help people get enrolled? Do we have any -- anything built into the program or in program rules that will make sure that those that are eligible and that would benefit from being a part of this can find out about it and get easily enrolled?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Gillespie.

SENATOR GILLESPIE:

Thank you. This -- this remains to be built out. That's why

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

in the first year it'll be on an interim basis still using the federal platform. But there are plans to look at different ways we can support it. We also have funded technical assistance centers that can help with that as well.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Simmons.

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Wonderful. Wonderful. And then any -- is there anything in -- in this particular rollout that will give us an opportunity to gauge how this delivery of health care is -- is actually happening for those that are participating? So, in terms of outcomes, all the things that we talk about with other health care programs. So, we have something built in for that?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Gillespie.

SENATOR GILLESPIE:

We don't have it built in -- built at this point, but it is certainly permissible and flexible enough to do that.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Simmons.

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Thank you. To the bill. Madam President, I just want to thank Senator Gillespie for bringing this legislation forward. I think this is a big deal. This is a step in the right direction that with passage of this legislation, Illinois will join several other states and setting up a State based health exchange. I've been certainly a big proponent of expanding health care coverage for those that are not covered in our State. And I think that having the basic option, having a State-based exchange is a dramatic step

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

forward in that direction. So, thank you, Senator Gillespie, for bringing this forward. Thank you to the Department of Insurance for working with Senator Gillespie and all of us on making this a reality. And I look forward to letting my constituents know that we have given them yet another option to enroll in quality health care. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you. Senator Koehler, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR KOEHLER:

Thank you, Madam President. To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR KOEHLER:

Yes. I -- I too, want to thank Senator Gillespie for this. I think this is the -- the right thing for us to do. In fact, it's -- it's really long overdue. We should have had a State-based exchange when they first passed the ACA. Quite frankly, if you think about health care from the point of view of -- of the -- the family or the member, that's -- that's -- that's seeking health care, this makes a lot of sense. There's always two issues in -- in health care. One is the kind of quality of care you're going to get and the other is affordability. This will really create competition for all the private companies that are now in the ACA. And I think it's going to drive quality certainly in that area. Secondly, this provides flexibility and it provides predictability for the families that sometimes have fluctuations of their income. So, I think there's a lot of good things built into this. I think it's the right thing to do, and I commend the sponsor. I ask for an Aye vote.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Ventura, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR VENTURA:

To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR VENTURA:

I raise in support. I also want to thank the -- the sponsor for bringing this. Many of you have heard that I have spoken about health care being a right and it's very problematic for some people to get that health care, especially since we have an insurance run industry. For anyone who has not used the ACA exchange, it can be very difficult, especially to a lay person who doesn't deal with insurance on a regular basis. When they say the devil is in the details, I can guarantee you that getting on that exchange is very detailed indeed, as someone who went into the exchange years ago only to find out that it was not affordable for a single parent of two kids to go on there, I was able to get insurance for my children under my husband, but I then went two years without insurance because it just didn't make any sense from a profitability to risk standpoint. I think a lot of families have had to make these decisions and they're tough decisions to make. So, I also think that it's great that the State is finally moving in this direction so that when they're reading those details and they're considering whether to have cost over care, they can know that the State is going to provide that in a way that is ethical and will be able to pay out on their claims. So, I think this really puts us in a competitive situation to allow health care to those who have

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

historically not had it. So, thank you and I ask for an Aye vote.
PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Gillespie, to close.

SENATOR GILLESPIE:

Thank you, Madam President. I want to thank all the Senators for their questions and comments. To address a couple of things that came up. First, I just want to clarify that the advisory council I mentioned is going to be establishing things like the outcome metrics and that kind of reporting. So, there is a framework for doing it, it's just not spelled out exactly what that will be yet. With regard to the multiple options available on the exchange. Yes, there are multiple options and yet we still have hundreds of thousands of Illinois citizens who are not currently covered. So, I think it's never -- it's never a bad idea to offer additional options to try to give people the chance to have coverage. Third, with regard to the flexibility and the fluctuation of income, I just want to remind folks that on the federal exchange right now, you're -- you're -- whether you qualify for the subsidy is a guesstimate when you sign up and is determined when you file your tax return at the end of the year. So, we could be a full year later when you find out you didn't qualify for the subsidy and -- and you have to settle up at that point. So, I -- I -- this is a -- while the ACA has a lot of great things about it. It doesn't -- it doesn't work as well for everybody. And having a State-based exchange is going to help us address those needs for the hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans who do not have coverage. And I really urge an Aye vote. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you. The question is, shall House Bill 579 pass. All

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 37 voting Yea, 19 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. House Bill 579, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Andrew Adams, Capitol News requests permission to video. Excuse me. To photo. Leave is granted. Jerry Nowicki, Capitol News also request permission to photograph. Leave is granted. Ladies and Gentlemen, please turn your attention to the Calendar on page 8. On page 8 of the Calendar. House Bill 2370 -- 2395, House Bill 2395, on page 8. Senator Glowiak Hilton. The lady indicates she wishes to proceed. She seeks leave of the Body to return House Bill 2395 to the Order of 2nd Reading. Leave is granted. On the Order of 2nd Reading is House Bill 2395. Mr. Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Floor Amendment No. 2, offered by Senator Glowiak Hilton.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator, on Amendment No. 2.

SENATOR GLOWIAK HILTON:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

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

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No further amendments reported.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading is House Bill 2395. Mr. Secretary, please read the lady's bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 2395, an Act concerning regulation. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Glowiak Hilton.

SENATOR GLOWIAK HILTON:

Thank you, Madam President. Senate -- this is House Bill 2395 Senate Floor Amendment No. 2 - extends the repeal of the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004, the Landscape Architecture Registration Act, Electrologist Licensing Act, and the Private Detective, Private Alarm, Private Security, Fingerprint Vendor, and Locksmith Act. This is just a bunch of sunsets, all put into one bill, amended with various administrative cleanup. Consolidates the language that was contained in one, two, three, four, five other bills. This went through committee unanimously, and I'm hoping for a favorable roll call. Thank you, Madam.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Seeing none. The question is, shall House Bill 2395 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 voting Yea, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. House Bill 2395, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. On the bottom of page 8 House Bill 2845, Senator Villa. I'm sorry. That

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

would be Senator Loughran Cappel. House Bill 2845, Senator -- Senator Loughran Cappel wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 2845, an Act concerning employment. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Loughran Cappel.

SENATOR LOUGHRAN CAPPEL:

Thank you, Madam President. This bill adds to the definition of public works under the Prevailing Wage Act - the removal, hauling, and transportation of biosolids, lime sludge, and lime residue from a water treatment plant or facility, and the disposal of biosolids, lime sludge, and lime residue removed from a water treatment plant or facility at a landfill. This is not an expansion of the Prevailing Wage Act it's merely just codifying the Department of Labor's opinion and three court cases where president -- a precedent has already been set. And I'm open to any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you. Is there any discussion? Senator Tracy, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR TRACY:

Thank you. I would like to talk to the bill, please. I certainly -- I know the sponsor of this bill has certainly worked on it. But it does extend prevailing wage beyond the job site and forces farmers and trucking companies that haul biowaste and lime sludge, spread on the ground, makes them subject to prevailing wage and more importantly, a certified payroll. It creates a massive expansion of Illinois prevailing -- the prevailing wage

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

that isn't -- is inconsistent with prevailing -- federal prevailing wage requirements. It's an unfunded mandate on local communities that are trying to remove the lime sludge and bio waste materials who are not receiving additional local government distribution funds to help with this. And in the end, the net effect when you do this is to increase property taxes. It definitely expands the cost of hauling wastewater, biosolids for every municipalities. Those that are struggling to meet EPA requirements and provide potable drinking water to their residents. It is difficult to find companies willing, especially in the downstate areas, to haul the waste, let alone individual farmers that want to haul it for themselves that would have to pay themselves prevailing wage and subject themselves to the certified payroll and a Department of Labor audit. This will make it much more difficult for farmers to have access to biosolids and wastewater lime for their fields. And the definition of biosolids is not -- not - it is not a part of the Illinois prevailing wage. The interpretations of current federal prevailing wage law exempt hauling under the de minimis presumptive for the delivery and hauling of goods to public works project. And this bill would not follow those guidelines. And that's why I say it is definitely a major expansion of prevailing wage. There have been no problems or incidents in the hauling or removal of biosolids. I don't see why this bill is necessary. It's going to cause many more problems in these areas of removing the sludge and bio -- bio waste solids. And for that reason, I would urge a No vote. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

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

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

SENATOR STOLLER:

Yeah. To the bill, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR STOLLER:

Yeah. Thank you. I just want to make a couple of points, in addition, to what the previous speaker was referring to about the -- about this bill. First of all, our farmers, they're going to be charged with paying a lot of additional money to implement this. But we have to remember that they are -- are price takers in the market. They do not have any ability, at all, to raise the prices on the -- on the commodities that they sell. Those are -- are set by the Chicago Board of Trade in the market. And so, they have no ability to pass this along. We're just telling them with this bill, just suck it up and absorb it and that is unfair. And then to the -- the communities. I would like to invite all of my counterparts on the other side of the aisle to come join me this summer in Manlius or Buda or Bradford. These are tiny, tiny towns. There -- they have no ability to -- to take on additional costs like these unfunded mandates would represent and -- and -- for the - I was going to say for the last time, but for the umpteenth time, we're here again, wondering why people are leaving our State. And I've heard blame on the weather. I've heard blame on the census data. We're not getting good census data. Well, let me tell you something. It's not the census data. It's not the weather. It's bills like this and hundreds of other bills like this that we've passed this year and in prior years that say we are raising the cost of doing business, we're raising the -- the -- the taxes that our citizens are going to have to pay. We're hurting the ability

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

of our economy to fluctuate, and we're raising the cost of what it takes to -- to employ people and to provide jobs. So, no, it's not the weather. No, it's not the bad data. It's bills like this that continually hurt our economic environment in Illinois. And for those reasons, I'm urging a No vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. No further discussion shown. Senator Loughran Cappel, to close.

SENATOR LOUGHRAN CAPPEL:

While I can appreciate my colleagues' disagreements, I have to respectfully disagree. There are three court cases that show that the transportation of materials to and from the project site must be paid prevailing wage. So, if farmers are contractors using public works and -- and hauling with public money, then they should be under a prevailing wage. So, again, I'm bringing this forward because it's really codifying what the Department of Labor has already written in an opinion. And again, we have statute to back that up. And I ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The question is, shall House Bill 2845 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, I have 34 voting Yea, 19 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. House Bill 2845, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Supplemental Calendar No. 1 Ladies and Gentlemen has been printed and distributed. We are now going to the Order of Supplemental Calendar 1. Senate Bill 646, Senator Pacione-Zayas. Mr. Secretary, please read the lady's motion.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 646, Signed by Senator Pacione-Zayas.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Pacione-Zayas.

SENATOR PACIONE-ZAYAS:

I move to concur and I'll explain on 3rd. Oh, thank you. All right. So, Senate Bill 646, as amended, it basically creates the Healing-Centered (Illinois) Task Force so that we can advance our State's efforts to become trauma-informed and healing-centered through improving alignment of our existing efforts, having common definitions, metrics, and strategic planning for long-term transformation. And what this particular amendment does -- it's a technical change that clarifies that Members that participate on the Task Force will serve without compensation. Happy to entertain any questions and I ask for a favorable roll call.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Any discussion? Seeing none. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 646. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 46 voting Yea, 1 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 646, having received the required constitutional majority, the Senate does concur in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 66 -- 646 and the bill is declared passed. With leave of the Body, we will return to Senate Bills on 3rd Readings at the bottom of page -- top of page 3 on your Calendars,

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

please go to the top of page 3 on your Calendars. Senate Bill 424, Senator Villivalam. Senator Villivalam seeks leave of the Body to return Senate Bill 424 to the Order of 2nd Reading. Leave is granted. On the Order of 2nd Reading is Senate Bill 424. Mr. Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Floor Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Villivalam.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Villivalam, please explain.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

Thank -- thank you, Madam President. As amended, Senate Bill 424 removes a sunset to a successful program that is for first time nonviolent gun possession. Oh, I will adopt the amendment and explain it on 3rd.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

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

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Floor Amendment No. 2, offered by Senator Villivalam.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Villivalam, on Floor Amendment No. 2, please.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

I would like to adopt that amendment and explain it on 3rd. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Seeing none.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

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

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading is Senate Bill 424. Mr. Secretary, please read the Gentleman's bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 424, an Act concerning criminal law. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Villivalam.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

Thank you, Madam President. As amended, Senate Bill 424 removes a sunset to a diversion program for first time nonviolent gun possessions. This legislation has no opposition. It has a broad spectrum of support from gun violence prevention groups, criminal justice reform groups, the Illinois State Attorneys Association, the Illinois Association of Police Chiefs. I would ask for an Aye vote and happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator McClure, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR MCCLURE:

Questions for the sponsor.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Sponsor indicates he will yield. Senator McClure.

SENATOR MCCLURE:

Thank you, Madam President. Senator, we had a few questions

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

in committee, yesterday, about this bill. First, was the discussion of this program, my recollection was that you said it took effect in 2017. So, what is the recidivism rate for those that have participated in this program?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Villivalam.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

So, first, let me note that there is -- there's efforts to collect more data on this. That being said, the information that I've been provided, according to a 21 -- 2021 study by Loyola University of Chicago's Center for Criminal Justice Research Policy and Practice, 93 percent of individuals convicted of firearm possession did not go on to commit violent offenses after -- you know, through this program.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

My apologies, Senator. Senator Villivalam.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

Thank you, Madam President. I apologize. And just to -- just -- this is going to be a reoccurring theme. Just to be completely clear, this is at the discretion of the State's Attorneys and Chief Judge of each county in terms of how they see fit to utilize the program and who they see fit should be in the program?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator McClure.

SENATOR MCCLURE:

Okay, so I'm confused. You talked about convictions. The recidivism rate of people that are convicted. But this crime is a way around getting convicted because this doesn't allow for this to be on your record. So, again, I ask you for this program only.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

What is the recidivism rate?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Villivalam.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

So, thank you for the clarification. So, there is data that is still being collected on this program. The data point that I referenced, as you alluded to, is -- is something that I wanted to share with the Body to show that the recidivism rates are, you know, 93 percent didn't -- do not go on to commit violent offenses, even for convicted firearm possession situations.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator McClure.

SENATOR MCCLURE:

Okay. So, you've told us that those people that are not using this program, the people that go through the regular process and actually face real penalties, they tend to not reoffend. However, the people that were giving these chances to, we don't know if they're re-offending or not. That's concerning to me, but I'll move on since we don't have that data. Another question that was -- was brought up yesterday, which we were told we may get an answer to today is about GPS tracking. You talked about the fact that GPS tracking is available. First question, if someone's on this program and they have been ordered to comply with GPS tracking what counties can put on a GPS tracking device?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Villivalam.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

Thank you, Senator, for the question. So, obviously we have 102 counties in the State of Illinois. 13 counties have States

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Attorneys and Chief Judges that have chosen to opt-in to this program. Again, this is a program in which the Chief Judge and State's Attorneys, State Attorney initiates and Chief Judge agrees. So, regarding your question, electronic monitoring can be a condition of any probation program, including this one. When electronic monitoring is used as a condition of probation, an individual's movement on electronic monitoring is subject to each probation department's policies. And so, again, I would refer you back to the fact that there is -- this is all judicial and prosecutorial discretion.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator McClure.

SENATOR MCCLURE:

My question -- my question was not about what counties have this program available currently. My question was not about whether or not people can be placed on electronic monitoring. My question was yesterday there was discussion in committee about specifically GPS electronic monitoring. So, if a person leaves their home, the probation office doesn't just learn that they've left their house, they've learned exactly where they are. How many counties can provide GPS electronic monitoring in this State out of 102?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Villivalam.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

As I mentioned before, whichever counties use that program today, they -- they have that ability. And -- and I just want to reiterate, it is a condition -- electronic monitoring is a condition that can be requested by the State's Attorney at the time the Program is offered. The electronic monitoring is also a

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

condition set by a judge.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator McClure.

SENATOR MCCLURE:

I guess we're just not going to get any of my questions answered so far. So, let's move on to another question. You said, the Program is successful". By what are you measuring the success of the Program because you don't seem to have data on anything.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Villivalam.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

Senator, I'm measuring success of the Program, based on the fact that, this Program has been in place for five years. It is completely a opt-in Program. We have 13 counties that have opted-in. The State's Attorney has to initiate this, the Chief Judge has to agree. And oh, by the way, there is a broad coalition of organizations from gun violence prevention groups, to criminal justice reform groups, to the Illinois State Rifle Association to the Illinois State -- State's Attorneys Association, and the Illinois Association of Police Chiefs. Law Enforcement originally was opposed to this Program, and now they are a proponent. So, that's how I'm measuring success. And if I remember correctly, that's how we look at success down here. We rely on stakeholders that are in the field, that are in these programs, and that can give us information and provide positions on the work that we're doing down here.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator McClure.

SENATOR MCCLURE:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

I suspect that people are more inclined to participate in this because of the recent gun bill where you've got a lot of law abiding gun owners that are going to potentially face criminal penalties. I suspect that has nothing to do with any data as far as whether or not this has been successful, because you said police have changed their minds about this program. What data can you point to that caused police to change their minds about this program?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Villivalam.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

Senator, again, as I mentioned before, there is data currently being collected on this Program. There is other data that shows programs like this and in general, recidivism rates data that we can rely on. And again, we're relying on the people that are in this field that are working this Program, and they are supportive of this.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator McClure.

SENATOR MCCLURE:

My final question before I get to the bill, the other thing that was discussed yesterday, was who is eligible for this? I posed the question yesterday, in committee, what class of felony is eligible? The response was only Class 4 felonies. And then I asked whether or not any Class 4 felony that would fall in this -- under this Act has a mandatory prison sentence. And -- and so I'd ask, have you had a chance to look into that? And if so, what's the response?

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Senator Villivalam.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

My apologies, Senator. Can you please repeat the question?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator McClure.

SENATOR MCCLURE:

No problem. So, Class 4 felonies, I was told yesterday, these are what are eligible for this Program. How many of the Class 4 felonies eligible for this Program have mandatory prison sentences?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Villivalam.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

Thank you, Senator. This -- It's my understanding that this Program applies to Class 4 unlawful use of a weapon and Class 4 aggravated unlawful use of a weapon. Not all Class 4 felonies, though.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator McClure, to the bill.

SENATOR MCCLURE:

Just for clarification, though. The question was, those two Class 4 felonies that you just named, are either one of those did they have a mandatory prison sentence attached or are they eligible for regular probation?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Villivalam.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

Senator, yes. There are certain ones that do come with mandatory prison sentences.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator McClure.

SENATOR MCCLURE:

To -- to the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR MCCLURE:

Thank you, Senator, for the responses to my questions. So, this Program began in 2017, and this was for people that were under the age of 21. How has gun violence been since 2017? Is everyone happy with the way things have been? Yesterday, in committee, we were told that this has been a successful Program because it's kept people out of prison. I can assure you a Class 4 felony, I never saw a Class 4 felony that on your first offense, you went to prison unless it was mandatory. So, in some situations it would be mandatory. But for the most part, this is not an offense where you go to prison. The statistics from the last couple of years, roughly 10 percent of all shootings are solved. 10 percent of all shootings in our State are solved. And what do we do when we're going to catch somebody that's about to commit a shooting? We make sure they don't have a conviction on their record, we make sure they have a super easy probation, even more easy than it's been over the last few years. What message does that send to the bad guys of this State? What message does that send to them? The first thing that happens is they know they're not going to get caught because it's such a small amount of cases that get solved. The second thing they find out is if they do get caught, there's no penalty. There's no conviction. Does this make sense to anyone? There was discussion about, in committee, about GPS tracking and we're -- we're

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

learning, in fact, that we don't really know much at all about this Program. Wouldn't it make sense to like study the Program and have the numbers here to talk about success? Wouldn't that make sense like in any other field? Can you imagine going into the office and say, well, I have no clue how this program has been working, but gun violence is really bad, but let's just give people that are caught with guns a break. And we've seen that over the summer. We saw a young man who was caught by police. Cook County decided not to charge him, gave him a break. And at the age of 18 years old, he murdered a police officer. How many cases do you think that we're going to get over the next few years where someone participating in this Program and killed somebody? The question is not whether it's going to happen. The question is, how many cases is this going to happen? And the Senator was talking about the bill. He doesn't have the results from this Program, but he says people that actually went through the regular way and received probation or received a prison sentence, something like 96 percent of them don't reoffend. If there's a program that's working, it seems to be that program. Why aren't we continuing with that? Now, discussion, in committee, again, was GPS electronic monitoring, etcetera. Who offers it? We don't even know who offers it in this State, but I know Cook County has it. I'm not sure if any other state, other counties have it, but Cook County has it, but they don't monitor these people 24 hours a day. In other words, someone leaves and goes to a prohibited zone. Nobody goes to pick them up. In New Jersey, for example, someone leaves their house, goes to somebody, a place they're not supposed to go. Police pick them up and re-arrest them. Here you get 48 hours to violate your -- your electronic monitoring. So, now we're going to have people that

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

have been caught with guns in a State that is riddled by gun violence. The few that get caught can violate electronic monitoring for 48 hours, cannot get a conviction on their record, and can get an entrance into the system that tells them that even if I get caught, they won't do anything to me. There's been a lot of talk from the other side about getting guns off our streets. This legislation would do the opposite, and I urge a No vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Villivalam, to close.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

Thank you, Madam President, and I appreciate the robust debate. I don't -- let me first start off by saying I don't think that it's appropriate or correct to reduce the issue of the -- the gun violence that we've been facing to this one bill. No one is saying here today that this one bill is going to automatically eliminate gun violence. But I will talk to this bill because clearly there's been some remarks referencing other -- other items in the last five years. This legislation is discretionary probation for first time nonviolent gun possession. Let me repeat that. Discretionary probation for first time, nonviolent gun possession. This allows the Chief Judge and the State's Attorney in the county to decide whether someone in a first-time nonviolent gun possession situation should go to a diversion program and be on probation instead of prison. This is, to me, ultimate local control. And I strongly believe that it is because of the broad coalition of support from different stakeholders that were even here. The fact that the Illinois State's Attorneys Association, the Illinois Association of Police Chiefs, gun violence prevention groups, criminal justice reform groups, gun rights groups. Check your

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

analysis. The fact that they're all supporting this legislation, I think speaks to the -- the need for this Program and the need for -- for judges and State's Attorneys to be able to use their discretion on a case-by-case basis. This is not forcing anyone to do something. It's a case-by-case basis to utilize a -- a diversion program and probation instead of prison. I am not going to sit here and unlike the other side, I guess, and act like I know better than all the groups that have listed in support of this legislation. I would just encourage everyone to vote Yes, and I thank you for your time.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The question is, shall Senate Bill 424 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. Yeah, take the record. On that question, 37 voting Yea, 16 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 424, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. WCIA request permission to film and record. Leave is granted. Senator Rose, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR ROSE:

Well, first of all, Madam President, it's just wonderful to see you this afternoon. And my second purpose is, please have the record show my intention to be recorded as Aye on House Bill 2-8-7-8 and also No my intention to vote No on House Bill 3-0-6-2.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. The record will reflect your intentions and it's a pleasure to see you also. Senator Castro, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR CASTRO:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Purpose of a motion, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Please state your purpose, Senator.

SENATOR CASTRO:

I move to waive all notice and posting requirements so House Joint Resolution 23 can be heard in the Senate Executive Committee at 4:30.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Castro moves to waive all notice and posting requirements so that House Joint Resolution 23 can be heard at 4:30 p.m., today, in the Senate Executive Community {sic} (Committee). All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and all notice and posting requirements have been waived. Point of Announcement - Committee Meetings: the Executive Appointments will be -- will meet at 2 p.m. in Room 212 as -- oh, that's at 4, forgive me. Executive Appointments will meet at 4 p.m. in Room 212 and Executive will meet at 4:30 in Room 212. So, that's Executive Appointments at 4:00 and then Executive at 4:30. The Senate stands in recess to the call of the Chair. After committees, the Senate will reconvene for further floor action.

(SENATE STANDS IN RECESS/RECONVENES)

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The Senate will come to order. Daily line requests permission to video. Leave is granted, to photo, excuse me. Leave is granted. Lee newspaper requests permission to photo and video. Leave is granted. Mr. Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolutions 337 through 341, offered by President Harmon and all Members. Senate Resolutions 342 through 344, offered

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

by Senator McClure and all Members. They're all celebration of life resolutions, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Resolution Consent Calendar.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution 336, offered by Senator Fowler. It is -- it is congratulatory.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Mr. Secretary, Messages from the House.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

A Message from the House by Mr. Hollman, Clerk. Mr. President, I'm directed to inform the Senate the House of Representatives has concurred with the Senate in the passage of a bill of the following title, to wit: Senate Bill 734, together with the following amendment, which is attached to the adoption of which I am instructed to ask in the concurrence of the Senate, to wit: House Amendment -- House Amendments 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 734. We have received -- passed the House, as amended, May 25th, 2023. John W. Hollman, Clerk of the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Mr. Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senator Castro, Chair the Committee on Executive, reports House Joint Resolution 23 Be Adopted.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, please come to the Senate Floor for Floor action. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, LAs, LCs please have your Member come to the Floor for Floor action. Senator Rose, for what purpose do you rise?

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

SENATOR ROSE:

Two purposes, if I may.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Yes, please proceed.

SENATOR ROSE:

First of all, I'm very concerned that the geo tracker is still wearing a black a dark jacket. The talk of the town for the last 24 hours has been that once the geo tracker dons his white coat, we actually leave town. I was in the elevator and many were talking about it, but the geo tracker is still wearing a dark jacket and I'm concerned about what that may mean and portend for the future tonight.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Giovanni is a man of mystery.

SENATOR ROSE:

Well, you've got that right. On my other point, would the record please reflect my intention to vote No on House Bill 3326, Madam President?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Absolutely, Senator. Record will reflect your intentions. Senator Sally Turner, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR S. TURNER:

A Message for the President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Please state your message.

SENATOR S. TURNER:

Madam President, I just thought I would be remiss if I did not add that your work here, today, has been simply the best.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Thank you, Senator. Further -- further messages? Seeing none. Senator Murphy, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR MURPHY:

For an announcement, Madam.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Please state your announcement, Senator.

SENATOR MURPHY:

Madam President, I just have to add better than anyone I ever met. Simply the best.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator, for that message. Ladies and Gentlemen, please turn your Calendars to the top of page 7. House Bills 3rd Reading, the top of page 7. My apologies, we'll slide down a bit at the bottom of page 7, House Bill 2204. Senator Koehler seeks leave of the Body to return House Bill 2204 to the Order of 2nd Reading. Leave is granted. On the Order of 2nd Reading is House Bill 2204. Mr. Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Floor Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Koehler.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Koehler, on your amendment.

SENATOR KOEHLER:

Thank you, Madam President. I move for its adoption.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

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

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading is House Bill 2204. Mr. Secretary, please read the gentleman's bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 2204, an Act concerning State government. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Koehler.

SENATOR KOEHLER:

Thank you, Madam President, Members of the Senate. As amended, this bill creates the Hydrogen Fuel Replacement Tax Credit Act. The Act would establish a tax credit equal to \$1 per kilogram of qualifying hydrogen used by an eligible taxpayer. The credit is increased by \$0.15 per kilogram of qualifying hydrogen if it's used by an eligible taxpayer in an equity investment eligible community. Labor performed to convert existing equipment or install new equipment to enable qualifying hydrogen use must use contractors that enter into a project labor agreement as defined by the Illinois Power Agency Act prior to construction. This also amends the -- and limits the total amount of the tax credits to \$10 million unless unused credits roll over from the previous year, taxpayers who participate in the U.S. Department of Energy Hydrogen hub will be prioritized for credits. The credit is eligible for tax years, ending on or after December 31st, 2027, and beginning on or before January 1st of 2029. It also requires the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a series of studies related to the efficiency of hydrogen power development. The reason

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

this is important is because, as you know, Illinois is applying for one of the hydrogen hubs, and this would bring billions of dollars into the State and really help to - us to decarbonize the industries that are most difficult - that being a heavy industry like steel, steel mills, or heavy transportation. This bill is important if we're serious about decarbonizing our environment, and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. For discussion? Senator Rezin, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR REZIN:

Thank you, Madam President. To the bill, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR REZIN:

Thank you. Senator Koehler, I want to commend you on your work on this issue. I know we've been talking about the importance of investing in hydrogen at -- at -- at the national level for NCSL for quite a while. I'd also like to commend Senator Ellman and many of my colleagues that have been talking about this for quite a while. There is -- and what Senator Koehler says is true. The State of Illinois has an incredible opportunity because of the federal dollars that have been made available through the Infrastructure Act under the Biden Administration to invest in and build out hydrogen. These are one-time dollars that have to be captured within a five-year timeframe. And there's a coalition that has been working together, I would say for the past year, public private partnerships, national lab scientists. I mean, everybody in this space formed a coalition and is applying for the

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

dollars. Hopefully this will be the last component that we need to show the federal government that we're very serious about building out hydrogen for the State of Illinois. And this tax credit is a tax credit to help the end users, which is an important part of the application process, who are the end users and will just help to set the State of Illinois on a pathway to become a hydrogen hub. So, thank you for bringing this bill. And I ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Seeing no further discussion. Oh, Senator Bennet, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR BENNETT:

Hello. There we go. To the bill, please, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR BENNETT:

Thank you. I do want to rise in support of this bill, as well. Investors are watching, folks. This is important for our State. It creates a -- a -- now a wonderful opportunity to help move our State forward in the whole energy realm. And I think we really need to -- to help move this forward and support this -- this action. I asked for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. No further discussion. Senator Koehler, to close.

SENATOR KOEHLER:

Just want to thank you both for those comments and I'd appreciate an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

The question is, shall House Bill 2204 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 53 voting Yea, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. House Bill 2204, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Ladies and Gentlemen, please turn your Calendars to page 9. Please turn your Calendars to page 9. House Bills 3rd Reading. House Bill 3551, President Harmon. President Harmon seeks leave of the Body to return House Bill 3551 to the Order of 2nd Reading. Leave is granted. On the Order of 2nd Reading is House Bill 3551. Mr. Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Floor Amendment No. 2, offered by President Harmon.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

President Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you. Madam President, if the paperwork is in order, I would move to adopt the amendment. I believe Senator Sims may also be a sponsor of that amendment, but is away from his desk. But I'd move for the adoption of the amendment if it's permissible by the parliamentarian.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

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

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

3rd Reading. Mr. Secretary, please read the gentleman's bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 3551, an Act concerning finance. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

President Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Madam President. House Bill 3551 is our Bond Authorization Act for the year. We're authorizing an additional 700 million dollars in new bonding, and we are also making a variety of modernizations to the State's various bond Acts. Happy to try to answer any questions you might have.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Mr. President. Is there any discussion? Any discussion? Senator McClure, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR MCCLURE:

To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR MCCLURE:

We keep hearing about the debt shrinking. We're paying off our debt. This is a bill that's going to increase our debt, at a time when people in our State are struggling, and our State is still struggling financially. I urge a No vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

President Harmon, to close.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

SENATOR HARMON:

I urge an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

As the debt in question, is secured by the full faith and credit of the State of Illinois. It's in the ruling of the Chair that this action falls within the scope of Section 9(b) of Article IX of the Illinois Constitution. And therefore, the passage of this measure will require a 3/5 majority, 36 votes. Ladies and Gentlemen, the question is, shall House Bill 3551 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 37 voting Yea, 19 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. House Bill 3551, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Please turn your Calendars to page 7, page 7, to the middle of page 7. House Bill 2035, Leader Cunningham. Illinois Times requests permission to photo. Leave is granted. Mr. Secretary, please read the gentleman's bill 2030 -- House Bill 2035.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 2035, an Act concerning public employee benefits.
3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Leader Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM:

Thank you, Madam President. House Bill 2035 is an initiative of the Water Reclamation District of Chicago. It would amend their Pension Code and what it would do is allow medical professionals other than physicians. This would include physicians assistants and nurse practitioners to make certain disability determinations.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

This is to help streamline the process because of sometime hard to get individuals in front of a doctor. This would allow their evaluations to be made by medical experts other than doctors. I know of no opposition, would appreciate the Chamber's support.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none. The question is, shall House Bill 2035 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 50 voting Yea, 3 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. House Bill 2035, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Chicago Tribune requests permission to audio, photo, and video. Leave is granted. The Senate will stand at ease for a few minutes to allow the Committee on Assignments to meet. The Members of the Committee on Assignments will meet in the Senate's front room immediately. The Senate will stand at ease. Senator Koehler, in the Chair. President Harmon, in the Chair.

PRESIDENT HARMON:

Mr. Secretary, Messages from the House.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Message from the House by Mr. Hollman, Clerk. Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has concurred with the Senate in the passage of a bill of the following title, to wit: Senate Bill 1769. Together with the following amendment which is attached in the adoption of which I am instructed to ask concurrence of the Senate, to wit: House Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 1769. Passed the House, as amended, May 25th, 2023. John W. Hollman, Clerk of the House.

PRESIDENT HARMON:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Mr. Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senator Lightford, Chair of the Committee on Assignments, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Be Approved for Consideration - Appointment Message 1030244, Appointment Message 1030245, Senate Bill 425, Senate Bill 426, House Joint Resolutions 11 and 12, Floor Amendment 2 to House Bill 1204, Floor Amendments 3 and 4 to House Bill 345 {sic} (3445), Floor Amendment 3 to House Bill 3817, Floor Amendment 3 to Senate Bill 250, Motion to Concur with House Amendments 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 734. Signed, Senator Kimberly A. Lightford, Chair.

PRESIDENT HARMON:

State Journal Register requested permission to record videotape, audiotape, and photos of the proceedings. Seeing no objection, permission is granted. Lightford, in the Chair.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, please turn your Calendars to page 6. Page 6, please, with House Bill 1109, Senator Gillespie. Senator Gillespie indicates she wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill. Senator Gillespie seeks leave of the Body to return House Bill 1109 to the Order of 2nd Reading. Leave is granted. On the Order of 2nd Reading is House Bill 1109. Mr. Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Floor Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Gillespie.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Gillespie, on the amendment, please.

SENATOR GILLESPIE:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Thank you, Madam President. I'd like to adopt the amendment and speak to it on 3rd, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

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

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading is House Bill 1109. Mr. Secretary, please read the lady's bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 1109, an Act concerning revenue. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Gillespie.

SENATOR GILLESPIE:

Thank you. House Bill -- Senate Amendment -- House 1 - to House Bill 1109 codifies the existing arrangement where a municipality seeking an extension of a TIF must submit a written support for each taxing body, school district, park district, and community college in order to extend that expiration date. It is -- it has no opponents, and it has Illinois Municipal League, the Illinois Association of Park Districts, and the Metropolitan Planning Council in support. Again, it's simply codifying existing practice and ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Senator DeWitt,

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR DEWITT:

Thank you, Madam President. To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR DEWITT:

Thank you, Madam President. Just to let our folks on this side of the aisle know this is basically, to the Senator's point, codifying existing practice school districts, park districts, any taxing district involved in a TIF extension is required to sign off on it. This will help clarify the process. Thank you, Senator Gillespie. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Seeing no further discussion. Senator Gillespie, to close.

SENATOR GILLESPIE:

Thank you. Thank you, Senator DeWitt. And I just ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The question is, shall House Bill 1109 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 54 voting Yea, 0 voting Nay 0 voting Present. House Bill 1109, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Please turn your Calendars to the top of page 7. House Bill 1204, Mr. President. President Harmon seeks leave of the Body to return House Bill 1204 to the Order of 2nd Reading. Leave is granted. On the Order of 2nd Reading is House Bill 1204. Mr. Secretary, are there

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Floor Amendment No. 2, offered by President Harmon.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

President Harmon, on Amendment No. 2, please.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Madam President. I move to adopt the amendment.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

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

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

3rd Reading. Now, on the Order of 3rd Reading is House Bill 1204. Mr. Secretary, please read the gentleman's bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 1204, an Act concerning education. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

President Harmon, please on your bill.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. House Bill 1204 was inspired by a school counselor in my district formerly known as guidance counselors or college guidance counselors, and having just completed our third and final college tour in my household, I was very sympathetic to their plight. This amends the gift ban portion of the School Code to clarify that

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

school counselors, can, in fact, accept costs for travel, lodging, and the like for visiting colleges in State or out of state to help give the best advice to their students. Be happy to answer any questions if you have them.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Mr. President. Is there any discussion? Senator Rose, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR ROSE:

To the bill, if I may.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR ROSE:

Thank you. This is part of the bipartisan, bicameral, Higher Education Working Group's conversations. We do agree that this is necessary. We've limited the ability of -- of bringing educational opportunities to our students, particularly surrounding states. And I want to state, very clearly, and thanks to the President, this is actually set the federal IRS premium limits, which is a marked improvement from where we were before. So, for all those reasons, I support the President's bill. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you. Mr. President, please close.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you. I appreciate Chapin Rose, Senator Rose's work on this and I ask you all to join us in voting Aye.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you. The question is, shall House Bill 1204 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 55 voting Yea, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. House Bill 1204, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Please turn your Calendars to page 9, the middle of the page. We will hear from Senators Stadelman on House Bill 3445. Senator Stadelman seeks leave of the Body to return House Bill 3445 to the Order of 2nd Reading. Leave is granted. On the Order of 2nd Reading is House Bill 3445. Mr. Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Floor Amendment No. 3, offered by Senator Stadelman.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Stadelman on Amendment No. 3, please.

SENATOR STADELMAN:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

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

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Floor Amendment No. 4, offered by Senator Stadelman.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Stadelman, on Floor Amendment No. 4, please.

SENATOR STADELMAN:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Is there any discussion? Leader Cunningham, is there a discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, the amendment is adopted. Are there any further Floor amendments to prove for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading is House Bill 3445. Mr. Secretary, please read the gentleman's bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 3445, an Act concerning State government. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Stadelman, on your bill.

SENATOR STADELMAN:

Thank you, Madam President, Members of the Senate. House Bill 3445 is the Energy Omnibus Bill. The underlying bill expands the eligibility of schools that can take advantage of solar energy credits. It expands it to higher education, public universities, and community colleges, and not just K through 12 schools. The legislation also establishes an energy policy study requiring the Illinois Power Agency to evaluate potential impacts on several projects that had been introduced, as legislation, this spring. They include utility scale offshore wind projects, energy storage systems, and studying underground transmission line proposals. It also requires the Illinois Commerce Commission to host a series of workshops to look at the planning and delivery of thermal energy networks. Each of these proposals have had questions and concerns this spring, so this is an opportunity to further study this issue

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

and to make sure that we have a neutral third-party entity that will look at these different proposals and report back to the General Assembly and whether they will be accepted or not. Finally, regarding Amendment 3, it includes trailer language to the Commercial Wind and Solar Siting Bill that we approved at the end of last Legislative Session. Basically, after that pass, there was some concerns by the Farm Bureau. The amendment before you includes trailer language that was negotiated between the Renewable Industry and the Farm Bureau, again, to address those concerns. Moving on to Amendment No. 4, it establishes a temporary right of first refusal for incumbent transmission owners in the MISO territory. That's a group that operates the electrical grid, the energy grid in Southern Illinois. In case you're not familiar with right of first refusal, it gives utilities the first opportunity to develop and work on new transmission lines before it theoretically goes to competitive bid. This is an initiative of IBEW and the unions. Their goal - intent is to ensure that work on these transmission lines in Illinois is completed by Illinois workers who are paid the prevailing wage and fair wages. And they work for employees with commitments to equity and diversity standards. Happy to answer any questions?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Senator Bryant, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR BRYANT:

Thank you, Madam President. Will the sponsor yield for a question?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The sponsor indicates he will yield, Senator Bryant.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

SENATOR BRYANT:

Thank you. Senator, are there any ethics reforms or ethics requirements in the bill for renewables?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Stadelman.

SENATOR STADELMAN:

Not in this legislation.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Bryant.

SENATOR BRYANT:

Thank you. To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR BRYANT:

It's been two years since CEJA was passed, and under CEJA there were some very serious ethics requirements for non-renewables that were not for renewables. And considering the huge subsidies that are being gifted to renewables, there's huge potential for unethical behavior. So, if we're truly serious about renewables as opposed to non-renewables, then any future pieces of legislation that are regarding energy need to also include some ethics -- some ethics requirements for a change. Maybe this Body could be proactive rather than reactive before we have ethics violations. It's a good bill, otherwise. I think it's a piece that's missing. So, thank you for bringing it.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

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

SENATOR ROSE:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR ROSE:

Well, here we are, here's the day. Fall of 21, we had the big CEJA, the big CEJA. We're going to take care of the environment. Green! We're going to be green! And I said that day, that very day there wasn't any green because it was all going to be back filled with carbon and coal from out of the State of Illinois. And lo and behold, if that day didn't come, took less than two years. MISO, the grid operator, the good Senator just mentioned, which is the operator for virtually everything south of I-80 and actually most of the Midwest, I might add. Has said that Illinois's power market is going to become so unstable, this isn't my words this is the report they put out, because we're closing our incumbent Illinois based energy providers, putting our people out of work. That they are now forced to bring in transmission lines from out of state. To do what? To backfill the electrons that are coming off the grid from the plants that were closed by CEJA, signed by the Governor, Green! Except that guess what they're backfilling with? Coal, carbon and you know what? We all get to pay more for it. We all get to pay more for it. MISO, which by the way, the sole contribution of MISO to this bill other than telling Illinois that we have to fix the CEJA problem that you guys created is to tell us that we get to pay for the transmission lines to come in Illinois again, to do what? Forget the green. We're back to carbon. We're back to coal. We are back to coal. I'll tell you what. Then we have the windmills. Now we're here to fix the windmill problem with the drainage ditches. Payback time. Every

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

one of those environmentalists that thinks that downstate Illinois is your dumping ground, you're environmental colonialism. Out of sight, out of mind. Nimby. Not in my back yard. Put it in Rose's backyard, put it in Tracy's backyard, put it in Bryant's backyard and they will issue press releases -- press releases that we're green. We're so green! So green that we're going to now backfill with coal. Wow. Two years. What -- I am so -- I am so excited to vote for this bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator, further discussion? Senator Syverson, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you, Madam President. I hate to follow that up, but -- Senator question on the -- there were concerns raised..

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The sponsor indicates he will yield. Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you, Madam President. There were concerns raised at the last minute from ComEd and IBEW 15 that have concerns with this bill. Have those been addressed or are we talking about a way to address their concerns that came up with this?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Stadelman.

SENATOR STADELMAN:

I guess the answer is no. There are no imminent projects that we felt like that we needed to change this particular bill to address those requests.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Syverson.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

SENATOR SYVERSON:

I guess their concern was that not having language in there that specifically protects them, that this becomes a precedent for them, and it potentially hurts their ability for future -- for their future expansion or future work, which is why the local IBEW was opposed to that, not having that language in there. So, I don't know if they came and -- and had those discussions about clarifying something with that. Have you -- did -- did you meet with ComEd or the -- the local IBEW today?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Stadelman.

SENATOR STADELMAN:

I personally have not had conversations with who you mentioned. If there are concerns, more than willing to -- entertain those options. But at a point, we just didn't feel like moving forward on that, didn't feel like that need was there. But I hadn't had a personal conversation more than happy to have those conversations moving forward.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Okay, thank you. I certainly support that. I'm -- I'm surprised that those -- that they didn't have a chance to meet with you or talk to you about that or trying to get some clarification for that because that was certainly a concern that they had and maybe that's something that can be addressed in a -- in a future bill. So, thank you. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Further discussion? Senator Cunningham,

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM:

Thank you, Madam President. Will the sponsor yield for a question?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The sponsor indicates he'll yield. Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM:

Senator Stadelman, for the purposes of legislative intent, can you explain the change to Section 1-75 of the Illinois Power Agency Act related to the 15 percent RECs per solar at public schools, please?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Stadelman.

SENATOR STADELMAN:

Thank you for the question. Under current law, the REC pool solely for solar projects at public school -- schools requires that the project be at the school. With this change, the intent is to allow for projects at the school or on -- on -- or other school property. As is with the case of current law, the property must be owned and controlled by the school. It cannot be leased or sublease to ensure there's a benefit for the school or the school districts.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Cunningham. Senator Stadelman, no further discussion. Would you like to close?

SENATOR STADELMAN:

Appreciate the conversation just to address some of the concerns. Always willing and happy to work with lawmakers regarding ethics and what we can do to improve the situation. That's not this legislation. This deals with transmission lines and ability

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

to move clean projects forward. But more than happy to have those conversations. As far as the comment regarding our potential resource adequacy issue, I guess I would not agree with the characterization how we got to this point. A lot of the coal plants and other plants are already set to retire. We're going to be closed for market forces having nothing to do with CEJA. So, there are many different factors and that's why we're having to study to understand adequacy resource and grid reliability moving forward. You know, finally, I think this is -- this is -- this is I just one thing I want to point out. This is an 18-month process. This is an 18-month request for right of first refusal. The debate regarding the advantages, pros and cons of competitive bidding can continue. But for the next 18 months, this will provide certainty to make sure that these clean energy projects can move forward and that the certainty and reliability of our grid can continue. Ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The question is, shall House Bill 3445 pass. All those in favor would vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 41 voting Aye, 9 voting Nay, 1 voting Present. House Bill 3445, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, we are going to the Order of House Bills 3rd Reading on page 9 with House Bill 3817. House Bill 3817. Senator Sims seeks leave of the Body to return House Bill 3817 to the Order of 2nd Reading. Leave is granted. On the Order of 2nd Reading is House Bill 3817. Mr. Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Floor Amendment No. 3, offered by Senator Sims.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Sims, on your amendment.

SENATOR SIMS:

Thank you, Madam President. I'd like to adopt the amendment and debate it on 3rd.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

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

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading is House Bill 3017. Mr. Secretary, please read the gentleman's bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Bill 3817, an Act concerning State government. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Sims, on House Bill 3817.

SENATOR SIMS:

Thank you, Madam President. House Bill 3817 includes the 2000 -- Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Budget Implementation Bill. Some of the highlights includes the \$200 million transfer to the Pension Stabilization Fund, a \$424 million transfer to the (REBUILD) Build Illinois Bond Fund, an 8 percent transfer authority for the governors to -- for -- allow agencies to better manage the fiscal

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

year 24 budgets. A \$40 million transfer to compassionate use of Medical Cannabis funds. A fix to the College Insurance Program rate increase to allow for the -- to challenge -- to change the existing formula to address the backlog of bills. The creation of the Fire Station Rehabilitation and Construction Grant Program. The extension of the sunset on the Aim High Program, which includes also an increase and a change in eligibility. The creation of the Smart Start Child Care Program. The creation of the Home Illinois Program, increasing rate - increase for child care workers. The Emergency Rulemaking for DSP workers to allow for a \$2.50 cent raise per hour. And remove -- change -- which sets the local government -- Local Government Distributed Fund at 6.47 percent. The exemption of the first 5000 of franchise taxes, raising it from \$1000 to \$5000. Madam President, but I would also like to point out we had a robust discussion about the bill in committee. So, I want to talk through some of the additions. There is -- the add to the Cannabis 280E and Social Equity Extension. Mechanical and Frost Insulators. Property Tax (Reimbursement) Pilot Program. The Illinois Department of Transportation Loan Forgiveness removes the IV --IVF cap, makes a transfer into the Horse Racing Purse Equity (Trust) Fund and prepares for Illinois future. Madam President, I know of no opposition will answer any questions and ask for a favorable roll call.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. For discussion, Senator Feigenholtz, for what purpose do you rise? Senator Feigenholtz, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR FEIGENHOLTZ:

I'm -- I'd like the record to reflect that I intended to

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

vote No on House Bill 3445.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The record will reflect your intentions. Those who would like to speak on the bill. Senator Rose, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR ROSE:

First of all, a point of parliamentary inquiry, if I may.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Excuse me, Senator.

SENATOR ROSE:

Point of Parliamentarian inquiry.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Please proceed.

SENATOR ROSE:

What time was this amendment filed?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Uncertain, Senator.

SENATOR ROSE:

Was it filed at 9:38 p.m.? Thereabouts? Okay.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Uncertain, Senator. To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR ROSE:

To the bill. First of all, I want to just say that we are going to have a robust discussion on the BIMP bill itself. But I want to point out, just for the record here, that this - excuse me a robust discussion on the Budget bill, itself. I want to point out for the record, while we're on the BIMP bill, that the original of this was filed five minutes after the scheduled time for the Executive Committee. And then there was all of about a half an

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

hour to digest 727 pages of -- of bill that you just can't get through what was in and what was out, in a half an hour. This, then, is an additional 170 pages filed approximately 30, 35 minutes ago. So, we're going to have a full discussion. And -- and -- and actually, some of it's going to be positive when we get to the budget piece. But I got to just point out, for the record, that dropping these things out of the air like this, 170 pages on top of the 727 earlier, it's just not the way this process is supposed to work. And, you know, we'll come back to more of this when we get to the budget. And I really want to just kind of point out this is part of the budget, but we want to have a robust discussion, but we'll do it, when we get to the budget bill. But it shouldn't be done in a half hours' notice like this. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Further discussion, Senator Stoller.

SENATOR STOLLER:

Thank you, Madam President. To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR STOLLER:

You know, I hear all the time, people in Illinois, are so tired of politicians, they don't feel like they're getting the straight scoop, they don't feel like they're getting the true story, they -- there's just this inherent level of distrust, and you wonder why? It's because budgets like this, the spin would have us believe, that this is a balanced budget. But this is not a balanced budget, in fact, it's not even close to being a balanced budget. Let me give a few examples, we have a few State workers,

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

mostly represented by AFSCME. Well, their contract is coming up this year, I don't know if you noticed, but I think we all know that it's coming. That's \$200 to \$300 million maybe, that's not included in this budget. There's the rate increases that are in the Medicaid omnibus. Well, that's only -- many of those are only included for half of a year. Our budget is a full year budget, but their increases are only for a half a year. That's \$250 million when it should actually be \$500 million, if it was for a full year. That's like a hidden \$250 million, in this budget, talk about sneaky. Or the developmentally disabled, same trick over there, they needed \$4 per hour increase, they got \$2.50 but -- but that is only for a half year, as well. And remember our worst in the nation pension debt, the actuaries that look at our pension debt and say, "Hey, if we want to stay on track to get to full funding in accordance with the ramp." Say, we should be putting in \$14.4 billion into our pension funds, we are putting in \$10 billion plus \$200 million. Now, I admit that \$200 million is in the right direction. So, we're only shortchanging our pension fund by \$4.2 billion. Or how about the Undocumented Immigrant Health Care Program, we're putting in \$550 million, we all know this is a \$1.1 billion program. I -- I assume we've all been watching the news, these last couple of weeks, it's \$1.1 billion, people. But yet, we're told that we're going to change a Rule and we're going to come up with \$550 million by changing the Rule, we're not kicking anybody out of the program, thousands and thousands of immigrants continue to come to Illinois and even more when they hear about our free health care program. And yet, we're going to change a Rule and come up with \$550 million. No wonder people in Illinois don't believe us, don't believe you, when you put a budget like

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

this together. Let's be honest, this budget is not balanced. The people in Illinois are sick and tired of gimmicks, half-truths, tricks, and spin like I've outlined here. It's bad enough that we're spending millions of dollars on mixed up priorities like health care for non-citizens while we're shortchanging funding for our developmentally disabled. But at least, you should have the decency to be straightforward and transparent about whether or not this is a balanced budget, it is not balanced. And I urge a No vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Sims, to close.

SENATOR SIMS:

Great bill, vote Aye.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The question is, shall House Bill 3817 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 36 voting Yea, 20 vote Nay, 0 voting Present. House Bill 3817, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Martwick, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR MARTWICK:

Madam President, I'd like the record to reflect that my intention in House Bill 3445 was to vote No.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The record will reflect your intentions. Senator Peters, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR PETERS:

Madam President, I would like the record to reflect that I

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

intended to vote No on House Bill 3445. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The record will reflect your intentions. Senator Morrison, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR MORRISON:

I would also like the record to reflect it was my intention to vote No on House Bill 3445.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The record would also reflect your intentions. Please turn your Calendars to Senate Bills. Senate Bills 3rd Reading on the top of page 2. Senate Bills 3rd Reading on the top of page 2. Senate Bill 2-5-0. Senate Bill 250. Hastings, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR HASTINGS:

Madam President. Thank you. It was my intention to vote Yes on House Bill 3445. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The record will reflect your intentions. Senator Sims seeks leave of the Body to return Senate Bill 250 to the Order of 2nd Reading. Leave is granted. On the Order of 2nd Reading is Senate Bill 250. Mr. Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration? Please let the record reflect sponsorship has been changed to Senator Sims. Senator Sims, on Senate Bill 250. Senator Sim seeks leave of the Body to return Senate Bill 250 to the Order of 2nd Reading. Leave is granted. On the Order of 2nd Reading is Senate Bill 250. Mr. Secretary, are there any Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Floor Amendment No. 3, offered by Senator Sims.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Sims, on Amendment No. 3.

SENATOR SIMS:

Thank you, Madam President. I'd like to adopt the amendment and debate it on 3rd.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

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

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Pursuant to Senate Rule 3-8(d-10) the Parliamentarian has determined that Senate Amendment 5 is technical in nature. Furthermore, Senate Amendment 5 to Senate Bill 250 is hereby approved for consideration by the Senate.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Sim's.

SENATOR SIMS:

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

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

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

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No further amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading is Senate Bill 250. Mr. Secretary, please read the gentleman's bill.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 250, an Act concerning appropriations. 3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Sims, on Senate Bill 250.

SENATOR SIMS:

Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Senate Bill 250 includes the fiscal year 2024 budget based on \$50,717,000,000 in revenues. Expenditures of 5 -- \$50,599,000,000, which is 121 -- \$140 million less than what we spent in the fiscal '23. Some of the highlights of today's budget: appropriates \$18 billion in All Funds for State Board of Education, which includes \$10 billion in GRF for the State Board, which also includes an overall increase of \$560 million for Education and General Revenue Funds. Includes Senate Bill 2 -- 250 includes the appropriation of an additional \$350 million in Evidence-Based Funding to bring the enacted -- the total EBF investments to over \$8.3 billion. The Early Childhood Block Grant includes an additional \$75 million in general revenue funds. This -- this will include and expand the -- the to an additional 5000 children in fiscal '24. Senate Bill 250 also includes 40 -- an additional \$45 million or new \$45 million for the Teacher Pipeline Grant. Includes 600 -- \$608 million for Community College Fund for Community College Board, that includes \$364 million in general revenue funds, which is an increase of \$30 million over the current year. The budget includes an additional \$100 million in MAP -- MAP grant funding to increase the -- the maximum award to \$8,508 and allows grants for every eligible student. The budget includes \$3.8 million, an increase of \$3.8 million for the Minority Teacher's

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Scholarship Program, as well as, an additional \$8.6 million for the Golden Apple Scholars Program. The budget also includes an additional \$81 million to increase funding to universities by 7 percent. In Human Services, the budget includes \$19 billion in general revenue funds for -- for Human Service funding that includes an overall increase of \$2.2 billion of general revenue funds in Health Care and Family Services. Budget also includes in the Department of Human Services, \$200 million increase -- to increase - in doing so, changes for additional 700 new placements in the PUNS -- off the PUNS list. Includes \$250 million, an increase of \$35 million for the TANF Program. Additional, and also \$250 million for the Childcare through the Smart Start Program. In the Department on Aging and the Community Care Program includes \$1.3 billion, which represents \$65 million increase over estimated expenditures for the current year. Also, includes, an additional \$8 million for the Home -- Home Delivered Meals Program. In the Department of Public Health, we have new programs that -- including IT services, but also including additional funds for Safety Net Hospitals. Equity and representation in health care additional \$42 million, responding to emerging public health crises \$6.5 million. In Public Safety, you will -- you will find there are additional funds for -- additional - for three additional Cadet classes. Madam President, I will ask it -- entertain any questions and look forward for a favorable roll call.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Is there any discussion? Senator Rose, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR ROSE:

Thank you, Madam President. To save Elgie's voice, I think

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

I'll just go to the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR ROSE:

Madam President, first of all, I want to say something, and this is super important. Senator Sims is a former staff guy. I'm a former staff guy. Everyone in this Chamber right now is to give these men and women around us a big round of applause.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator Rose. I think you took some of the President and the Leader's thunder for tonight, but -- but big wheels keep on turning. Yes, Proud Mary. Keep on rolling. Keep on rolling. Senator Rose.

SENATOR ROSE:

Outstanding. So, look -- I want to step back, and I want to say a sincere thanks on behalf of our caucus, Leader Sims, to the President, to your staffs, Senator. Belt, Senator Gillespie, who were in many, many, many meetings over weeks and months. We were here, we were prepared to be here, we got up early, showed up for early meetings, we came to those meetings, we were sincere. And I will -- want to acknowledge the sincerity on your side. There are many good things in this budget. Higher Education is getting a much needed increase. Aim High, talked about that yesterday, Bipartisan/Bicameral. Because of, not just our work in the last month and a half, at the table with Senator Sims, on DDMI, I want to salute. Senator Morris, in particular; Senator Murphy, in particular; Senator Feigenholtz, in particular; many people and many sides, both Chambers. We're able to take what was a buck 50 to 2.50. But here's where we're going to diverge. The crowding out

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

effect that has occurred in this budget not just this budget, over decades. The spend that has gone on to crowd out I mean, \$4 all the DSP, DDMI Community asked for is \$4. They're getting 250, which is great. But they needed four. They needed four. And by the way, it doesn't start on July 1st, it starts on January 1st, which is what Senator Stoller was talking about a minute ago. It's a matter of priorities when we're going to fund and I'm going to give just a couple quick examples here. This health care issue that literally plagued this entire -- well, I can't say building - two buildings. The entire General Assembly and the second floor was the second floor, now they're over in Stratton on six. But this health care issue that popped up has crowded out so much. It crowded out the \$4 to serve the development of disabled and mentally ill. And I am respectfully saying thanks to everybody who worked for 250, but it crowded out four dollars, which is what the actual study that was done says is necessary to legitimately serve those who cannot through no fault of their own help themselves. That budget piece, the 550 million it's -- it's now at, which was 1.1 and I know that the BIMP says it's going to give the Governor authority to try to bring that down to only 550. 550 is more than what it would have taken for base rates for hospitals, to go to 20 percent was their ask. Let's put this in context and this is why I say crowded over decades. 20 percent if you went back, they even had an increase in 27 years, former, Leader McConchie, was telling me this. If you actually get -- if they just stayed at the rate of inflation, they would add a 96 percent increase in that time. There at 10 percent. To get to their ask 20 percent wouldn't have taken nearly as much money as what's been crowded out here. It -- I mean, guys at some point in time, we've got to stand up and just say, hey, we've got

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

to fund the commitments we've already made. We can't be 51st in the nation, in Development Disabilities. We can't go 27 years without a base rate increase, and then pretend that 10 percent, when it really would have been 96 percent, is good enough. But I want to talk about two other things that were super important to our caucus. And folks, again, I get it. Every room we all -- every single one of us has the greatest job on earth. We have been enormously blessed from the folks back home to come here and fight for what our districts are asking for. And look, we can have a disagreement, that's okay. I get that what the folks from Chicago are coming from, or they're going to ask for different things than folks that I'm going to ask for, that's okay. That's why we're here. That's what this is about. But I got to present what it is that we were looking for. Let's start with two biggies: BIPA, my goodness, this biometric thing doesn't even cost \$0.01 and gear up the State, if we'd fixed it. But it is going to cost an untold sum of money as businesses leave Illinois. Because if you dare to screw up and the thumbprint more than once each violation is a violation. Who's going to do business here? Who's going to pay corporate income tax? Who's going to pay corporate personal property replacement tax? Who's going to hire employees to pay personal income tax? It didn't cost anything to get that done to GRF yet, it's going to cost us big time, in the long run, to GRF. Second thing, is Invest in Kids. This budget's over \$50 billion. You're asking for -- we ask for less than one tenth of 1 percent for kids. Your kids, our kids, everybody's kids. It's like the greatest thing, there are kids. They don't know Republicans or Democrats; they just want to go to the playground and be kids. But here's what happened. And this is -- this is the part that I'm

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

fundamentally going to reject because there's going to people say, well, it didn't expire. It doesn't expire until the fall, and we can handle it in the fall. This is what I fundamentally reject. Parents, this summer, are going to have to decide are they going to send their kids to a school that maybe they can afford for half a year and then get thrown out on their ear. Are they going to put their faith in the Illinois General Assembly to finally figure it out in October, or November, or December? I don't know, maybe sometime in January, at 3:00 in the morning, after the second semester has already started. That's why it was so important to do it now. That's why it was so important to do it now. Folks, I'm not going to -- for me, I've been you know, you guys have heard me in the past. I'm not standing here yelling and screaming. I am saying there's a fundamental difference, but eventually we have to figure this out, those kids are too important. We can't leave them stranded, but their parents are making those decisions this summer. I'll close where I began. I genuinely appreciate the effort from the other side. I know Leader Curran appreciates that. But when it came to the divergence of priorities, because we're all sent here to represent the people we represent. I can't ask my caucus to vote for this budget. Notwithstanding all the other niceties and everything else, I'm not going to strand these kids. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Bryant, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR BRYANT:

Thank you, Madam President. Out of respect for Senator Sims, I'm also going to go to the bill.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR BRYANT:

Thank you. Two children, one of them our son he famously will remember me saying to him many, many times, why did you do that? And his answer usually to me was, mom, I didn't mean to do that. And I would say to him, Tyler, you are forever giving me that answer. So, for you, you have to purpose to do the right thing because you never do the wrong thing on purpose. I'm saying that because priorities do matter. And I don't know that I could say anything better or in a better way than what Senator Rose just said. But I do think that when we're putting budgets together, priorities are important. Now, I -- I made one issue this past year a priority for me because I wanted to understand better how certain money was being spent. One of those areas was on the Immigrant Welcoming Centers. So, I made sure that I visited the one that happens to be in the area that I formerly represented. I went I actually -- I participated in a fiesta that was there, talked to the folks that were there. So, I don't mean to take away from any of the good things that they're doing with the Immigrant Welcome Centers. There's \$110 million that is going to those Welcome Centers. While I stood there with my friend Gloria, I watched an individual hand to one of the gentlemen who came in a debit card, and he was told that he would only be able to get \$500 cash per day on that debit card. That's not something I heard from someone else that happened while I was standing there. Is it important money to be spent? Maybe. That's \$110 million, though that's going to non-citizens, to immigrant welcoming centers in addition to the \$40.2 billion - I'm sorry, \$40.2 million that will

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

be going to the City of Chicago for asylum seekers after they asked to be named as a Welcoming or Sanctuary City. So, that's \$152 million that's going for just that priority for non-citizens. At the same time, Governor Pritzker has chosen not to make the DD community a priority for this State by taking 120 souls from Choate Mental Health and moving them to new -- to a different facility, a place that they didn't want to go sometimes as much as 50, 60 miles away from their homes. Because the money wasn't set aside to fix the problems that were at that facility. Senator Rose already talked about the fact that the workers for the DD community and the Guide House Study showed that \$4 an hour is what needed to go to those individuals and instead at this point, they're supposed to stand back and be happy for the \$2.50 that they're going to get. Many of us went on the stand alone, bill, to make sure that they were going to get that money, not a bill that we would ordinarily have wanted to support or wanted to support but didn't in the past. But we did this year because that was a priority. This budget, though many of the good things in it have been mentioned. Priorities are important. Say a lot about who we are and where we put the things that matter to us. I'm sad. I'm sad that money is not going to the DD community that should have gone there. I urge a No vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

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

SENATOR MCCLURE:

Thank you, Madam President. To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

SENATOR MCCLURE:

Thank you, Madam President. You know, we hear a lot from the other side of the aisle. The Republicans just complain about the process and don't bring any ideas of their own. Well, that's certainly not true. This year, we spent a lot of time talking about what we are for. Advocating for the priorities of the people who elected us. All of us. We've spoken out about rising crime in this State and introduced legislation to confront it. We've introduced policies to help families struggling to make ends meet as a cost of living and the cost of paying their utility bills skyrockets. We pushed for more substantial ethics reforms to get to the heart of the culture of corruption that holds Illinois back. And we've advocated for policies to stop the excess of people from this State. And as the Floor Leader for our caucus, I've learned about every piece of legislation that makes it onto this Floor. And we've spent a lot more time talking about your priorities than the priorities of the people that all of us are sent here to represent. And I'm talking about people, in every Senate district, in this entire State. But today, I'm afraid we're seeing more of the same. And I'm disappointed that this is where you are landing on the budget. I was hopeful about the process that was unfolding. And our budget negotiators were there in good faith with good ideas to advocate for all of our constituents. Unfortunately, what we're seeing instead is just a continuation of those policies and misplaced priorities. I urge a No vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

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

SENATOR S. TURNER:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Thank you, Madam President. To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR S. TURNER:

I'm on the Opioid Settlement Task Force. And I just wanted to make sure that I mentioned this, and I think it's extremely important for us to pay attention to this in the budget. But, by my count, there's two lines for \$80 million and \$20 million to DHS for grants and administrative expenses. That's related to the National Opioid Settlement Agreement in the '24 budget. At least 70 percent of this money must be used for prospective opioid related expenses, including expanding access to treatment and buying of course, the overdose reversal medicine, as we know, as Narcan. And in addition, only 50 percent of the 15 percent of the funds can be used for administrative purposes. And also -- or for the State to reimburse past opioid related expenses. But this leaves 15 percent for the State to spend however they want. And I just want to be on record to make sure that this Body spends that appropriately. Because for those of us that are on that task force, we know mothers, fathers, and groups are out there every day telling us that they need help, and we need to make sure that this 15 percent is spent for exactly that reason. Thank you for that opportunity.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Gillespie, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR GILLESPIE:

To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR GILLESPIE:

Thank you, Madam President. For the purposes of legislative intent. In an effort to bring us closer to implementing the Department of Human Services Guidehouse (Rate) Study, as well as, to stabilize and grow the workforce. This budget provides for a \$2.50 per hour wage increase for direct support personnel serving and supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in community based and residential settings. It is our intent, in passing this budget, that this funding may get directly into the pockets of workers in the form of base wage increases. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Senator DeWitt, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR DEWITT:

Thank you very much, Madam President. To the bill, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR DEWITT:

Thank you, Madam President. First off, I want to add to my colleague's comments with appreciation to Senator Sims, President Harmon for a much improved process that we all were anxious and enthusiastic to be a part of this year. So, thank you for those changes to the program. I want to continue a theme of priorities or perhaps misplaced priorities. And address some of the priorities that I felt were important that I and my colleagues brought to this process and that involves our business climate in this State and our municipalities in this State. And when -- I want to start

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

by addressing a couple of the initiatives that on a bipartisan basis this Body has approved to try to improve -- this -- this Body has approved to improve the business climate with regards to new business development. It was just about a year ago that this Body passed the REV Act, which is an incentive program to try to bring more electric vehicle manufacturing companies, parts, processes to the State of Illinois. At the time, there were as I recall, there were two -- two battery manufacturers we were trying to get relocated over into the Bloomington area to complement the Rivian manufacturing process. And we lost them both. One went to Indiana. The other one, I think, went to Louisiana. And then Veto Session last year, it was determined that the Governor needed a business closure account. He needed readily available financial assistance to attract new businesses to this State at a much higher level. And then, Ford Motor Company, decided to take their electrical -- electric car manufacturing south of the border to Mexico. And Stellantis has started unpacking the mothballs in Belvidere as 1200 people out of that manufacturing facility still are waiting for help from the State from a bipartisan agreement that gave this Governor a billion dollars to try to keep them operating in that facility. Okay, those programs aren't working. What do we have to show for it? Nothing. So, the emphasis must shift to the people that are already here, our manufacturers, our corporations, our proprietors; who own private companies, the people who hire millions of our constituents giving them compensation and benefits and food on the table. So, we part -- tried to make pieces of this business incentive legislation into the budget process to try to incentivize them to stay here. The list is a mile long why people are leaving this State. And it ain't

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

the weather, folks. We tried to address the estate tax, which is driving family-owned farms out of this State. Because the tax is so burdensome families are required to sell property to pay the tax burden that this State demands them to pay. This is the breadbasket of America. 76 percent of this State is covered by some of the best farmland in the entire world. But I guess it's not a priority to try to keep our family farms in business. We tried to initiate a research and development tax credit, a bill that's been in this Body for two years now, initiated by the Illinois Manufacturers Association, one of the largest employment bases in this State. Why? To give them an opportunity to invest more money to create more products, to create more jobs, and build their businesses. And what does that do? It puts more people to work, and it puts more food on more people's tables, and it gives them benefits, and it helps their kids go to school, and go to college. That must not be a priority because that one's not in the list. The Illinois Innovation Tax Credit identical scenario for proprietorships, contractors, road builders, asphalt and concrete manufacturers, an ability to recover investment dollars quicker, didn't make the list. Must not be a priority? Shifting very quickly and I'm summarizing, Madam President, thank you. Over to the -- the municipal side of this process. There's probably not a Member in this Chamber that did not receive a letter from many of their local municipalities simply asking this Body and this legislature to give them the income tax and sales tax revenues from the arrangement made when the State established its sales tax in 1976. Last year, we gave them a 2.6 percent increase, from 6 percent to 6.16 percent. I'm happy to see we made some progress this year. We actually gave them a 4.8 percent increase in the amount of money

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

the State has decided to give them, money that they have developed, they have marketed, they have created in their own municipalities, and we can't even give them enough money to cover the cost-of-living increase. I'll close with this, as a former Mayor involved in local government for 20 years, I often get the question from people, which job do you do you enjoy more? Do you -- did you enjoy being a Mayor or do you enjoy your role as a State Senator in the State of Illinois? And I tell them the biggest difference between those two jobs is that here in Springfield, we're 200 miles away from most of our constituents. So, people don't get to see what we do day in and day out. Our decisions may have a greater impact on a larger group of people. But in municipal government or county government, every single week you sit before your constituency, and they let you have it, if they're not happy. I'm glad they're not here in this Body, to hear this discussion going on tonight, about this budget that's being proposed for fiscal year '24. Because they would see the misplaced priorities of this Body, and this legislature, and they wouldn't like it. Thank you very much, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Plummer, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR PLUMMER:

To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR PLUMMER:

You know, I -- I echo the comments of a couple of the previous speakers. I know that some folks on -- on your side of the aisle

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

worked very diligently on this and worked very hard on this. I know people on our side of the aisle did as well. And I know there were folks that were... We're trying to find a common ground and -- and make this budget better than what I think it is. And I can tell you that Republicans came to the table in good faith. And that's not as easy as you might think it is all the time because you may or may not recall, but you guys drew these lines in the State of Illinois. And when you drew those lines, you -- you put us in districts that are 75 percent Republican and 72 percent Republican and 80 percent Republican, and they -- they don't agree with a lot of what happens in Springfield. But we come here, and we try to represent those people, as well as, we can. And those people come up with ideas like a 51st State and we got to get away from Chicago. They don't care about what we think, they don't respect our values, they don't fund our schools, they don't fund our hospitals, they don't fund our roads. We're an afterthought. And so, you know, people like me and other folks on this side of the aisle, we go back to our districts, and we say, you know, there's -- there's good people in Springfield that are working hard. You know, people on both sides of the aisle. They care about everybody in Illinois. But when you look at this budget, if you're me or your other Republicans. How do you go back to our districts and tell our people, our constituents who are Illinoisans just like yours it's not Republican or Democrat. They're Illinoisans. How do I tell the people that live in my district that you care about them? That the people in Springfield care about them, that their government cares about them when this budget does nothing but disrespect them. How do you expect us to continue to do this? You laugh at people when they say they want to get away from

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Illinois. You pretend like you don't understand it. This budget should freaking explain it as perfectly as it needs to be explained. Your priorities are very transparent in this budget. Your unwillingness to work with us is apparent in this budget process. And it's offensive. It's offensive to Democrats. It's offensive to Republicans. People in Chicago or DuPage County or Kane County all the way down to the Kentucky border. If they watch this process, they would be disgusted, and they should be disgusted. I mean, this is a 3500-page bill. And the last amendment came out, what, 45 minutes ago? We -- we finally got the bill, what, 8:30 or something? You expect us to read this? You expect us to know what's in here? We were here, we participated. And folks on your side of the aisle know that we were here, and we participated in good faith. And you still kicked our people in the teeth with this budget. How do you expect us to come back to the table in good faith next time? Is the political ambitions of the Governor more important than your constituents and my constituents? Is that what this is about? Because that's what this budget tells us. We get a dog and pony show with a premature, embarrassing press conference yesterday. I don't even know what that was all about. And yet we're stuck with the budget that's not balanced. Everyone in the room knows it's not balanced. Yeah, we're going to read it's not balanced. It's not balanced. We know it's not. We set a new record in spending every year and we could have fixed some of the real systemic problems that plague the State of Illinois. We could have fixed -- we could have gotten down the road of fixing pensions. We could have addressed some of the -- the tax inequalities. We could have addressed the fact that, you know, pretty much everybody in this room represents counties that

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

shrink census, after census, after census. Are you not embarrassed by the fact, that we're like the only State in the union, that shrinks all the time? I wonder why that is. You know, people want to talk about agriculture, and they want to talk about manufacturing, they want to talk about this stuff. The number one export of the State of Illinois is our people. How do you expect us to be a good State when our number one export is our people? What are we getting to...

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR PLUMMER:

What are we getting in this budget? \$200 million of pork projects for you guys. What about the \$200 million that wasn't funded to help, just help not -- not cure, but help the people that are getting bludgeoned with out-of-control energy costs downstate Illinois because of your energy bill, we couldn't help the constituents that need the help. We've got to give \$200 million in pork projects to politicians. That shows priorities. A \$400 million slush fund for the Governor. You want to -- you want to attract businesses. Don't bribe them with a slush fund. Put forward good public policy that's going to create jobs, put forward good public policy that's going to attract capital. A slush fund for the Governor. That's great. You know, I'm -- I'm pro-life. And we get attacked. We get attacked because we're pro-life, but we're -- you only care about the baby until birth, you know? Well, in this bill...

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator, I need you to get to the bill. I -- I need you to get to the bill.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

SENATOR PLUMMER:

In this bill what we could've done was we could have helped fund opportunity for those children. We could have helped fund those kids, given them an opportunity to thrive in life, but we don't fund them. We could have helped the developmentally disabled. But we didn't go far enough. We could have helped create jobs. We could have helped that number one industry, the family farms throughout the State. We didn't do it. It is priorities. And are there good things in here? There's absolutely good things in here. But at the end of the day, this shouldn't be a Democrat bill. This shouldn't be a Republican bill. There should be a budget that grows the State of Illinois. There should be a budget that helps constituents from the Wisconsin border to the Kentucky border. This shouldn't be a budget that cuts millions of Illinoisans out of the conversation merely because who represents them in Springfield. And that's exactly what this budget does. And I know good faith was on both sides of the aisle here. I know people tried very hard on both sides of the aisle. But ultimately, we failed. Just like we failed the last few years on the budget. We failed because political priorities, once again, outweighed the priorities of the families that are trying to make it in the State of Illinois. Those families that struggle because of bad public policy, we force on them. And the families, in our districts, they more than struggle. They get insulted with budgets like this. I know there's people on your side of the aisle that are embarrassed by this process. Let's make it better next year. Let's make sure that all parts of the State have an opportunity to benefit from their tax dollars and benefit from this budget. A lot of things in this Chamber can be political. The budget and the people of

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Illinois should not be political pawns in this process. This is embarrassing. It's shameful. And the State of Illinois can and should do much better for everyone that lives in this State. I urge a No vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Rezin, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR REZIN:

Thank you, Madam President. To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR REZIN:

Thank you. A missed opportunity. That's how I would sum up this year. This year we had a real opportunity to show the people of our State that are elected officials can indeed work together in the best interests. I truly wish that I was rising here today in support of the budget and proudly able to say we seize -- seize the opportunity. While yes, more progress and negotiations occurred during this year's budget process that has happened in several years in the past. Sadly, at the end of the day, that opportunity was squandered away when it became apparent that the needs and the wants of ordinary Illinoisans were going to be ignored in favor of misguided priorities from the other side. This budget here before us is one of the largest, if not the largest, spending budget in our State's history. And despite that fact, we're failing or falling far too short of providing the much-needed funding that our developmentally disabled communities need to take care of the State's most vulnerable citizens. Invest in kids. The kids that we have seen line in our halls in the capitol for three months straight, every single day asking for the

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

scholarships to be renewed. Give them a chance to go to a school that provides them with opportunity and choice. But yet we failed. If you look at our budget this year, our budget is \$50 billion over \$50 billion. The cost of that program, \$75 million in income tax credits. This was a missed opportunity. Unfortunately, it's a vulnerable people of our State that will pay the price. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Chesney, for what purpose do you rise.

SENATOR CHESNEY:

To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR CHESNEY:

Thank you, Madam President. I take a slightly different approach or view of the budget. You know, the Democrats have some fuzzy math maybe within this budget. But one thing, in the five years that I've been here that you have perfected is the ability to count to 60 and 30. So, I recognize you have the votes to pass the budget tonight. So, we can belabor process, but you're doing what the majority has done and this State and other states, when you have the majority, you put forward your ideas. I think our ideas would be better if they were implemented, but that's why we have elections. What -- what does surprise me, though, is the Invest in Kids and -- and I'm not trying to get everybody excited. But, you know, back in the 70s, the Democrat Party fought the desegregation of schools. They did. And we feel that black and white folks should -- the kids should come together and go to

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

school together. And now we fast forward 50 years later and the invest in school program is predominantly black or excuse me, black and brown families. And so, they come to the Capitol, and they're wear the same colored shirts and they don't look like -- like me, but they're wanting to come to predominantly white schools. And they don't believe, as do we, that their zip code should determine their outcome. And what's surprising is, is that the Democrat majority fights having black and brown kids to come to white schools through this program. And so, I acknowledged that when these families come and ask us to renew that scholarship, they don't live in my district. I don't have these schools in my district. But I support the program because it's the right thing to do. And I just don't understand why the majority party is fighting these scholarships. I don't -- I mean, if it's a philosophical thing, that's one thing. But if you truly want to better the communities and the kids, I don't understand why it falls short on the scholarship program of \$75 million. And so, I would just ask the Body to reconsider this during Veto Session to reconsider the Invest in Kid Program, because I don't believe that the zip code should determine outcomes. And I don't think that we should be fighting these outcomes through this process. And, you know, these -- these families are begging for this program, and it's the Democrat majority that fought it and did not put it in this bill tonight. And that's a shame. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Preston, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR PRESTON:

Madam President, I rise today, to again, second what

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

everybody has said about the incredible staff, but also rise out of offense about comments that were just made on the other side. It's my recollection of history that my people, at least black people who fought Brown versus the Board of Education, didn't simply want to go to schools with people who looked like certain folks who wanted a quality education. And I think as -- I as a Senator that have been weighing in on invest in kids and trying to determine where I might land, I was empathetic to invest in kids, but the realities are, and the record will reflect or should reflect that black people are simply in my district that I know of and brown people are simply trying to go to schools that work for them, that are going to give them the outcomes of our children. That remains to be determined yet Invest in Kids. But I'll tell folks that Invest in Kids is not the silver bullet. We would love to have community schools, walkable schools in our own neighborhoods that are fully funded, that are also -- that we can be proud to send our kids to school in. So, I don't think that this is a proper time for folks to rise up to try to use the argument that was just made. I think it's a rewrite of history and it's disrespectful to the people that I stand on the shoulders of. So, I just have to rise in opposition to that. And I urge an Aye vote on this budget, which we should really be here debating and not making up fallacies about the past.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Gillespie, for what purpose do you rise? Leader Curran, for what purpose do you rise.

SENATOR CURRAN:

To the bill, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

To the bill, leader.

SENATOR CURRAN:

I rise this evening to address the budget proposal before us. But before I do that, I would like to acknowledge those who helped us get here. First, my compliments to the Senate President and Leader Sims for their efforts to include the Senate Republicans in the budgeting process. Though our priorities are clearly different, multiple seats at the table of ideas, is always good for democracy. I'd also like to thank our lead budget negotiators Senator Rose and Senator DeWitt and the budget staffs from both sides of the aisle for their hard work and consistent communication. Our inclusion in the discussions is a step forward in our working relationships across the aisle for the betterment of the people of Illinois. We came to the table not just with priorities, but plans, policies, and solutions for Illinois. A few Senate Republican priorities really some joint priorities are reflected in this budget. However, what matters to the people of Illinois is not the process, but the product. And as you will see by the uniform, no votes from our caucus. This final product does not reflect the entire State of Illinois. The budget presented here today undoubtedly represents a further expansion and growth of State government at a time when Illinois, itself, is contracting. I believe at the beginning of this process is -- I believe now that the tension in these disjointed movements will be profound. It does not just include misplaced spending priorities, but bad investments on behalf of the people we represent. It ignores the overwhelming call for relief from the tax and utility costs that are crushing families and small and medium sized businesses still struggling to overcome their COVID 19 setbacks.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

There is also a definitive lack of pro-growth investments in job creators and job seekers. Both parties say that they want to employ -- employers to come to Illinois, yet this budget does little to move us in that direction. It lacks incentives for our business owners who were already defending themselves against constant attacks from anti-business legislation all throughout this Session. It doesn't invest in our investors. A lot of companies Caterpillar, Boeing, Citadel, Stellantis, Tyson Foods are leaving Illinois. But what I would ask you is when was the last time a major employer came to Illinois? I don't mean relocating from a different part of the State or adding new jobs. I mean, picking up and moving all their people, their offices, their resources to plant their seeds in Illinois for future growth. Here's the bigger question. Why would they? With the business regulation we have here in Illinois. With our biometric privacy law that is a litigation nightmare and has cost businesses in Illinois billions of dollars in settlements, all in cases that have never proven actually any harm, actual harm. A top Senate Republican priority throughout this process was saving the Invest in Kids Scholarship Fund. That gives an educational opportunity, an option to low-income families in this State. Despite our best efforts and willingness to go very far and compromise we were unable to save this program as the majority party has decided to move forward with this budget without its inclusion. These citizens, these children whose lives have been forever changed by scholarships to schools their parents or guardians would never be able to afford have been left behind today in this budget. There was a lot of nuance to what we do here in the legislature, but we are still people and there is still right and wrong. And turning your back

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

on these families from my perspective is wrong. We are voting no to this expansion of government and misplaced investments in this State's tax dollars. As we move forward, I'm reminded again, despite our very clear differences in opinion, this is how the process is supposed to work, with both parties advocating for what they believe in. Those priorities are very different, but I know we all believe in Illinois. We are a diverse State with a lot to be proud of. We have a world-class transportation system, a skilled workforce, and cultural and historic epicenters, throughout the State. However, I do truly believe we can do better. And I tell you this, the Senate Republicans will reload and continue to work tirelessly to bring actual balance to the policy priorities of this great State. Madam President, thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Leader Curran. Our final speaker, President Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Madam President. To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR HARMON:

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I rise in support of another responsible, balanced budget. I join colleagues in thanking Senator Sims and Senator Rose and the staffs on both sides of the aisle who worked so hard to put us in this position. And I applaud Senator Curran and your kind words about the process. And I'm also grateful for what has genuinely and generally been a fact focused and civil debate. I share your disappointment that we weren't able to resolve every non-budget issue, but I'm also

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

disappointed that a failure to resolve non-budget issues prevents a unanimous vote on a responsible, balanced budget. This is a budget that invests in our shared priorities. We are investing in schools, in red districts, and in blue districts. We're investing in hospitals in red districts, and blue district, and health care workers across the State. We're investing in municipalities in your districts and in ours. This is a good process, and I'm proud of what we've done so far. I am disappointed we have not yet reached a bipartisan budget, but I renew my commitment to work with you next year and we'll try again. Please vote Yes.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The question -- oh, I'm sorry, Senator Sims. Senator Sims, to close. What's love got to do with it?

SENATOR SIMS:

That's. That's okay, Madam President. You know, first, let me thank our tremendous staffs led by -- on this side of the aisle, Aaron Holmes, Dillon Santoni, and Miles Sadowski. Can we -- and our tremendous and our staff on the other side give them a round of applause. That's right. But that thanks also extends to the staff on the other side of the aisle, as all -- as well. Absolutely, give them a round of applause, too. Although I am presenting Senate Bill 250, I will be remiss if I did not thank the budgeteers on both sides of the aisle as well, because we had a tremendous team on this side, as well as, the other Senators Belt, and Loughran Cappel, and Gillespie, and Villanueva for dedicating their time, their energy, and their talents to passing a budget which is balanced, which does invest in our communities, which does reflect our priorities. So, let me -- let me do a couple of things. Now that we have gotten our thanks out of the way, let's -- let's --

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

let's get back to the facts. Because the fact is that it seems that in this Chamber, we often rewrite history. It's as if the facts don't matter when in fact they do. Because I have heard Members on the other side of the aisle bash the City of Chicago time and time again. Well, for the last 10 years running. Site Selection Magazine chose the City of Chicago as the number one place for corporate locations, and relocations, and expansions. So, let's talk about the facts, because I -- I heard on the other side of the aisle somebody say that it was offensive. The budget was offensive, that the process was offensive, that the priorities weren't -- our priorities weren't reflected that -- let me make sure, because I want to make sure I get it right. That we didn't invest in your health care systems, your hospitals, your schools, or your communities. Let -- Let's again, let's talk facts. An additional half a billion dollars in new spending, which you talk about this is the largest budget ever. That's those -- those dollars don't just go into Republican districts, they don't go into the Democratic districts, they go into all districts. An additional \$350 million is going to go into -- into Cairo, it's going -- just like it's going to go into this Des Plaines. It's going to go into Mount Vernon just like it goes into Chicago. So, let's stop talking about these alternative facts. Let's -- let's -- let's -- let's again, let's talk priorities. And I heard on the other side of the aisle that -- that the State of Illinois continues to contract. The last I checked, the U.S. Census talks about Illinois being over 13 million people, the largest it has ever been. But we continue to talk about nonfactual realities. We've also talked about the fact that Illinois is not -- is not on the right track. Again, I would remind my friends on the other

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

side of the aisle that Illinois has an economy that tops 1 trillion with a T dollars. Let's talk facts and reality. Again, I am -- it is when you -- you hear -- I have -- I have been -- I've been playing a little budget bingo here today. So, but -- but as I played budget bingo, I -- I did a straw poll on this side of the aisle. I looked in my desk drawer. I didn't see the Republican budget there. I asked the Members on this side of the aisle. They looked in their desk. They didn't see the Republican budget there. We can talk about process, or we can talk about product. We are at the table. We sat at the table in good faith, but now we are hearing about non budget issues. After all of the discussions that we had, after all of the conversations that we had and all of the things we focused on to get a good balanced budget, now we are talking about now we can't vote for the budget because we didn't pass BIMP. I looked in Senate Bill 28 -- 250. I didn't see a BIMP or appropriation anyway -- anywhere. We are talking about the Invest in Kids program. I looked at Senate Bill 250. I didn't see an appropriation for Invest in Kids anywhere. If you don't like the budget here, you don't like the budget there, you don't like the budget near you don't like the budget far. You won't -- you won't vote today. You won't vote tomorrow. You're not going to vote anyway. So, let's be clear. This budget does reflect our priorities. It reflects our shared priorities to move our State forward. It reflects our ability to invest in communities, what you call expenditures we call investments. What you call overspending, we call building up. We -- we -- we -- now we had a long tirade about issues of being pro-life. No, it's not being pro-life, it's called being compulsory birth. And if you want to talk real issues and facts, let's invest in people. Let's invest

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

in communities. Let's build up communities. Madam President, this is a good budget. It does reflect our priorities. It does reflect the direction, the positive direction we're in. We are -- we invited the other side of the aisle to the table. We will continue to stretch out our hand. We will continue to invite you to the table. We -- as I have said time and time again, we want your partnership. But we need your partnership to be transparent and to be authentic. And when it is not, we will do it without you. Madam President, I ask for an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The question is, shall Senate Bill 250 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 34 voting Yea, 22 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 250, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Hunter, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR HUNTER:

Madam President, my intentions were to vote No on House Bill 3445, Senate Amendment 4.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The record will reflect your intentions. Supplemental Calendar No. 2 has been distributed. Members, please turn your attention to Supplemental Calendar 2. On the Order of Secretary's Desk Concurrences -- Concurrences, we will continue. Ladies and Gentlemen, we have further action. We do have further action. Please lower your voices, thank you. Senate Bill 734, Senator Halpin, for what -- Mr. Secretary, please read the gentleman's motion.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendments 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 734.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Is there any discussion?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Signed, by Senator Halpin.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Halpin. On your motion, Senator.

SENATOR PETERS:

Thank you, Madam President. So, Senate Bill 734 is substantively the same as what we passed unanimously out of this Chamber as Senate Bill 1233. It was a bill to ensure that schools that offered a 457 plan outside of the TRS system would have to offer more than one and make sure it was a competitive -- a competitive market and that participants had a choice. It did -- that bill went over to the House, where it was amended and inadvertently -- inadvertently required a mandate for schools to do this, which was not our intention. So, the amendment to Senate Bill 734 corrects that replaces the language that we originally sent to the House, along with a couple of technical corrections. And I want to be clear that this bill is not intended to apply to school districts that participate only in the optional defined contribution plan established by TRS. This provision would only be triggered if the school district offers a 457 plan outside of TRS. And Madam President, because this bill, I think, is a miracle that we got it to this point on the last day here, hopefully the last day, for once and only this one time, I will be happy to answer any questions.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Seeing none. The question is, shall Senate Bill 734 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 55 voting Yea, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Senate Bill 734, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Mr. Secretary, Messages from the House.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

A Message from the House by Mr. Hollman, Clerk. Mr. President, I am directed to inform the Senate the House of Representatives has concurred with the Senate of the passage of a bill of the following titled to wit: Senate Bill 2123, together with the following amendment which is attached in the adoption of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit: House Amendments 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 to Senate Bill 2123. Passed the House, as amended, May 25th, 2023. John W. Hollman, Clerk of the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, please turn your attention to Secretary Desk Resolutions. House Joint Resolution 23, House Joint Resolution 23. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

ACTING SECRETARY SCOTT KAISER:

House Joint Resolution 23, offered by Senator Ventura.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Ventura, on your resolution.

ACTING SECRETARY SCOTT KAISER:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Correction. House Joint Resolution 23, offered by Senator Ventura. Excuse me. Senator Cunningham.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Cunningham, on your resolution.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM:

Thank you, Madam President. A few years ago, IDOT initiated a study into the possibility of adding managed lanes to I-55 between the Dan Ryan Expressway and 355 a stretch otherwise known as the Stevenson Expressway. One of the possible ways in which they can accomplish this is to engage in a public private partnership. But in order to engage in that under the Public Private Partnership for Transportation Act, the General Assembly has to give IDOT authority to pursue the option. This is a resolution. It is not -- it does not authorize final approval of the project. Far from it. There's a lot of other processes that have to take place before that happens. It just authorizes IDOT to seek and analyze proposals for using a P3. Be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. For a discussion, Senator Anderson, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR ANDERSON:

Question of the sponsor, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The sponsor indicates he will yield. Senator Anderson.

SENATOR ANDERSON:

Senator, is it fair to say that when this is under construction that I can't drive 55?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM:

I believe there will still be a lane or two open for you to drive on I-55 if and when this project goes forward.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Anderson.

SENATOR ANDERSON:

That is all. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Seeing no further discussion, Senator Cunningham, to close.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM:

I ask for your Aye votes.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The question is, shall House Joint Resolution 23 pass. As this resolution requires the expenditure of State funds, a roll call vote will be required. Again, the question is, shall House Joint Resolution 23 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 39 voting Yea, 11 voting Nay, 1 voting Present. House Joint Resolution 23, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Belt, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR BELT:

To the bill. I wanted to vote Aye on the resolution but I'm having difficulties.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The record will reflect your intention, Senator. House Joint

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Resolution 12. House Joint Resolution 12. Senator Rezin indicates she'd like to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the lady's resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Joint Resolution 12, offered by Senator Rezin.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Rezin, on your Resolution.

SENATOR REZIN:

I'm sorry, Madam Chair. Madam President, we are calling House Joint Resolution 10 and 11, not number 12.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

We only have 11 and 12 on the Calendar. Would you like to proceed with House Joint Resolution 12?

SENATOR REZIN:

I would like to withdraw House Joint Resolution 12 but would like to speak on House Joint Resolution 11, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

House Joint Resolution 12, out of the record. House Joint Resolution 11. Senator Rezin indicates she wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the lady's resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Joint Resolution 11, offered by Senator Rezin.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Rezin, on your resolution.

SENATOR REZIN:

Thank you, Madam President. House Joint Resolution No. 11 designates a Section of Route 6 in Marseilles as "Specialist (SPC) Norman Treest Memorial Highway". Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Thank you, Senator. As this resolution... Excuse me, as this resolution requires the expenditure of State funds, a roll call vote will be required. The question is, shall House Joint Resolution 11 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 voting Yea, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. House Resolution 11, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, we will go to Supplemental Calendar Number 2, Executive Appointments. To fulfill our responsibilities under Article V, Section 9 of the Constitution, we will now proceed to the Order of Advice and Consent. Senator Murphy. Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY:

Thank you, Madam President. We don't need any heroes, but I do move that the Senate resolve itself into Executive Session for the purpose of acting on the appointments set forth in Appointment Message 244, 245 of the 103rd General Assembly.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Murphy moves that the Senate resolve itself into Executive Session for the purpose of acting on the Appointment Messages just read. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the motion carries. The Senate is resolved into Executive Session. Supplemental Calendar No. 2 has been printed and distributed. Mr. Secretary, please read Appointment Message 103-244 (1030244).

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Madam President, the Committee on Executive Appointments recommends that the Senate do consent to the following salaried

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

appointment: To be a Member of the Illinois State Board of Elections, Jennifer Ballard Croft.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Can't make the same mistake this time. Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY:

Madam President, I move the Senate consent to the nomination.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Seeing none. Pursuant to Section 51A-4 of the Election Code, a 2/3 vote is required for confirmation. The question is, does the Senate Advise and Consent to the Appointment Message just read. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 voting Yea, 0 voting Nay, 0 voting Present. Appointment Message 103-244 (1030244), having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Mr. President {sic} Mr. Secretary, please read Appointment Message 103-245 (1030245).

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Madam President, the Committee on Executive Appointments recommends that the Senate do consent to the following salaried appointment: To be a member of the Illinois State Board of Elections, Jack Vrett.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY:

Madam President, I move the Senate consent to the nomination.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion? Seeing

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

none. Pursuant to Section 51A-4 of the Election Code, a 2/3 vote is required for confirmation. The question is, does the Senate Advise and consent to the Appointment Message just read. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 54 voting Yea, 0 voting Nay, 2 voting Present. A 2/3 vote of the Senators elected concurring by record vote. The Senate does Advise and Consent to the Appointment Message just read. Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY:

Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are rolling, rolling, rolling out of - for the Senate to arise out of Executive Session.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo. Senator Murphy moves that the Senate arise from Executive Session. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the motion carries. The Senate has arisen from Executive Session. What you get is what you see. Senator Bryant, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR BRYANT:

Ma'am, just for a point of personal privilege?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Yes, state your point, Senator.

SENATOR BRYANT:

It's -- it's been a long night, and I was wondering if anyone would be shaking their tail feathers?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Tracy, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR TRACY:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Thank you, Madam President. I just wanted to recognize that we will not be here Memorial Day and we usually are. And we have so many veterans that serve in this Chamber, I want to thank them. And of course, I -- I wanted to take a moment, and I know all join me in the thoughts of the reason we have Memorial Day and those that did give up the ultimate sacrifice, Memorial Day and just wanted to say that because usually we are here, and we get to make mention of that. And so, as we begin to wind down and finish out, I just wanted to say that. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you. I would like for us to reserve a moment of silence for our veterans in celebration of Memorial Day. (Moment of silence observed) Thank you and thank you to all of our veterans. Senator Hunter, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR HUNTER:

Thank you -- thank you, Madam President. You know, we've lost so many young people this year to gang violence and death and -- and I wanted to give my condolences to the families, but I also wanted to recognize the young people who graduated from high school and seven and eighth grade. And, you know, the good kids that are out there doing some good things. You know, there's some good things going on in our community and there are bad things that are going on in our community. But it is so important. We've had young people that graduate from college and bachelor's, master's, associate's, doctorates, and I just think it's important, even folks, medical school and all of the other professional schools. And I just think it's important that we recognize these people who have made great achievements in their lives. So, I'd like to recognize all of those wonderful people.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Congratulations to all of our graduates across the State of Illinois from preschool through higher education. Congratulations. Senator Tracy, for what purpose do you rise? Senator Simmons, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Point of an announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

State your announcement, Senator.

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Thank -- Thank you, Madam President, Members of the Senate. Today is the anniversary of George Floyd's death. We honor his life, as well as every other life lost, every single day, to racial injustice, in this country. It was three days ago, on this date, that we, as a country, witnessed the brutal murder of George Floyd while an officer kneeled on his neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. But that helped ignite a national movement for racial reckoning that has helped usher in long overdue change. I ask my colleagues to hold space today for the unpleasant reality that though black lives still continue to be stolen from us, that black parents still bear the enraging burden of having to talk with their children. That even I, as a black State Senator, can and have been profiled, since taking office, in my own district. Let us never forget George Floyd and every other person's name we have tragically lost. Today we mourn them, we honor them, and we keep fighting in their memory. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Let's have a moment of silence also for the life of George Floyd and all those others impacted. (Moment of

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

silence observed) Thank you. The Senate will stand at ease for a few minutes to allow the Committee on Assignments to meet. The Members of the Committee on Assignments will meet in the Senate's front room immediately. The Senate will stand at ease. Mr. President, in the Chair.

PRESIDENT HARMON:

Mr. Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senator Lightford, Chair of the Committee on Assignments, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Be Approved for Consideration a Motion to Concur with House Amendment 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 to Senate Bill 2123 and House Joint Resolution 10. Signed, Senator Kimberly A. Lightford, Chair.

PRESIDENT HARMON:

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

SENATOR DORIS TURNER:

Thank you, Mr. President. Announcement.

PRESIDENT HARMON:

Please, state your announcement.

SENATOR DORIS TURNER:

We've spent a lot of time in this Chamber today, tonight, talking about education and important -- importance of education. And I truly believe that education is the foundation on which community is built. And I want to highlight two outstanding students in Macon County. Lola Sheer is the first African-American valedictorian at Meridian High School, and she will be attending the University of Illinois in the fall. And Abraham Joel Buckner, who is the first African American valedictorian at Saint Teresa

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

High School in Decatur, and he will be attending Hampton University in the fall.

PRESIDENT HARMON:

Congratulations to our valedictorians. Senator Anderson, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR ANDERSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. A point of an announcement.

PRESIDENT HARMON:

Please, state your announcement.

SENATOR ANDERSON:

I'm going to just take a moment and kind of playing off what Senator Turner just announced kind of a proud dad moment. My son just graduated this last weekend from high school. He graduated summa cum laude with a 4.0. He's never been off the honor roll since kindergarten and super proud of him. And he is going to be attending University of Illinois Springfield this fall. And just want to say congratulations to my wife and I, son Steele. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT HARMON:

Congratulations, Papa. Senator Plummer, for what purpose do you rise?.

SENATOR PLUMMER:

A point of personal privilege, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT HARMON:

Please, state your point.

SENATOR PLUMMER:

I just want to highlight the fact that Senator Anderson's son is very lucky because his wife is a very intelligent, talented lady and that's where all his genes come from.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

PRESIDENT HARMON:

The clarification was not necessary, but we appreciate you making it anyways. Senator Preston, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR PRESTON:

Thank you, Mr. President. Well, I'm going to give my proud dad moment. In a few hours, I'll be heading back to Chicago to celebrate my son and all the children at Chicago Agricultural High School as they graduate. Well, it's not tomorrow. Today. So, thank you.

PRESIDENT HARMON:

Congratulations, Senator. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I do appreciate the announcements and the points of personal privilege as we await final action in the House. We will -- waiting for just a little bit of paperwork, but please do not leave. Senator Rose, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR ROSE:

All right. Point of graduations. Annie Rose graduated last weekend, Mahomet-Seymour High School. We're very excited. Camille and I couldn't be prouder of our daughter, Annie. She's going to go to ISU to become a teacher. Supposed to be nursing, we spent 18 months looking at every nursing school in the entire Midwest. And then the week before she decides, she decides she's going to be a teacher. But we're very excited to see her at ISU.

PRESIDENT HARMON:

Congratulations, Senator. Senator Villanueva, for what purpose do you rise?.

SENATOR VILLANUEVA:

For a point of personal privilege slash announcement.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

PRESIDENT HARMON:

Please, state your point.

SENATOR VILLANUEVA:

So, Mr. President, one of our own is going to be leaving us soon. In her short time here in this Chamber, as a Member of the Latino Caucus and the Progressive Caucus, we're extremely proud of the work that she's been able to accomplish around a lot of different issues, her fierce advocacy for her community, her love and advocacy for children in the State of Illinois, especially from 0 to 5. She taught me about how to find the baby when I participated in the Erickson Fellowship this past year. I'm very proud to call her my friend and my sister. And while she might be leaving us, which I'm a little bit mad at her for, I'm very proud that she's going to go on to represent -- represent all of us here in the Chamber and in Springfield, as Deputy Chief of Staff to our newly sworn in Mayor in the City of Chicago, Brandon Johnson, to continue to do the incredible work that I know that she learned how to do here, back in Chicago. But we're going to miss her a lot. We're going to miss Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas a lot when she moves on. But I just wanted to take a moment to say how proud we are of her, how much we love her, and how much we're going to miss her.

PRESIDENT HARMON:

Senator Cunningham, in the Chair.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Aquino, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR AQUINO:

Point of an announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

State your announcement.

SENATOR AQUINO:

So, I too want to join in on wishing our -- our good friend well wishes in her new endeavor. It's a -- it's -- it's really exciting as -- as being a resident of Chicago and lifelong - a Chicago kid to have a fellow Chicago kid going to work on the fifth floor to -- to -- to work on issues for community, for our families. I got to get to know la doctora, Dr. Cristina Pacione-Zayas when she got me to be a fellow in that same program in the inaugural class, I might add, to find the baby. Yes, I found two. A few years later, I became a father of twins and I found two. And so, that - that education on early childhood education was -- is certainly -- is -- is helping me now, you know, we share a border. We share a culture. A community. I -- we also got to go to Puerto Rico, our island, a few months -- six months after Hurricane Maria passed through that island and left it in devastation, really. We got to go together and on a trip to -- to -- to go assist and also to see how Chicago and the State of Illinois can -- can -- can better help our island. I -- I feel like we are not only losing such a great advocate for children and families and early childhood education and all education throughout, but I'm going to be losing a friend, a housemate, a -- a sister and a fellow Puerto Rican, boricua wapa. We are both very, very proud of where we come from, our families. I know that she is rooted from her community. She is a product that everyone that -- that pours in to her and has poured into her. And so, this is not goodbye by any sense of, you know... But you were here for a very short period but left an immeasurable mark on this institution and in a very short time learned how to be extremely effective here. And it was not for selfish reasons of

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

liking to see your name on a board or to pass something or be at a press conference because the Governor was signed, a bill of yours, but it was because you knew of the work that's needed, because of the people that gave you the responsibility to come and speak for them, to come and work for them, to dedicate your time, leave your family, and pour into this work. So, I just want to thank you for doing that. I'm going to miss you Amada. Good luck.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Hunter, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR HUNTER:

Point -- point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

State your point.

SENATOR HUNTER:

Well, I too, would like to recognize Senator Dr. Cristina Pacione-Zayas. I didn't expect for you to leave so soon. You just got here the other day; you know? But, you know, when opportunity knocks, you know, I've always been told you have to be ready and that you are. We look forward to all the great things and all the great contributions you'll make while you are serving as Deputy Chief of Staff for the Mayor of the City of Chicago, which is a great honor and we're very proud of you. And I'm going to miss you. I'm going to miss the conversations that we've had, the -- the -- the -- projects that we've been working on in the community together, as well as here in the Senate. And I know you're going to do great things over there at the City. So, safe travels my sister. Really proud of you. Take care.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Castro, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

SENATOR CASTRO:

Point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Please, state your point.

SENATOR CASTRO:

So, we some of us were talking in caucus and we were going to miss some of her famous acronyms, fire. Her amazing facial expressions. But Mateja, who actually spells her name the same way, who also has it misspelled the same way, as well as, we've always known. We will miss you. You had us better prepared. You educated us. For those of you who had a bill in the Education committees, any of them, she always came prepared, but she always learned something from her. Her passion is very obvious in -- in what she believes in and making sure all our students have the best education no matter where they're from. Tiny but mighty. And will continue to be tiny but mighty. I wish you all the best. Don't be a stranger. I'm sure you'll be knocking a lot of our doors, but I'm very proud of you. And we will miss you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Villivalam, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

Thank you, Mr. President. For purposes of an announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

State your announcement, please.

SENATOR VILLIVALAM:

Well, given all the discussion, I've asked the Sergeant at Arms to not let Senator Pacione-Zayas leave. I -- I rise in the same vein as -- as the previous speakers, here today, to say that

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

it's been an incredible honor to have worked with you. I will miss you for so many different reasons. You are one of the most authentic, genuine people that I've ever come across. You are unapologetic in your advocacy for the people that you represent and the people that have sent you here. And you're just real. And we will miss the isms. I -- I will not think of receipts in the same way as I did before, like grocery receipts. I will now have to think about it as my -- my what I've accomplished or my -- my resume. You've changed that for me. The way you use facts and what that means is something that I'll be thinking about. I'll also miss riding in the back seat of your van -- your car because I'll miss all the legroom that will be there because you have to adjust your seat. And you know, I'm not used to that kind of legroom. But in all seriousness, you know, we -- when we're here, it's -- it's hard to appreciate, quite frankly, everyone here because we're going 100 miles an hour. And the best thing that I think happened was not only you being here, but us being able to work together on so many different issues relating to education and child care assistance, so much more. But and we're I'm sharing this publicly, but being your roommate, I got to know you so much better. And for -- for that and so much more, I'll be able to cherish those memories and just want to say thank you for -- for being a part of this experience for me. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Simmons, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Point of announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Please, state your announcement.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. I've been dreading this moment. I knew -- I knew the day would come where we would get off and we would give tributes to our beloved colleagues Senator, doctor, friend, mother, community member Cristina Pacione-Zayas. And I just want to say thank you for being here, for serving. Even though the time was brief, I felt like my colleague Senator Pacione-Zayas has been a gift to this institution. You know, in so many ways, I mean, just from the very beginning, remember, we connected maybe days after I was sworn in and had like an hour-long conversation about policy and the neighborhoods where we grew up as -- as fellow Chicago kids, and -- and just were so excited about the things that we would be able to work on down here together. And then, you know, she was so gracious to offer to drive me back and forth to Springfield. And in those drives we really got to know each other. And you know, they -- they say in politics that it's -- it's really hard to find a friend if you want to. I think there's an old adage if you want a friend in politics to get a dog. And honestly, I got to say that -- that Senator Pacione-Zayas is a dear friend in the most authentic way that I could articulate it. Because she, in the time that we've gotten to know each other, there have been times she said something to me where I'm just like, wow, she really sees me, right? She really sees what I'm trying to do. She really sees where I come from. She really sees what I'm trying to do, even when I don't quite even see what I'm trying to do and that -- that -- that wisdom is going to be deeply missed. You know, her integrity that she brings to this work and the way that she fights for justice and the way that she lifts up the struggles of the people that are back in our

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

communities is -- is such an example to me. And I think that that's a legacy that we can -- we can hold on to and build on and build upon in the, in the State Senate even when she goes back up north to Chicago. And the other thing that -- that I just wanted to -- to talk about is it also has just been really inspiring watching how she interacts with her family in this role. The most stressful part of public office for me has been the strain that it puts on your personal life. And you are such a great mother to your two children. She loves her kids. I see how she pulls them up on the video and talks to them when she's down here. And it's so obvious that you -- you love your kids, and you give them so much time and so much attention and that -- that's inspiring. That's beautiful to watch. The -- the way that you spend time even with your husband and -- and everybody back home. Your mom is -- is so beautiful. And so, I'm going to miss you deeply, dearly. But I know -- I know that you are going to do great things for Chicago kids. Kids like us, that next generation that -- that, you know, are going to have a better future because of what you're going to be able to do at City Hall. So, as your colleague in a moment, thank you. As a future constituent of the Mayor of Chicago, thank you for what you will do. And we will always be friends and siblings and so, I'm looking forward to the next chapter. Thank you so much.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Rezin, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR REZIN:

Thank you, Mr. President. For point of personal.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Please, state your point.

SENATOR REZIN:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Thank you. Senator Pacione-Zayas, I know when you first came, we sat on Education together and before I knew you, I wondered who this person was that was just such an expert in the area. We soon served on the same working group for early childhood. Again, not an area that I knew much about, but was glad to Chair. Help Chair the Committee with you. I do recall when we first got our committee assignments, you had sent me a very nice email with homework for the committee and a lot of links and an awful lot of reading regarding early childhood. But I appreciate that. I appreciate that the passion that you have for what you believe in. Now, we may not always agree on every topic or how to get there, but usually we agree on the end result. And in Springfield, we oftentimes have, and we've seen tonight, you know, rhetoric on both sides, very polarizing, dividing, that's just the end of Session. However, serving with you on these committees, you are a -- you have policy chops, and you like to govern. And I like that we -- we need to figure out how in some capacity we can work together for the betterment of the children of this State. So, I know that you're going on to bigger and better things. I get the Chicago News, so I'm sure I'll be seeing you often on TV. I wish the best for you in your new job, and I know it will be exciting to watch you. Thank you very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Villa, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR VILLA:

Thank you, Mr. President. A point of announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

State your announcement, please.

SENATOR VILLA:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Thank you. CPZ, you're my Amado -- I don't -- I don't want to turn around and look at you because I've been sitting here just crying, just thinking about coming in together with you as a freshman during such a pivotal time in our history in the midst of a global pandemic. And you just came in unapologetically strong, walking into spaces and knowing what your mission was. And whenever I walked into a room with you, CPZ, it felt like I was walking into a room with a giant. Because when you walk into a room, you command attention, and we all pay attention, and you have this beautiful way of bringing stories to the table with your elegant words and in a way that is just undeniable that you've got the facts. I'm going to miss you greatly but know that you have an Hermana over in DuPage County that you can count on, and we'll continue those dinner traditions with Simmons and love you so much. Good luck in your future endeavors.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Belt, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR BELT:

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President. Point of announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

State your announcement, please.

SENATOR BELT:

Mr. President, I too rise, to give the flowers to CPZ. I've said it to her, in private, all this week, I think. We -- we took a picture together, which is an annual thing for us. We took the picture. But -- but you're -- you're lucky in your life if you're -- if you're able to in -- in different fields of your life, come across a unicorn and -- and she's one. She was never meant to be here long. She has bigger and better things to do. I -- I -- I

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

I'll miss our -- our conversations. We -- we got into one earlier today. We -- we talk about the pedagogy, and we talk about the who's the best singer between Aretha Franklin, Gladys Knight, and Lauryn Hill. I mean, you never know where we may go, right? But -- but when I was the Chair of Education, I don't know if you remember this, I reached out to you and I said, "hey, I need you to ride shotgun with me." And she -- she's ridden shotgun with me beyond Chair of Education. Her word is her word. I think Omar or Rahm said it, she's authentic, she -- she is who she purports to be, and -- and -- and even though she's -- she's tiny as -- as Cristina stated, her -- her shadow cast a seven-foot one shadow. Her heart is big. She knows what she knows. She knows who she is. And it's never -- it's never, you know, we'll -- we'll continue to see each other. We'll continue to be friends and -- and I wish you the best.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Majority Leader Lightford, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

A point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Please, state your point.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

It is my privilege to speak to Senator Pacione-Zayas. I've got to tell you guys, we met about 8 or 9 years ago, it was about 2015 or so. I was invited to be a member of the Erikson Institute's I think it was the first group of fellows. And when I arrived it was this little bossy chick bossing everybody around. And all I could think about is, what did I just get myself into. She's like,

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

have a seat. Hurry your homework assignments. And I'm like, Homework. Who is this little dynamo? And I think we instantly connected on the real, the real in the both of us. And I shared with her instantly that I've got to Puerto Rican nieces. And I just hope that they grow up to be just like you Senator Pacione-Zayas, a fireball. You demand the space as Senator Villa just spoke. You're so freaking intelligent. You're super smart. And in that short period of time at the Erikson Institute, I felt like I left there knowing even more about early childhood education that I had learned in the legislature for 15 years at that point. Your wisdom of the subject is beyond incredible. When we talked about you coming to the Senate, I was super, super excited. Now I'm super, super sad that you're leaving so soon. I felt like the COVID just took that time away from us where we really didn't have the presence. But your homework assignments constantly showed up in my emails. If it were not you bossing me around at the Erikson Institute, you came to the legislature and bossed me around. So, thank you for helping me be better, helping me to seek more in that early childhood education space. I thought I had done some things until I met you. So, I want you to know that Mayor Johnson has done a wonderful job recruiting you. I think of all the things that he's done; I think he knew that he needed you. And the way you deliver the message is always -- it's not just factual, but it's with a smile. But it's sincere, but it's still badass. It's to the bottom line. And I tell you all the time, you are just such a fireball, and I will miss you tremendously. But I'm not shame about calling you up. I will remain in touch. I want to feed off your knowledge. I want to know more. And I hope that our paths cross in a professional way, once again, so that I can be a better

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

legislator, a better woman, and a better mother to my child as you are to yours. We've been on the phone and your boys are all around and you just go with it. You go with it, you let them be. And I think that you're just raising some powerful young men. So, I wish you nothing but the best in your new role. But know that I'm not going anywhere because I'll still be here. And one last thing I thought, how lucky could the legislature be to attain this woman who knows so much about early childhood education? So, I was so excited for you to serve on the Education Committee and then creating the Early Childhood Committee. It was perfect. You were primed to be the Chairman of that Committee, so we will miss you. I don't know that I'll miss all of your homework assignments. I know, I -- I -- Mr. President, I was just doing a search. I told her this yesterday. I was just doing a search on my computer. Not for her, for someone else. And all these homework assignments she gave me in 2015 and 2016 showed up, and it just made me feel good. It made me feel good about the relationship that we developed. I do see you as my sister, and I do again hope that my nieces grow up to be just as bad ass as you are. Good luck.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Martwick, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR MARTWICK:

Thank you, Mr. President. I also rise on a point of personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Please, state your point.

SENATOR MARTWICK:

So, Tina, as I've been sitting here and listening it's, you know, I've really -- I've really enjoyed all these speeches because

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

so many people have done such a great job of encapsulating who you are and what you're about and what you've been able to accomplish. And -- and it was -- it was very affirming because that's who you are and how I know you to be. And so, I'm not going to be labor that, rather what I want to do is I want to -- I want to tell you about -- about how I feel. I always find that the greatest sacrifice for me is when you put everything into this life, you don't have enough time. For anything. You don't have enough time for your family. You don't have enough time for your friends. And so, I spend a lot of time thinking regretfully about people that I wish I had more time to spend with. One of those people and this probably bring a little tear to my eye is a guy we celebrated recently, Ivan Gonzalez. I just loved that guy, as so many people did. And he was one of those guys. I thought, you know, when I don't -- when I have more time, I'm going to spend more time with that guy. And -- and when -- it makes you think about how precious that time is and I -- when I was listening to everyone talk about you and the feelings they have for you, I assure you that over the time that we spent together again, not to belabor those, but you've been one of those people that I think to myself, I've enjoyed so much of the time that we spent that I want to spend more of that with you. And I'm sad to see you leave here because I know that that's less of an opportunity. However, there is good news because I think most people will find it surprising that for the first time in 11 years, I might actually be welcome on the fifth floor of City Hall. There might be a Mayor who actually isn't -- want to throw me out. And so, with my downtown office being a block away, I look forward to you in that new role. We have so much work to do together to save our City and put it on a good path and make it

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

grow and thrive for everybody in the City of Chicago. And I -- I just know that the good work that you've done here, you're going to do so much good work. And, well, I won't see you as much down here. I'm looking forward to seeing you back in Chicago. And I'm going to come visit you for coffee on the fifth floor and not have to worry about it. So, I'm so proud of you and I've so enjoyed our time together and can't wait to see more of you and congratulations and best of luck.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Cervantes, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR CERVANTES:

Thank you, Mr. President, for a point of personal -- personal.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

State your point.

SENATOR CERVANTES:

So, just wanted to thank Senator Pacione-Zayas for welcoming me with a very warm welcome when I got to the Senate. I remember a conversation I had with her when I first started. I -- I wasn't sure how much of myself I could be because of my background. And -- and she just made me feel very comfortable, like being to be myself. She said, you know what? Just be yourself. And -- and you're going to see that the way that you do things is going to just roll well. And so, she gave me the -- the courage and to be able to be myself, to be able to fight for what I want - what I believe in. And just wanted to thank you, Senator Pacione-Zayas and the passion you have for early childhood that I know that we share and look forward to working for you -- with you in the future, in your new role. So, thank you.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Ventura, for what reason do you seek recognition?

SENATOR VENTURA:

Personal privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

State your point.

SENATOR VENTURA:

I want to say that, Senator, you were one of the first people who welcomed me before I was here officially. And I will never forget the time we sat in Chicago and got to know each other. And I was like, what do you want me to say? And you're like, just tell me your story. And that was so welcoming and helpful, and it's been a pleasure serving with you on the early childhood education and bringing the baby in the room. And even though we couldn't blow the bubbles, we were able to gift those to some of the children who came and spoke and gave testimonies. So, -- so, I just want to say thank you. And I do look forward to continue working with you in your role in Chicago. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Our final speaker on this topic is President Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to join this parade of speakers to a retirement resolution not yet written. Rarely has a Member arrived in the Senate so able and so determined to change the world. Armed with facts and a laser like intentionality. And rarely has any one of us made such an impact in so short a period of time. I know what a difficult decision it was for you to make this change, to leave this glamorous life of being in the Senate Chamber at 12:15 in the morning. But very few people could walk

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

away from a job like this because of the prospect of doing more good in another setting. And that, too, is a testament to who you are and to your commitment to the things that really matter to you that live in your heart. We will miss you here, but your retirement resolution is far from written. I'm excited to read this next chapter at the City of Chicago, but I know that there are many chapters to follow after that. Once a Senator, always a Senator, I hope you come back to visit. If you come back as a Senator someday in the future, that would be a wonderful blessing for us all too. But I am so proud to be your friend and to watch you take on this next challenge. You will make us all proud. Go get 'em.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate for a final time, Senator Pacione-Zayas.

SENATOR PACIONE-ZAYAS:

You know, I have to do the mic. Thank you, Mr. President. I just really am touched and honored and humbled by the experience. You know, the words, of course, are the cherry on top. But when I look around this room, the education that I have received in this space, you all have given such accolades to what I brought. But what I'm taking with me is so much. And, you know, there were times where I didn't know why I was here. I didn't -- I accepted when you know, my predecessor said, please, will you do this? And she chased me a few times before I said, "Okay, I'll consider it." And I came and there were some peaks and there were some valleys and y'all witnessed everything in between. And this year, with the introduction of the Early Childhood Smart Start initiative, I said, oh, this is why I'm here. This is precisely why I'm here. But even with that and when I was presented with this opportunity and it

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

was very true, as Senate President said, it was such a difficult decision because to serve with each and every individual and the lived experience that they bring and the expertise and the dedication and the willingness to sacrifice so much to give to our State so that everyone can live up to their greatest potential. That is such an honor. And so, when I made the decision, I realized you all prepared me for it. If I didn't have this experience, I wouldn't have felt as confident going into that role. And I know I'm going to experience some peaks and some valleys. But what I know is that I've got Members of this Body who are going to continue to pour into me so I can pay it forward and pour into our City so that we can make Chicago the great space that it is that produced all of these Chicago kids that are serving here today. And to be able to continue to produce so many more Chicago kids so that our State can be great and thrive from -- I didn't -- it's not lost on me my first bill that I passed was the State designated cultural districts that my brother Senator Aquino started to incubate before I came. And what it's going to do for the communities that we come from to drive economic development with culture and arts so that our communities can be stabilized so that the people that build them can stay there. To the last bill I just passed about healing centered engagement and ensuring that our State has policy practice, definitions, and language to do that. I think those are great bookends. And being in a Body that allows you to do that work, to take these ideologies and these values and make them concrete so that we can actually live a better life. That is such a gift. And I can't thank you all enough for honoring me in this moment. But seeing me here in the Senate, because sometimes it can feel lonely, like it's not made for you. It's not meant for you to

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

be here. But it has each and every conversation that we've had, meals that we've shared in moments of joy and accomplishment and also sorrow -- sorrow or what I call Springfield heartbreak. Because that is a real feeling. That's like that first love heartbreak. It -- it really is just a highlight of my human experience. So, thank you so much for welcoming me, pouring into me. And I will be back.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Villanueva, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR VILLANUEVA:

The purpose of another announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Please, state your announcement.

SENATOR VILLANUEVA:

Thank you, Mr. President. We're not anything without our staff here in Springfield. And I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge my communications guru, who has been leading the charge for me both on my social media and also helping to draft my website entries, talking points, a lot of different things. Brittany Burton has been with me this past year, and in that past year we have laughed, we have cried, we have raged together about a lot of different things. But again, without her, I wouldn't be able to do the work that I do, along with the rest of our staff who provide us so much support in -- in everything that we do. She is leaving us after the conclusion of her contract this year -- this Session moving on to very sunnier pastures in California. And while we wish her the very best. I wanted to just take a moment and thank her for her service to us and the other legislators that she served

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

during her time here and also wish her the best on her future endeavors.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Thank you and best wishes, Brittany. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, we're going to go to Supplemental Calendar No. 3 under Secretary's Desk Concurrences, Senator Morrison brings Senate Bill 2123. Mr. Secretary, please read the bill -- the motion.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendments 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 to Senate Bill 2123. Signed by, Senator Morrison.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Morrison.

SENATOR MORRISON:

Thank you, Mr. President. I do move that the Senate concur, and I'd like to mention some of the high points of the amendments that we are adding. This is the Election Omnibus Bill. First, it moves the date by which the General Assembly must draw the Chicago Elected Representatives School Board Map from July 1st, 2023, to April 1st, 2024. It creates the Security of Remote Vote by Mail Task Force, which will be a 15-member Task Force, and study the feasibility of implementing a remote vote by mail system that would allow an election authority to both transmit a vote by mail ballot electronically to a voter and allow the voter to mark verify and return that ballot to the election authority electronically. It will create the Ranked -- excuse me, Ranked-Choice and Voting Systems Task Force. It will allow an individual who is 16 years of age or older to preregister to vote with the registration held in abeyance until the individual reaches 18 years of age. It will

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

require, if within 10 days leading up to any election, an election authority changes a polling place, an election authority to will -- will send a notice by electronic mail or phone call to the township committeeperson, ward committeeperson, or precinct committeepersons as applicable - as soon as the location of the polling place is changed. And Vote Centers, it will extend the sunset for Vote Centers by six years and require curbside voting at voting centers. We'll also require counties with 500,000 or more residents to have at least 2 voter centers. And lastly, this legislation will create November 5th, 2024, as a State holiday, which will be (2024) General Election Day, and will allow us the ability by amending both the Election and School Code to use our public schools for polling places. We had good discussion in Committee, but I'm happy to answer questions or clarify if there are any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

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

SENATOR S. TURNER:

Question to the sponsor, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Sponsor indicates she will yield. Senator Turner.

SENATOR S. TURNER:

I'm sorry, Senator Morrison. I know we're tired, but I have a couple of questions. So, this is the fifth amendment and the second election amendment to this bill, is that correct?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Morrison.

SENATOR MORRISON:

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

I -- I - I believe this is the fifth amendment, but I don't understand the rest of your question Senator, I'm sorry.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Turner.

SENATOR S. TURNER:

I'm starting to not know what my question is either. But my question is about the second election amendment. So, my question has to do with the task force for -- the task force on the -- the voter with print disability. So, you had Senate Bill 282. What's the difference between the task force and what your 282 was?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Morrison.

SENATOR MORRISON:

Thank you for the question. 282 would have been the completion of the -- the voting by mail electronically for a person with a print disability. In other words, they would have had the ability to both accept the electronic ballot on an assistive device and also return it. We are not at that point with this, this is setting up a task force that specifically will look at the security issues, some that were expressed to me. And I'm hoping that we will be able to resolve that, so that in the future, we'll be able to offer both a transmission of the ballot to the voter and then receipt back to the election authority.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Turner.

SENATOR S. TURNER:

And so, just to clarify, Senator Morrison. So, this task force is just limited to the purview of those with print disability. That's why we're -- this task force is being created.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Is that correct?

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Morrison.

SENATOR MORRISON:

So, Senator, the other example would be -- we are looking at the security of remote voting. And one of the things we would also like to be able to do once the security protocol has been established, is to offer this to our military families and service people who are located out of the country.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Turner.

SENATOR S. TURNER:

Thank you, Senator Morrison. To the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

To the bill.

SENATOR S. TURNER:

We already have that capability for remote, it comes back in an electronic form but then the ballot itself is produced and it's run through the machine. But just one thing I want our Members to know is that this task force is the study of the feasibility of implementing a remote vote by mail system, and that's something I think we should be concerned with. I appreciate the Senator and the work she's done on it, but I'd urge us to vote No. So, thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Seeing no further discussion, Senator Morrison, to close.

SENATOR MORRISON:

This legislation has some advancements and voting is one of the most critical parts of our democracy and our government. By

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

allowing more people to vote independently and privately, such as this work on the task force, I believe will produce. I think we are serving our State in a -- in a very good way. I would ask for an Aye vote and appreciate your questions this evening.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

The question is, shall the Senate concur to House Amendments 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 to Senate Bill 2123. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 36 Senators voting Yes, 18 voting No, 0 voting Present. Having received the required constitutional majority, the Senate does concur in House Amendments 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 to Senate Bill 2123, and the bill is declared passed. President Harmon, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Mr. President. To filibuster.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Go ahead with your filibuster.

SENATOR HARMON:

We've reached that point in the evening, we are still waiting for action from the House. I do just want to share, yesterday we passed perhaps the most significant piece of legislation of the year in passing Italian American Heritage Month. Upon my return to the Capitol, feeling very proud of myself, striding in, I came, I saw, I conquered. I was greeted by Representative Bob Rita and Anthony DeLuca, who presented me with a official Bob Rita extra virgin olive oil bottle with Anthony DeLuca's name written in under Bob's on the label. So, if anybody wants to taste this before I do, I'd be happy to let you have a taste. But again, just wanted

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

to thank Representative Rita and DeLuca for their thoughtfulness in bringing over the olive oil.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, we're going to go back to Supplemental Calendar No. 3. The Secretary's Desk on the Order of Concurrences or I'm sorry, Secretary's Desk in the Order of Resolutions. Senator Rezin brings House Joint Resolution 10. She indicates she wishes to proceed. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

House Joint Resolution 10, offered by Senator Rezin.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Senator Rezin, on your resolution.

SENATOR REZIN:

Thank you, Mr. President. House Joint Resolution No. 10 designates a Section of Route 6 in Marseilles the "Sergeant Michael J. Vangelisti Memorial Highway". Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, as this resolution requires the expenditure of State funds, a roll call will be required. The question is, shall House Joint Resolution 10 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 53 Senators voting Yes, 0 voting No, and 0 voting Present. House Joint Resolution 10, having received the constitutionally required majority, is declared passed. We will now proceed to the Order of Consent Calendar Congratulatory Resolutions. Mr. Secretary, have there been any objections filed to any resolution on the Consent

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Calendar?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No objections filed, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the resolutions on the Consent Calendar be adopted. All those in favor say, Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, the motion carries and the resolutions are adopted. We will now proceed to the Order of Celebration of Life Resolutions Consent Calendar. With leave of the Body, all those resolutions read in today will be added to the Consent Calendar. Mr. Secretary, have there been any objections filed to any resolution on the Consent Calendar?

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

No objections filed, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the resolutions on the Consent Calendar be adopted. All those in favor say, Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, the motion carries and the resolutions are adopted. Senator Edly-Allen, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR EDLY-ALLEN:

Thank you, Mr. President. For an announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Please state your announcement, Senator.

SENATOR EDLY-ALLEN:

Mr. President, I left a good job in the city, working for the man every night and day. And I never lost a minute of sleep and I was wearing about the way that things might have been -- big wheel keep on turning, proud Mary keep on burning. Rollin, rollin,

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

rollin on the river. Rest in peace, Tina Turner.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR CUNNINGHAM)

Pretty good singing, the dancing needs a little work. Although, Leader Lightford is now nailing the dancing routine. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, it is our understanding that the Medicaid bill we've been waiting for the House to take action on has passed. We expect it to be transmitted here momentarily so we can take it up and conclude our business for the spring. Please stand by. Senator Lightford, in the Chair.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Ladies and Gentlemen, of the Senate. A point of an announcement, please. We are waiting for paperwork to arrive from the House. Please remain on the Senate Floor for further Floor action. We are just in a holding pattern, waiting for paperwork. If you are not on the Senate Floor, please come to the Senate Floor for further Floor action. If you are not on the Senate Floor, please come to the Floor. Thank you. The Senate will come to order. Mr. Secretary, Messages from the House.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Messages from the House by Mr. Hollman, Clerk. Mr. President, I am directed to inform the Senate the House of Representatives has concurred with the Senate in the passage of a bill of the following title, to wit: Senate Bill 1298, together with the following amendments which are attached to the adoption of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit: House Amendment 2 and 3 to Senate Bill 1298. Passed the House, as amended, May 26th, 2023. John W. Hollman, Clerk of the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The Senate will stand at ease for a few minutes to allow the

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Committee on Assignments to meet. The Members on the Committee of Assignments will meet in the Senate's front room immediately. The Senate will stand at ease. (at ease)

PRESIDENT HARMON:

Mr. Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senator Lightford, Chair of the Committee on Assignments, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Be Approved for Consideration - Motion to Concur with House Amendments 2 and 3 to Senate Bill 1298. Signed, Senator Kimberly A. Lightford, Chair.

PRESIDENT HARMON:

Senator Lightford, back in the Chair.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, please turn your attention to Supplemental Calendar No. 4. It has been distributed to each Member, should be printed out on your desk. We are going to Senate Bill 1298. Senator Gillespie. Mr. Secretary, please read the motion.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

I move to concur with the House the adoption of their Amendments 2 and 3 to Senate Bill 1298. Signed by Senator Gillespie.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Gillespie.

SENATOR GILLESPIE:

Thank you. I move to concur with the House Amendments to Senate Bill 1298.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

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

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Thank you. To the concurrence.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the concurrence, Senator. To the motion. To the motion.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

To the motion. I rise in support of this measure, even though clearly it creates some concerns for us on this aisle. But overall, it does address some of the needs that were here. It may be an inconvenient truth, but clearly one of the biggest groups that are going to be hurt by this budget and by this measure are the hospitals. They've never received an increase for decades. And under this legislation, they're going to get a 5 percent increase this year and then a 10 percent the following year. But that increase, which translates to around \$500 million, isn't even enough to cover the cost that the hospitals are going to be bearing for covering undocumented citizens throughout Illinois. That's not counting all the increased costs that the hospitals have incurred with labor costs, malpractice costs, equipment costs. Clearly, the result of this and the passage of the budget is going to lead to hospital closures, it's going to lead to delays in emergency rooms, it's going to lead to delays in seeing specialists. So, clearly concerned that this measure has shortchanged, especially downstate hospitals. It is true that there are a handful of Chicago hospitals that are huge winners on this. But for suburban and downstate hospitals, this is going to certainly be a problem and disappointed that the amount that they're getting is so small compared to what their needs are. But having said that, the measures that are in

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

this -- this bill, while small, will help these providers, our long-term care providers, our slits, our ambulances, and we'll give the hospitals a little bit of relief, even though it doesn't fix their problems. So, I rise and urge support for this legislation. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Villanueva, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR VILLANUEVA:

To the bill, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR VILLANUEVA:

There's been a couple of things that have been weighing on my heart for quite a while as we've been debating and going through the budget and obviously this Medicaid omnibus that we've been waiting for -- for a while. I wanted to say a couple of things to my neighbors across the aisle who insinuated making decisions between the developmentally disabled and undocumented communities in this State. Senate Bill 1600, which was my bill, which was the bill that was actually asking for \$4 for DSP wages. We respected you when you were talking and you're going to respect us when we talk.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

There we go. Please continue, Senator.

SENATOR VILLANUEVA:

It's important this bill because that's my bill that was pushing for the wages that you were trying to compare and say, well, you know what? We don't get more wages if we give undocumented people Medicaid access. But here's the thing. You

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

really got to question yourself if you're trying to basically pit vulnerable populations against vulnerable populations. And while I'm glad to hear that there's going to be people from across the aisle that are going to be voting on this bill because it's a good bill that Senator Gillespie has worked very hard for. Let's be very, very clear for those individuals that are trying to say that somehow undocumented communities, taxpayers, taxpayers, because they pay taxes regardless of whether they have a Social Security number or not, they pay taxes, somehow deserve anything less. Because guess what? I was also pushing to make sure that \$4 happened for our DSP folks who are doing the good work. You know why? Because it's a bill that I've introduced several times. So, for anybody that's attempting to try to say that undocumented community somehow deserves something less because they don't pay taxes, because they don't deserve it, guess what they do. You see a lot of things on the news that aren't correct. The \$1.1 billion was an estimation that was not real money. So, don't try to pin my communities and say, well, you represent different communities because guess what? There are immigrants throughout the entire State. And I want to share something because I think this is really imperative. One of the big issues over the course of this conversation for the past couple of months has been, well, why do they cost so much money? Because the number and the rate of cancer amongst this population is higher because this is the first time that they've ever had access to health care. And I'm going to break it down to you like this. My mother, who died of cancer two and a half years ago, while she was going through her treatments and unfortunately had a difficult situation with one of the hospitals that was treating her. I was a newly minted State Representative.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

Had just literally a month before, been appointed to my position, and my mother was diagnosed and within a couple of months had a huge surgery to try to cut out the tumor that invaded her body. My older brother and I had to take over and be advocates for her and my mother being fully bilingual, being a former undocumented person that was now a naturalized citizen after a very long time, needed her children even though she was an English speaker to advocate for her. And I remember having this conversation with my mother because my mother said, "Mija, I have you. But what about everyone else, here, who doesn't speak the language or doesn't have the status that we have to be able to handle things". That doesn't have the health insurance that we have to be able to cover the cost of this. Don't use my communities as political scapegoats and whatever games you're trying to play as a political ploy. And that is for anybody that is continuing to try to insinuate that undocumented people deserve any less. They pay taxes and they stay. They contribute to our economy; they contribute to our State. And every single time that you say something, I will be there to challenge you, to challenge anyone. And I'm not alone. This is a good bill. And anybody that wants to continue to talk about and say that somehow anybody is getting anything less because undocumented people are getting something is someone that needs to look deep down in themselves and really question why they feel that way. I urge a Yes vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Further discussion, Leader Curran, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR CURRAN:

To the bill, Madam President.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

To the bill, Senator.

SENATOR CURRAN:

I am going to ask the Members of my side of the aisle to please set aside the debate and still support this bill and vote Yes. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Senator. Senator Gillespie, to close.

SENATOR GILLESPIE:

Thank you. There's been a lot of negative comments throughout the evening tonight about how we're not doing enough or we're not priorities are not in the right place. But this bill provides sorely needed increases across the board for hospitals, for substance abuse disorder, for dementia, for FQHCs, for medically fragile, technologically dependent children, for home workers in our community care program, for the frontline nursing home workers, for occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech therapists, community based mental health services, medically complex, developmentally disabled and adult day services. This bill provides sorely needed resources for those frontline workers that care for our most vulnerable people, and I hope we can all find it in our hearts to vote Yes.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

The question is, shall the Senate concur House Amendment No. 2 and 3 to Senate Bill 1298. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 44 voting Yea, 0 voting Nay, 2 voting Present. Senate Bill 1298, having received the required

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

constitutional majority, the Senate does concur in House Amendments No. 2 and 3 to Senate Bill 1298, and the bill is declared passed. Leader Curran, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR CURRAN:

Madam President, I may be wrong, but I think we're getting towards the end of our business. Thank you, Gio. Madam President, Mr. President, I -- I rise, one, to thank President Harmon for his collaboration and work this entire Session. Members on the other side of the aisle for your robust debate. A lot of good collaborative work, especially in committees, and engagement with our side of the aisle, and I want to thank you sincerely for that. I thank your staffs, the staff in your side who is always kind, willing to help pitch in, and do a fabulous job running the committees and running the Chamber. So, thank you. Most -- well, and I would also like to thank, as a rookie first time Leader, feeling my way through this process, I want to thank first and foremost the Members of my side of the aisle that have placed faith and trust in me. I am -- continue to be humbled by your support and your hard work. Thank you. Most importantly, to our staff, and the hours very late and I hope those not here can -- can hear me. Your work, again, in really a job I'm learning as I go, I cannot thank you enough. It has been phenomenal beyond my wildest expectations, keeping me moving along on point, catching me when I'm off course. Little polite but meaningful nudges in the right direction and just always being there as a resource. I cannot thank you enough. This has been an unbelievable pleasure and honor to lead you and more importantly, get to work with you throughout this legislative year. So, with that, Madam President, I just I appreciate the time and the opportunity and -- and most

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

importantly, to my staff, thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Absolutely Leader Curran. President Harmon, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Madam President. The hour is indeed late, and Madam President, I do believe I can see Nutbush City limits right up ahead. I am so grateful for this Body; this has been the most normal Session we have had. And despite the two bonus days we got this week, it is one of our earliest adjournments in many, many years. So again, especially I joined Leader Curran, our incredible staffs who have done so much work to make all of us with fancy titles look good. I am incredibly grateful, and I am incredibly grateful to our caucus that has put your trust in me. I am humbled and -- and honored to do this job. I want to end on the point we've made several times. This has been an unusual Session, and it has been one that emphasizes that cooperation, collaboration, and collegiality are indeed possible and do make the process and the legislative output better. So, I -- I look forward to our next Session after a good long summer. I'll see any of you coming back on June 12th for the portrait unveiling. And please be safe. And -- and we will -- we will get the Veto Session schedule out to you as soon as it is ready. So, Godspeed all. Thank you very much. Be safe. Good night.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Thank you, Mr. President. I didn't know the follow up line. Mr. Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Joint Resolution 42, offered by Senator Cunningham.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
103rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

57th Legislative Day

5/25/2023

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

On the Order of Resolutions is Senate Joint Resolution 42.
Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Joint Resolution 42, resolved by the Senate of the 103rd General Assembly of the State of Illinois, the House of Representatives concurring herein that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, May 26th, 2023, it stands adjourned until the call of the President and when the House of Representatives adjourns on Saturday, May 27th, 2023, it stands adjourned until the call of the Speaker.

PRESIDING OFFICER (SENATOR LIGHTFORD)

Senator Cunningham moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of the immediate consideration and adoption of Senate Joint Resolution 42. Those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the rules are suspended. Senator Cunningham moves for the adoption of Senate Joint Resolution 42. All in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. There being no further business to come before the Senate pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 42. The Senate stands adjourned until the call of the Senate President. The Senate stands adjourned.