

**THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024**

**10:36 A.M.**

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The House will come to order.

In the absence of clergy, let us pause for a moment of silence.

(Whereupon, a moment of silence was observed.)

Visitors are invited to join the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Acting Speaker Aubry led visitors and members in the Pledge of Allegiance.)

A quorum being present, the Clerk will read the Journal of Wednesday, May the 15th.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, I move to

dispense with the further reading of the Journal of Wednesday, May the 15th and that the same stand approved.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Without objection, so ordered.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues and guests that are in the Chamber, I would like to share a quote with you for today. This one is comes from Mary Travers. She was an American singer-songwriter who found fame in the 1960s with the folk trio of Peter, Paul and Mary. Her words for us today, *If we're going to teach the world to stop hating the different, the other, then we're going to have to start with the children.* Again, these words from Mary Travers.

Mr. Speaker, colleagues have on their desks a main Calendar and a debate list. We will going to begin calling for the Committee -- we're going to begin by calling for the Committee with People -- on People with Disabilities to meet off the floor today, and after introductions and/or housekeeping, we're going to take up Calendar resolutions on page 3. And then we're gonna work off the debate list by taking up the following bills: Calendar No. 385 by Ms. Barrett, Calendar No. 410 by Ms. Paulin, and Calendar No. 427 by Mr. Dilan. We then work off the main Calendar by taking up new bills beginning with Rules Report No. 44. That's on page 5. There may be a need to announce further floor activity, if so we will proceed and announce that as -- at the appropriate time.

That's the general outline of where we're going today, Mr. Speaker. If you have introductions and/or housekeeping, now would be the perfect time. Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

On a motion by Mr. Pretlow, page 8, Rules Report No. 60, Bill No. 9550, the amendments are received and adopted.

For the purposes of a committee, Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you could please call the Committee for People with Disabilities to meet in the Speaker's Conference Room.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Committee on People with Disabilities in the Speaker's Conference Room immediately.

For the purposes of a introduction, Ms. Buttenschon.

MS. BUTTENSCHON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce the Utica Notre Dame Girls Basketball Team. On March 16th, this team named -- was named the Class B State Champions after defeating Albany Academy in a 55-51 comeback at the Hudson Valley Community College. This team was able to rally together and pushed through multiple double-digit deficits to win this game. The team is led by Head Coach John Snyder, Assistant Coaches Tom Peterson, Gillian Keeler, and Gennaro Durso. They finished their season with a 24-3 record. The players are Corey

Kerney, Erin Trinkaus, Lauren Kulpa, Maggie Trinkaus, Emma Johnson, Vita Waters, Tessa Arcuri, Amanie Jadwick, Ella Trinkaus, Julianna Otis, Jenna Herron, Abby Kotary, Lily Johnson, Olivia Russitano and Vega Rosemyer. They have shown their ability to overcome adversity, and I am sure this skill will follow them through the rest of their lives.

Congratulations to the Notre Dame Girls Basketball State Champions. Go Jugglers. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Ms. Buttenschon, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome coaches and these tremendous athletes. Ladies, we are so pleased to have you, extend you to the privileges of the floor. We hope that this victory that you have enjoyed this year will continue through your life and you will learn those lessons and use those lessons of what it takes to be successful. We're quite sure you will. Congratulations.

(Applause)

Mr. McDonald for the purposes of a introduction.

MR. MCDONALD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honor today to not have not one, but two groups of individuals to recognize, both from Columbia High School which is across the river in East Greenbush. First of all, I want to introduce the Columbia Girls Bowling Team, who won the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Championship this past February in Syracuse, completing an outstanding season. Their regular season they were undefeated 16-0, they won the Suburban Council Championship,

which is the biggest -- biggest Council in the Capitol Region, and also the Section 2 Championship Tournament as well. At the State Championships, Columbia had a total pin fall of 5,982 pins over the six games, 301 pins higher than second place East Islip.

I'd like to recognize individually those who competed: Kara Barcher, Emily Beardsley, Marissa Bogholtz, Jennifer Doty, Cierra Campbell [sic] -- excuse me, Cierra Gabriel, Alexis Gaudette, Grace Steele, Kendra Szczepkowski, and they're lead by Head Coach Lisa Johnas and Assistant Coach Bill Neumann. Congratulations, Lady Keglers.

Also from Columbia High School, we have a high school junior by the name of Elle Hutton, who won the State Championship at the Girls Wrestling Invitational in January at SRC Arena in Onondaga Community College. Miss Hutton won all four of her matches in her weight class to become Columbia High School's first female wrestling champion.

So to all the champions, congratulations and great work, and Mr. Speaker, if you could extend these champions the cordialities of the House it would be appreciated.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. McDonald, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly, extend to you the privileges of the floor. Again, our congratulations on this championship year in wrestling and bowling. Continue those great traits that took you to this victory. Know that we will always welcome you here and look

forward to what you will do in the future. Thank you so very much for being here.

(Applause)

Mr. Brook-Krasny.

MR. BROOK-KRASNY: Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce my good friend, Lucy Mujica Diaz. I'm doing it on my behalf and on behalf of Assemblymember Glick and Assemblymember Lee. Lucy is a key member of the Southern Brooklyn community as Chair of Brooklyn Community Board 13. She has been a helping hand and a light to others for decades, and I'm proud to be here with her today.

In 1990, Lucy moved to Coney Island to start a family and raise her two wonderful daughters, Amanda and Liza. From the very start, she was drawn to helping her community. She served as a bookkeeper for her homeowners' association and volunteered at the La Puerta Abierta Day Care Center when her daughters were young. Lucy has also worked with Our Lady of Solace Baseball League to get kids involved in local athletics. In 2012, as I'm sure we all remember, Hurricane Sandy devastated New York City and left many without food, shelter and basic day-to-day needs. During that very difficult time, Lucy stepped up and became involved with Brooklyn Community Services to help families who had been affected by the storm.

I think I can speak for all of us in Southern Brooklyn, but also on behalf Assemblymember Glick and Assemblymember Lee,

I can say that all of us in Brooklyn in saying we cannot thank Lucy enough for her selfless efforts and dedication over the years to seeing our community become a better place for everyone. On behalf of all of us, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to say we love Lucy.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to welcome Lucy. I'd like you to welcome Lucy to the Assembly Chamber and ask that you give her the cordialities of the floor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Brook-Krasny, the Speaker and all the members, Lucy, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly, extend to you the privileges of the floor. Our thanks for the work that you're doing in your community. I've served on a community board, I know that it is a task unto itself, not to mention all the other things you've accomplished. Please know that you are always welcome here, and we treasure you as a gift to Brooklyn. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Mr. Bendett.

MR. BENDETT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to rise today to introduce Ragan Retell, New York State Wrestling Champion. New York State has a tremendous history in high school and college wrestling, and Ragan now joins a list of many, many wonderful athletes. She's also a two-time Fargo place finisher in a national tournament in North Dakota. Two-time world time -- World Team Trials place finisher. She was third at the States in 2023, she's a four-time State champion. She's a member of the Century

Club, she has over 100 wins in high school. And again, she was New York State Champion representing Tamarac High School.

Mr. Speaker, wrestling teaches you two of the most important character traits that every individual should have. The first one is humility. When you use -- when you lose a wrestling match in front of all your friends and family, they bring you to the center of the mat and they raise your opponent's hand, telling everybody in your family and your community that you're a loser and it's humiliating. There's no other teammates to rely on like in basketball or baseball, it's just you and that other opponent, and it's humiliating. But the second thing it teaches you is compassion, because after you've become a winner and you humiliate somebody else, you shake their hand, you tap them on the back and you say, *With hard work you'll be here, too.*

So, I'm proud to be a wrestler and come from a wrestling family. I'm proud to be from a wrestling school, I'm proud to be from a section of New York State that has very proud wrestling, including Olympic Gold Medalist Jeff Blatnick, who was my friend, and who also helped coach Ragan and her brother.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you would extend all the cordialities to the House to Ragan Retell.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Bendett, the Speaker and all the members, Ragan, welcome here to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor. We congratulate you on your successes, and



hope that those successes continue. But I'd like you to think for a minute, and all of us, at how marvelous it is to have young ladies participate in athletics and be honored for their efforts as a part of their lifestyle. I'm sure it's going to change the world. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Mr. Manktelow.

MR. MANKTELOW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to have an introduction today.

(Pause)

Sorry, Mr. Speaker, one second, please.

(Pause)

Again, Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to do an introduction on the floor, also an individual who is a wrestler. His name is Braidon Woodward. He's a senior at the Palmyra-Macedon Central School District. He was the New York State Wrestling Champion at the weight of 170 pounds. The match was actually held right here at the MVP Arena down the street, and -- and what a great honor to have him here back in Albany as a champion, along with his family and some of the individuals from the school. He finished his high school career with a record of 54-1 and will now be attending the University of Buffalo this fall.

So, Mr. Speaker, if you could give him and the family all the cordialities of the House, I would very much appreciate it. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Manktelow, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here, sir, to the New York State Assembly, we extend the privileges of the floor. We congratulate you on your excellent career in high school, look forward to what will happen as you go on to Buffalo. Please continue to know that this is a place you can always come and a place you will always be welcome. Good luck to you and your family. Obviously, family, you did a great job with this young man. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

We'll go to resolutions on page 3. Assembly No. 2196, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 2196, Rules at the request of Mr. Lemondes.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 18, 2024, as Armed Forces Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Lemondes on the resolution.

MR. LEMONDES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we know, Armed Forces Day was established by President Truman on February 27, 1950 in recognition of all currently-serving military members. In addressing the significance of this, there are several aspects that should be mentioned. First, historically most Americans alive today have never lived in an America where their country or way

of life were existentially threatened, the last time being World War II. This binding fabric that has unified us many times over the last 250 years is oftentimes forgotten. However, it has not been forgotten by those countless souls that have served, bled, died, or their families; the importance being that there's a cost to be free, and that cost is paid every single day.

What many don't realize is the sphere of influence of our military with respect to our security is ever-present 24/7. Recognizing that this pillar of external security is the first of three imperatives necessary to have and maintain a free society is the first step in understanding how vital it is, the second being internal security or our police forces and the law enforcement infrastructure, and the third being a functioning economy, which can't be achieved and maintained without the other two. Whether operating in space above or below the sea, in the air or on the ground in as many as 30-plus countries at any given time, your, our military members are out there oftentimes in miserable conditions, willing to sacrifice everything so that our republic may live to see another day. This level of commitment by so few for so many is often taken for granted as so many enjoy the benefits of our society, but don't even know, understand or participate in its obligations.

Last, please recognize our military members have more responsibility at a younger age than those of any other segment of our society. In their honor, on this day, please join me in recognizing the significance of their service on our behalf. Thank

you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 2197, Rules at the request of Ms. Solages.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 19, 2024, as Human Milk Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of World Human Milk Day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, all those in favor by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 2198, Rules at the request of Mr. Cunningham.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 19, 2024, as Pinkster Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 2199, Rules at the request of Mr. Jones.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 5-11, 2024, as Correctional Officers and Employees Week in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 2200, Rules at the request of Mr. Simone.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 12-18, 2024, as Family Physician Week in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 2201, Rules at the request of Mr. Brabenec.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 19-25, 2024, as Emergency Medical Services Week in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 2202, Rules at the request of Ms. Darling.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 2024, as Foster Care Month in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, all

those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 2203, Rules at the request of Mr. Zebrowski.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim August 17, 2024, as Model Aviation Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 2204, Rules at the request of Mr. Eachus.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim October 10, 2024, as Mental Health Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Eachus on the resolution.

MR. EACHUS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for allowing me to bring this resolution to the floor. It's unusual because May is Mental Health Month, but Mental Health Day is on October 10th so I don't know who figured this one out. But I think we have to understand that those folks with mental disabilities suffer with those each and every day. So whether we designate a month or a day, let us please remember all of those that have these mental disabilities.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

On debate, page 32, Calendar No. 382 -- 385, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08869, Calendar No. 385, Barrett, L. Rosenthal, Cunningham, Santabarbara, Shimsky, Thiele, Ardila. An act to amend the Public Authorities Law, in relation to requiring the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority to develop a comprehensive electric vehicle fast-charging station implementation plan.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Barrett, an explanation has been requested.

MS. BARRETT: Certainly, Mr. Speaker. This bill is intended to provide a comprehensive and ongoing approach to EV fast-charging station implementation planning.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you. Would the sponsor yield?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Barrett?

MS. BARRETT: Certainly.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Barrett yields, sir.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, Ms. Barrett. Looking at the second page, Section 5, it calls on the Authority to establish a

Fast Charge NY Working Group, although even though the Authority establishes it all the members are appointed. I see that there are four member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, four members appointed by the Temporary President. Can you explain why it is that there are no Minority appointments, even though there are four from each House? After all, the Minority represents one-third of the residents of the State of New York.

MS. BARRETT: It -- it was my understanding, and I'll double check.

(Pause)

Okay, sorry, I got my bills mixed up. Yes, well, you know, there is nothing in here that prevents the Minority Leader from speaking with our Speaker, from the Speaker for -- to confer with the Minority Leader to anybody to make any recommendations.

MR. GOODELL: With that in mind, you wouldn't mind if you changed this to have all four appointed by the Minority Leader and he'll consult with the Speaker; is that okay?

MS. BARRETT: That's not what the bill says, but if you want to introduce that bill you should go ahead and do that.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, Ms. Barrett.

I noticed that the membership, while being appointed only by the Majority, also must reflect specific groups. So, at least two members have to represent environmental justice groups. What's meant by environmental justice?

MS. BARRETT: This is, you know, looking at -- at



organizations that have been, and others that have been active in -- in the environmental movement. The idea is to have a diversity of points of view and -- and -- and perspectives in getting to this comprehensive, you know, much-needed one overlook on how we do fast charging. As you know, at the moment we have multiple agencies and other groups involved in this, and this is something that we've been -- been working towards and want to get done and looking to have all the voices, but just for one comp -- comprehensive approach to it.

MR. GOODELL: And I appreciate your comments that we want a diversity of opinions, and I think that is absolutely a great objective. But I noticed that all of the membership, two are environmental justice from two -- two are from an environmental justice group, two members are Statewide environmental groups. I'm not sure what the difference is. Two members from charging station developers, who obviously make money installing these -- that's why they're called developers, I guess -- and the remaining two represent public utilities, correct? What's the difference between an environmental justice group and an environmental group?

MS. BARRETT: One of our priorities with the CLCPA has been to be sure that disadvantaged communities are represented, and that we address special needs that are -- that -- you know, that are experienced by disadvantaged communities across the State, rural as well as urban. It's the commun -- it's the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, and so this is an important

part. That's the justice part, and other environmental groups are looking, you know, at -- at other environmental priorities.

MR. GOODELL: I see. Is there any reason why there's no representatives from the Independent Service Operators, the ISO? Because as you know, one of the greatest concerns raised about these fast charging systems is they require a tremendous amount of electricity on demand, and there's three actually -- three different levels of charging, the third, the fast chargers --

MS. BARRETT: This is just (inaudible/crosstalk).

MR. GOODELL: -- require -- specifically require new transformers and it would put a lot of stress on the grid. Is there any reason why we don't have any representatives from the organization that's charged with the responsibility of actually running the grid and making sure the electricity is available?

MS. BARRETT: Yes, that -- I mean, they will definitely be part of the, you know, of the conversation because the idea is to have a coordinated effort across the State for these fast chargers. And you're absolutely right, it's -- this is the third tier. We -- you know, we -- we all know that this is going to be a critical piece in -- in having more electric vehicles on the road is to be able to -- people be able to not have to struggle with range anxiety, know that they can get to where they need to get to. So that's the idea here, is to make sure that all of those -- those points of view are part of the conversation.

MR. GOODELL: Now, as you know, the fast

charging stations are currently quite expensive --

MS. BARRETT: I'm sorry, I lost what you just said.

MR. GOODELL: I said as you know, the fast charging stations are quite expensive. The estimates that are that it runs upwards of \$10,000 for the equipment plus another upwards of \$15,000 for the delivery, including the transformers and the wiring and things of that nature. So at \$25,000 per charger, is there any reason why we don't have anyone representing the taxpayers or utility customers who will likely be charged that?

MS. BARRETT: All -- all of those groups that you're, you know, that you're raising will be part of this conversation. This is the working group that will be meeting and will be looking at all of those different perspectives. So this is the working group. They will be meeting with NYISO, they will be meeting with the consumer groups. We will be taking all those into consideration in their -- as we -- they look at this and create this plan. The plan is an annual plan, we'll have an opportunity here in the Legislature to look at it. That's the idea, is to have transparency and consistency and one comprehensive approach.

MR. GOODELL: I see. And of course, as -- as you know, right now there's huge subsidies by the State and Federal government for people who want to buy EVs. There's subsidies for -- by the government to install these charging stations. But am I correct, EVs don't pay any highway taxes, correct?

MS. BARRETT: That's not what this bill is about.

MR. GOODELL: And that's -- that was my point. So this doesn't deal with the fact that EVs are getting a free ride at taxpayer expense, that's a separate issue than this bill.

MS. BARRETT: That's not what this bill is about.

MR. GOODELL: I see. Okay. Thank you very much, again I -- I appreciate your comments.

MS. BARRETT: Thank you.

MR. GOODELL: Mr. Speaker, on the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER ZACCARO: On the bill.

MR. GOODELL: I -- I commend the sponsor in terms of moving forward with a comprehensive electric vehicle fast charging analysis. I agree with the sponsor that's something obviously we need if we're moving forward with EVs. I am concerned that the working group consists almost entirely of people who have a vested stake in spending taxpayer money. So you have two representatives from social justice groups, not taxpayers. I mean, they may be taxpayers but they don't represent taxpayers. We have two representatives from environmental groups, and I'm not sure what's the difference between environmental justice groups and environmental groups unless the environmental groups aren't justified, but assuming there's some difference. Then we have two people representing developers. Those are the people that sell this equipment at taxpayer expense and make a profit on it. And we have a couple of representatives from the utility companies who love to sell us electricity, right? But who don't we have? We don't have anyone

representing the taxpayers. We don't have anyone from NYSERDA, the New York State Energy Research and Development Agency. We don't have anyone from AAA that represents the other 95 percent of travelers who don't use EVs. So I hope as we move forward in this process we look for real balance, including a sensitivity to the fact that these EVs are currently only available to those who are higher income. The cost of the charging stations are high, the taxpayers are on the hook, including those who are lower income, and the EVs pay nothing into the Highway Fund to maintain our roads. Our financial system doesn't match the public policy; hopefully we can address that in the future.

Again, thank you to my colleague. I think that moving forward on the study is the right thing to do, and I hope we can broaden the group as we move forward. Thank you, Ms. Barrett, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER ZACCARO: Mr. Palmesano.

MR. PALMESANO: Yeah, Mr. Speaker, on the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER ZACCARO: On the bill.

MR. PALMESANO: I've had conversations with the sponsor about this topic on appointments, so I just kind of -- I don't want to belabor with more questions, my colleague Mr. Goodell addressed that. I did just want to address, though, that I think one of my concerns with this piece of legislation is that there were no Minority appointments. I've mentioned that to other members on their legislation when there are no Minority appointments. And I think the

importance of that, you might say, *Well, it doesn't mean you don't have any input.* We are dealing with some significant pieces of legislation that might change the marketplace in -- in a big way. For example, the CLCPA, which we've talked about on the floor time and time again, there were two Minority appointments. If those -- if the -- the Minority didn't have appointments to that Climate Action Council, there would have been no one on that committee with any experience or knowledge or expertise on generation, on utility work, on natural gas infrastructure, on things that were being totally overhauled and restructured. So there is importance to allow the Minority appointment on these -- on these task force or whatever they may be. You know, we represent six million dollar -- six million people, there should be a voice on that. I -- I know there was some legislation that came through earlier last week that would overhaul regarding extended producer liability, responsibility. No Minority appointments on that, and I had conversations with the sponsors on other pieces of legislation. I just think it's -- it doesn't hurt, especially when there are four Majority appointments for the Speaker and the Majority Leader in the Senate, couldn't it be three and one? So I do think what the sponsor's trying to do with the overall genesis of this bill with trying to develop a comprehensive plan and we need more of that, more feasibility studies, more cost-benefit analysis, more things like that. But I do think from my perspective on this piece of legislation because there's no Minority appointments, there could have been other representation on that Council from my perspective, from our side of

the aisle. So for that reason I'm going to be voting no on this bill. But I would urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, when you bring forth pieces of legislation that puts committees together or councils together and you're offering appointments to the Speaker, appointments to the Majority Leader in the Senate, you should at least grant the Minority a voice in that in each House. Because we have people that we could think can bring expertise to these decisions that are being made. Again, we're talking about major restructuring and overhauls of policy in New York State. And again, I will go back to the CLCPA again, which fortunately, we did have two people, two voices that came from the Minority that were voices of reason, that we're saying we can't do this, we shouldn't do this, although a lot of it happened anyway. They needed to be part of that discussion, they needed to be a part of that record. And it should be a part of that record when you're talking about major overhauls to policies that are moving forward.

So, when we look at things like this, when we look at things like extended producer responsibility, when we look at modernizing the grid, we need to have Minority appointments on those because we have a voice and we could bring expertise and have suggestions on that as well. Unfortunately, this bill doesn't have that, but I do understand where the sponsor is going from it with the -- with the overall plan. But just for those reasons I'm going to be voting in the negative and I would encourage my colleagues to do the same. But I do appreciate the conversations I've had with the sponsor on this

and other issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER ZACCARO: Mr. Ra.

MR. RA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER ZACCARO: On the bill.

MR. RA: Just quickly, and not -- not to belabor this point, but, you know, I find the whole conversation about whether we have Minority appointments or not, and really the response to that concern to be somewhat insulting. Okay, fine, we'll introduce a bill. Are you gonna move it through the committee? Are we gonna bring it out to the floor? We know the answer to that question. It's not about us. We think about everything in terms of politics, and it's about us and the 150 people in here. But it's not. It's about the people we represent, the 130,000-plus people we represent in our districts. And as my colleague said, over six million New Yorkers are represented by those of us on this side of the aisle. And having appointments, whether it's this bill or any other commission, committee, study, whatever it is we're doing, gives it more of an opportunity for rural residents of this State, for suburban residents of this State, to have a voice as we're talking about these issues.

So I -- I think what this bill is trying to accomplish is -- is a positive thing. I think the State is obviously lagging behind as we're dealing with this. We look at -- I drive up here every week, we have these rest stops that are taking forever to get put together because, again, I talked about them yesterday, but our -- our



wonderful former Governor put out this process and it's taking years and years. They didn't seem to have any thought about EV charging at -- at those rest stops, it's an afterthought. So we need --we need to address that issue as people are using these things more and more. But again, over six million New Yorkers are represented on this side of the aisle. It is not a lot to ask to make sure there is an appointment so that that broad perspective -- it's not just about Republican/Democrat. It's about we all represent different parts of this State, and having those voices in the room as things are being talked about results in a better outcome, and it's that simple.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you. I'm supporting this bill because I think it's, as my colleagues mentioned on both sides of the aisle, we need to move forward with this planning process, although several of my colleagues will not support it because they would like to have a more diversity of opinion. But overall, I'm supporting it because we need to move forward, as my colleague just mentioned, and hopefully as we move forward with legislation we'll be sensitive to the one-third of New Yorkers that are represented by the

Republican representatives.

Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Page 34, Calendar No. 410, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08555, Calendar No. 410, Paulin. An act to amend the Business Corporation Law and the Limited Liability Company Law, in relation to requiring certain companies and corporations to report certain data regarding the gender, race and ethnicity of their employees.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: An explanation is requested, Ms. Paulin.

MS. PAULIN: Yes, of course. Thank you. The bill requires certain corporations and companies to report employee data regarding gender, race and ethnicity to the Department of State.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Walsh.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Paulin, will you yield?

MS. PAULIN: Happy to.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Paulin yields, sir  
-- ma'am.

MS. WALSH: Thank you very much. So, this bill has gone through a few, or at least one pretty significant amendment following the first veto by the Governor back in 2022. Let's just for the benefit of -- of our colleagues, can you just talk about how the -- what the bill does or seeks to do and the changes that have been made in the bill since we started talking about it in 2022?

MS. PAULIN: So, the original bill required the same reporting of data, but it said substantially similar to the Federal form that is already required. So the Governor in her veto message -- (coughing), sorry. The Governor in her veto message said that there was a concern that there would be duplication, and it would be hard for the Department to -- to figure out the differences between substantially and the form. So we made the bill identical -- or we changed the bill to require the form -- any -- the same exact information from the form to go to the -- to go to the Department. So we believed we were addressing the veto message entirely. The -- last year's veto message was slightly different, which wasn't reflected in the original veto message. But through a crazy situation at the Governor's office where they changed counsel in the middle of the bill and didn't have counsel assigned to the bill at the end. I believe they made an error, which is why I'm putting the bill forward again.

MS. WALSH: Yeah. And so, I -- I would completely agree that the amendment that was made which basically said the Federal form that businesses have already been filling out and had been required to do so for many, many years, that same form, by

that -- that identical form now could be done for the State. How that data will be treated is going to be different according to this bill. So in the -- under the Federal law, data is reported in an aggregated format whereas your bill would require the Department to break the information down and report it that way. And I believe that from a previous debate you had indicated that the underlying reason for the bill is to allow consumers who may be interested in investing in different companies to really get in and examine company -- by company to see if their -- the way that they look at, like, diversity, equity, inclusion, issues like that are really borne out by the data that's collected. But then the Governor, to your point, in 2023 said, *This bill is similar to legislation I vetoed last year. It would require employers to share identifying information about their employees in a disaggregated format. By doing so, this bill would burden DOS, the Department of State, to duplicate work already being done successfully by the Federal Government while creating a risk to protection of employees' personal privacy.*

MS. PAULIN: That was the sentence that was added from the veto message two years ago, so we were unaware of that concern the first time. And I would argue back that when you have 100 employees, which is really where the threshold starts because you -- if it's less than that you don't have to fill out that form and, therefore, you wouldn't be sending it to the State, there should be some differences in -- there should be some diversity in your -- in your employee pool. And so the concern that was raised to me is that what

if, you know, there's only one woman? Well, then we're -- that's the privacy concern. I would say that that's exactly what we're trying to get at. We're trying to figure out if some of the companies when they're aggregated are really hiding behind that when it's -- they're gonna be individually divulged. They may be a little more concerned and, therefore, may hire 20 women of their 100-employee pool instead of, you know, God forbid it's 50/50, but, you know, they may hire more. So -- so we believe that this would be, one, a way to encourage diversity, and two, it would be a way for someone who's an investor to say, *Wait a second, I care about, you know, whether a firm is -- is -- is complying with some of these diversity things that I care about*, and it would allow them to make a judgment based on that if it was between investing in one firm or another.

MS. WALSH: So, you kind of made a counter-argument to the second veto message from last year. Has the bill been further amended since that veto message to change anything about the bill?

MS. PAULIN: No.

MS. WALSH: Okay.

MS. PAULIN: I was -- I'm hoping that I can persuade the Governor's office this time to keep one counsel that would follow the bill from beginning to end and -- and then be able to have an opportunity to convince the Governor's office that this is the right thing to do.

MS. WALSH: I appreciate your answer. So, one of

the things that had -- has been raised as a concern both before and continuing even after the first -- the amendment that was made saying that you can use the same form, arguing that there is an additional burden being placed on business. Now, it seems to me that the -- the burden is really upon the State, Department of State, to -- to present this information in a disaggregated format. Do you see or what would your response be to those who are worried about additional burden on business itself in responding to this requirement?

MS. PAULIN: I -- I think only the privacy issue is the issue that -- that a business would -- should or could be concerned about, because we're saying submit the same form. So it's taking the form, copying it, putting it in two different envelopes. So that's the only extra work on the part of a business. For DOS, yes, they will have to take the individual forms and post them, take the information off the individual forms. It would actually be more work if we required them to aggregate it because then they would have to add something up. Here we're basically saying, *Take the individual forms and post it*. So yes, it would be work on the part of the Department to post the information, but it wouldn't be hard to desegregate it because it's already desegregated when it comes to them.

MS. WALSH: Mm-hmm. So, one of the -- so two groups that have continued to remain opposed to this bill are the Business Council and also NFIB, and their opposition memos are pretty similar, and I'll just kind of summarize what they're saying. They're saying that under Federal law the EEOC is prohibited from

making public an employer's EEO-1, which is their form, data. This is in recognition of both longstanding EEO law and Freedom of Information Act law that recognizes that trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential. So, what do you say to that, that your bill ends up being in some ways an end around the Federal protections that have been longstanding?

MS. PAULIN: So, I have the form in front me, and this form doesn't require any confidential trademark information. What the form requires is a breakdown of the employees, whether they are Hispanic or Latino, male or female, Black or African-Americans, Native, Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders, Asian, et cetera. You know, and it -- it -- although I guess White and American Indian or Alaskan Native. It doesn't even break it down as far as where the Census goes, for example. But it does -- that's all it does. And then it says, you know, how many professionals do you have in the category, how many sales workers, how many craft workers, operators, laborers and service workers. I don't see this as being trademark-protected or warranting trademark protection. So it's really only about figuring out whether or not they have a diverse, you know -- and, you know, what if there -- there might be some employers that have the opposite, you know? Some firms, you know, if you're a firm that has nurses it's going to be primarily female. If it's a firm that has laborers, it might be primarily male. But -- but we know that society has already kind of made those distinctions. But in

a company that might be lawyers or might be doctors or might be some other professional firm where there's more of a balance just out in the world, you want to make sure that the employer, if you're an investor, is conforming to your beliefs.

MS. WALSH: Does the EEO form -- so, take the example that you gave earlier of a company that has one woman. Is there a risk that there could be info -- like, salary information or information that can be readily traced back to that -- that one woman that's there, possibly, you know, violating a sense that that information should be confidential?

MS. PAULIN: There's -- there's no salary information that is required on the form.

MS. WALSH: Okay.

MS. PAULIN: It's simply demographic. And so the only privacy information that -- or any privacy worry that you might have is if a firm, again, has one employee that is of a certain gender or of a certain ethnic background, and everybody knows who that might be when it's published. Even that's doubtful, but -- but that's the only privacy risk.

MS. WALSH: Okay. And -- and what would you end up -- so you just know who that person's identity was, you wouldn't necessarily know other key information about --

MS. PAULIN: You wouldn't know.

MS. WALSH: -- that individual like salary or something like that.



MS. PAULIN: Right.

MS. WALSH: Okay. Okay.

The one other thing that was raised last year -- well, actually two years ago in debate now, it looks like, from my esteemed colleague to my right was a constitutional issue, and I'm just wondering if any thought was given to -- to that issue. It was pointed out that Article III, Section 16 of the New York State Constitution is also violated by the statutory provision that's being proposed because the State Constitution expressly prohibits incorporation by reference in a bill, and this bill purports to incorporate by reference not other New York State statutes, but Federal regulations. And so the only way that anyone would actually know what this bills means is for them to look up a Federal regulation adopted by unelected bureaucrats or making rules in Washington, and that's a direct violation of the State Constitution. Any concerns about that?

MS. PAULIN: Because of the *Chevron* case, you know, the regulators have a lot of leeway. I think that case is before the Supreme Court right now, so we'll see if that changes. Having said that, you know, we reference Federal law and Federal regulations in New York State law a lot, and this is -- so this is just one more example of a place that we're doing that.

MS. WALSH: Okay. Thank you very much, I appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 730th day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: A party vote has been requested.

Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, sir. The Republican Conference will be generally in the negative. But I would remind my colleagues that we were almost evenly split the last time we voted on this, so keep that in mind. And those who wish to support it should certainly vote yes on the floor. Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mr. Fall.

MR. FALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Majority Conference will be in the affirmative on this piece of legislation. For those that would like to vote in a different direction, they can do so at their desk.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Mr. Fall.

Mr. Goodell to explain his vote.

The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

And now Mr. Goodell to explain.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, sir. As I mentioned, the Republican Conference has been split on this over the past. We appreciate the sponsor's amendments that made the reporting to the State EEOC to be identical on the format to the Federal reporting,

which for many of us was a very positive change. At the same time, many of us are wondering why the heck do we double the reporting requirements on all of our employers using the exact same form? It's like, are we in a race with the Federal Government to see who can require the most reporting? And for that reason, the Governor actually vetoed the last one and she said, we don't need to do this. This places an additional burden on the State Department of State that have put this information together, and it's one more unnecessary burden on businesses.

So I respect my colleague's desire and the sponsor's desire to make this simpler, and in doing so I really have to question why are we doing it at all. The data is available in the Federal Government. We don't need to impose duplicative reporting requirements just because you made the decision to locate in New York. For that reason I will not be supporting it.

Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Goodell in the negative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Page 35, Calendar No. 427, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A07194, Calendar No. 427, Dilan, Dickens, Taylor, Walker, Davila, Ardila, Hyndman, Lucas, Septimo, Reyes. An act to amend the Correction Law, in

relation to Certificates of Relief from Disabilities.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, sir.

On the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the bill, sir.

MR. GOODELL: This bill makes a small change in the Correction Law that has somewhat significant consequences. Under current law, if a person has been released from prison and meets certain criteria they can apply for a Certificate of Relief from Disability [sic], and that granting of the relief is discretionary. And so they have to meet certain prerequisites to apply, and then once they complete those prerequisites it's a discretionary review by the court or parole board to decide whether that certificate should be issued. This changes the law by saying that if they meet the prerequisites, they must get the Certificate of Relief from Disabilities or the other certificates that eliminate a Certificate of Relief. Most of us think that some discretion is appropriate because the preconditions don't cover all the factors that should be considered. And rather than amend the law and add more preconditions, we believe having some discretionary authority to look at the entire circumstance is a more appropriate approach.

And I'll also point out that based on legislation we passed last year with some considerable opposition, all convictions are sealed after a certain length of time -- I think it's three years for mis -- misdemeanor, eight years for a felony -- and once they're sealed, the

entire process of asking for a relief from disabilities is rendered moot. And so based on the fact we have automatic sealing now in New York State of felonies and misdemeanors after a certain length of time, we -- many of us certainly feel that that discretionary review in the interim is an important protection for public safety to make sure that those who are rehabilitated can get the relief they're seeking, and those who still have issues can have more time to focus on addressing those issues to ensure public safety.

Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 90th day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: A party vote has been requested.

Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you. The Republican Conference is generally opposed to this amendment. Those who support it should certainly vote yes on the floor. Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Majority Conference is going to be in favor of this piece of legislation. There may be a few of us that would desire to be exceptions, we should feel free to do so at our seats.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Ms. Walker to explain her vote.

MS. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to support the bill relating to the Certificate of Relief from Disability [sic]. I believe that a person should have more than one opportunity to be able to present their case for full integration and support into society. I do believe that this effort is an effort in support of public safety because it allows people to have access to adequate housing, education, financial aid, jobs, et cetera, that we know are all opportunities for people to be able to fully support and participate in our civic society. I understand that there are certain opportunities for automatic sealing, but those dates do not represents the floor, I submit, and instead represent -- represents the sealing. And so at the earliest opportunity for a person to apply for a Certificate of Relief from Disability [sic], I believe is a great measure that we're taking under today and I proudly support and vote in the affirmative.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Walker in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

On Page 5 on consent, Rules Report No. 44, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00589-A, Rules Report No. 44, L. Rosenthal, Dinowitz, Colton, Epstein, Walker, Burdick. An act to amend the Public Housing Law, in relation to requiring the Division of Housing and Community Renewal to establish a publicly-accessible online database of building-wide major capital improvements.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A05367-B, Rules Report No. 45, Lucas, Aubry, Colton, Levenberg, Steck. An act to direct the Department of State and the Public Service Commission to jointly study and report upon the provisions to consumer credit reporting agencies by public utility companies, cable television companies and cellular telephone service suppliers of information on late payments or default on any fees or charges incurred by consumers; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Lucas, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced and the bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A05512, Rules Report No. 46, L. Rosenthal, De Los Santos, Zinerman, Raga. An act to amend the Social Services Law, in relation to prohibiting the requirement that a court proceeding has been initiated against an individual in order for such individual to qualify for a rent arrears grant or ongoing rental assistance.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A05750, Rules Report No. 47, Paulin, Sayegh, Jackson, Tapia, Septimo, Lavine, De Los Santos, Simone, Weprin, Reyes, Brabenec, Simon. An act to amend the Public Health Law, in relation to the submission of claims for services provided by home care agencies.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A05802-A, Rules Report No. 48, Solages. An act in relation to authorizing the County of Nassau assessor to accept an application for a real property tax exemption from 786 Muhammadi Masjid, Inc.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A05803-B, Rules Report No. 49, Paulin, Gunther, McDonald, Fahy, Stern, Kim, Hyndman, Woerner, Shimsky, Carroll, Dickens, McMahon, Simon, McDonough, Ra, De Los Santos, Stirpe, Buttenschon, Sillitti, Seawright, Thiele, Levenberg, Hevesi, Manktelow, Brabenec, Jensen, DeStefano, Sayegh, Santabarbara. An act to amend the Public Health



Law, in relation to establishing a State Parkinson's Disease Registry.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Paulin, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 90th day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A06136-B, Rules Report No. 50, Eachus, Lupardo, Buttenschon, Shimsky, Levenberg, Ardila, Simon, Otis, Lunsford, De Los Santos, Zaccaro, Jacobson, Blankenbush, Gallahan, Tague, Brabenec, Maher, DeStefano, Bendett, Angelino, Berger, McDonald, Gunther, Paulin, Aubry, Williams, Blumencranz, Reyes, Gandolfo, J.M. Giglio, Beephan, Norris, Manktelow, Jensen, Gibbs, Seawright, Lucas, Simpson, McGowan, Santabarbara, Taylor, Lemondes, Stirpe, Fahy, Barrett, Cook, Sayegh. An act to amend the Public Authorities Law, in relation to the issuance of permits to exempt ambulances and fire vehicles from paying tolls on the New York State Thruway when engaged in an emergency operation.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Mr. Eachus to explain his vote.

MR. EACHUS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank all my colleagues here on the floor that are supporting this very important EMS bill. It is desperately needed. I don't know how many folks are aware that the EMS units that respond to Thruway emergencies had to actually apply to get the money back. They had to pay the tolls and apply to get the money back. We know the burdens that the EMS services all over the State are going through, and certainly that was a burdensome situation for them. But this is only one of seven bills that we have for the EMS to rescue the EMS and their desperate situations, and I don't feel we can wait for any of the six other bills that will be coming forth, but to vote on them during this Session because Lord knows how many EMS units we would lose in the next year or so. So it is my hope that we will be bringing those six more bills as part of the package forward to help our EMS folks.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm in the affirmative.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Eachus in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A07214, Rules Report No. 51, McDonald. An act to amend the Public Health Law, in relation to submission of information to the Department of Health for physician profiles.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

On a motion by Mr. McDonald, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 90th day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08029-C, Rules Report No. 52, Epstein, Fahy, Lucas, Aubry, Seawright, Glick, Kim, Levenberg, Chang, Lee, Sayegh, Raga. An act directing the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the New York City Transit Authority to rename the 23rd Street Subway Station to the 23 St-Baruch College Station; and provides for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Mr. Epstein to explain his vote.

MR. EPSTEIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to explain my vote. So, Baruch College is an icon in our community. It serves 20,000 students, it is the number one school in the country that moves students from lower income to a higher income. It is -- takes people out of poverty and transform their lives. This subway station right at 23rd Street will now co-read Baruch College and 23rd Street Lexington Line. It will give people a marker to know where Baruch is and show its importance to the City community.

I encourage all my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Epstein in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08365-A, Rules Report No. 53, Woerner, McDonald, Angelino, Magnarelli, Gunther, Gray, DeStefano, Lupardo, Paulin, Lunsford, Seawright, Thiele, Jones, Bichotte Hermelyn, Sayegh, Raga. An act to amend the Public Health Law, in relation to establishing a campaign to promote public

awareness of the causes of oral disease and its prevention.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 60th day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Ms. Woerner to explain her vote.

MS. WOERNER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to explain my vote. Good oral care is the foundation for good health throughout your life. One of the challenges we have in New York State is that we have a dearth of dentists in communities across the State. Estimates are that we need 4,000 more dentists practicing in New York, and particularly in communities where there is significant poverty and a lot of Medicaid patients, you don't find a lot of dentists. When you talk to the dentists who do practice in those areas, one of the things they talk about is that because good dental care is not something that people necessarily understand and embrace early on in life, by the time they do make it to a dentist the -- the care is complex and painful and costly. And so this bill to create a public awareness campaign of the causes of oral disease and its prevention to help people know how to care for their teeth from -- and their children's teeth from an early age will hopefully start to turn that around so that by the time someone gets to a dentist it is not as complex, as painful or as costly to treat their -- to treat the problems

they might have in their mouth.

So I appreciate all of your support, and may you all have good dental health.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Woerner --

MS. WOERNER: And with that I vote in the affirmative.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Woerner in the affirmative. Thank you.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to explain my vote. I really do want to appreciate the sponsor of this legislation. You know, some of us, you know, who do our regular dental visits and we dread hearing that drill, we dread even walking into the office, but we understand that it's an important piece of healthcare. There are tons of people that we represent in this State who do not. And it is just so critically important that we help them get a better understanding there. So I really want to honor the sponsor of this piece of legislation, and I hope that it's honored to its full extent and that as many people as possible are reached out to and encouraged to use the services of any dental opportunities that are in their community. I know in Buffalo, the University of Buffalo has an amazing dental school where they're teaching people how to be dentists, but they also offer services in the community. So it's not always something that's prohibited in terms of not having insurance or not having access. The point is that you need to know you need it.

And so I want to thank the sponsor for pushing forward on that one. And I trust that soon there will be other pieces of legislation that would begin to allow parents to have more opportunities to have an impact on ensuring that their children have good dental health.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you. Mrs. Peoples-Stokes in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A09066, Rules Report No. 54, Peoples-Stokes. An act to amend the Local Finance Law, in relation to the sale of municipal obligations by the County of Erie.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Mrs. Peoples-Stokes, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced. Home Rule message is at the desk.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you. To explain my vote. Almost all of our municipalities across the State use open, transparent competitive bidding for the sale of their bonds. And they do that

because first of all, it's the most fair method. It gives everybody an equal opportunity to bid. Second, it's been proven over and over again to give us the best price. And third, it reduces the chance of collusion, collaboration that's inappropriate or fraud or corruption. But we have historically done exceptions to competitive bidding when a municipality is facing an extraordinarily difficult financial situation where an open competitive bid is almost impossible to do it. And in fact, this year in the budget we extended private sale of bonds to the City of Dunkirk in my district because they have a horrific financial situation relating back to the loss of their largest single taxpayer, and we authorized them to do a private sale. Their credit rating, I think, is C-, which is one step above junk bond. We authorized Dun -- Buffalo to do private sales -- I'm sorry, the County of Erie to do private sales when they were under extraordinary fiscal stress in 1996, 28 years ago. And we did it on a temporary basis because of their fiscal stress. But I'm proud to report that the County of Erie has turned their finances around and now have a -- now has a AA- bond rating, a very high bond rating. So this went through on a fast vote as a courtesy to my colleague as a local bill, but conceptually I don't think this should be a permanent situation. I'm voting against it. I know in years past we've had 38 no votes two years ago, 13 last year, but -- and that's the concern we have.

So I'll be voting no because I don't like the concept and I don't think it's needed anymore after 28 years. Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Goodell in the



negative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A09132, Rules Report No. 55, Shimsky. An act to amend Chapter 334 of the Laws of 2012 relating to authorizing the Town of Greenburgh, County of Westchester, to lease certain parklands for tennis uses, in relation to the definition of tennis facilities.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Shimsky, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced. Home Rule message is at the desk.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, do you have any further housekeeping or resolutions?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: We have both. We'll start with housekeeping.

On a motion by Ms. Barrett, page 24, Calendar No. 177, Bill A06253, amendments are received and adopted.

On a motion by Ms. Cruz, page 27, Calendar No. 321, Bill 9117, amendments are received and adopted.

On behalf of Ms. Hyndman, Bill No. A05019, Assembly bill recalled from the Senate. The Clerk will read the title of the bill.

THE CLERK: An act to amend the Banking Law.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Motion to reconsider the vote by which the bill passed the House. The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

The Clerk will announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is before the House and the amendments are received and adopted.

We have a privileged resolution by Mr. Santabarbara, Resolution No. 2205, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 2205, Mr. Santabarbara.

Legislative Resolution mourning the death of John M. Grassia, III, New York State Trooper and Chief Warrant Officer 2 in the New York State [sic] Army National Guard.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Santabarbara on the resolution.

MR. SANTABARBARA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to speak on this resolution honoring the life and service of John M. Grassia, III from my hometown of Rotterdam. Our hearts are heavy as we reflect on John, a true hero who exemplified the essence of service and sacrifice. John was more than just a New York State Trooper and Chief Warrant Officer 2 in the New York Army National Guard. He was a beacon of courage and selflessness in our community. His life was marked by dedication to duty and commitment to serving others. Tragically, his life was cut short while serving on a mission with the National Guard, reminding us of the inherent risks our service members face. Despite the dangers, John never wavered in his commitment to protecting others, displaying courage and resilience in the face of adversity.

Today we honor John for his unwavering dedication to duty, his profound impact on our community and nation. His bravery and selflessness serve as an enduring source of inspiration to all of us. To his family who are joining us here today, we offer our deepest condolences. We are forever grateful for his service and sacrifice. His legacy of kindness, bravery and selflessness will forever be etched in our hearts. As we reflect on John's life, let us not only mourn his passing, but also celebrate the profound impact he had on others around him. Let us remember him for his courage, his dedication, his commitment to serving others. May his memory continue to inspire us to strive for a better world. Let us also celebrate how he made a difference. He showed us what it means to be brave,

dedicated and caring. Let's keep John's memory alive by embodying those same values.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

May we rise.

On this resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye. And in a moment of silence.

(Whereupon, a moment of silence was observed.)

Our blessings and prayers go with this family. Thank you for joining us.

(Applause)

The resolution is adopted.

Resolution No. 2206, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 2206, Mr. McDonald.

Legislative Resolution mourning the death of Casey Frankoski, Chief Warrant Officer 2 in the New York Army National Guard.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. McDonald on the resolution.

MR. MCDONALD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 8th of this year we said goodbye to a true hero, Casey Frankoski of Rensselaer, who along with Mr. Grassia were serving our country. Born on April 11, 1995, Casey was raised in East Greenbush before settling in Rensselaer. Casey is survived by her parents, James

and Jill; her grandfather, Raymond; her brothers, Jesse and Tyler; her sisters-in-law, Lindsey and Autumn; many nieces and nephews, many aunts and uncles, many great friends; her soulmate, Anthony; and many loved ones. Casey epitomized courage and determination. As she bravely served our country, enlisting in the Army National Guard in 2016, rapidly rising to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 2 and training as a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot, her commitment knew no bounds. From Kuwait to Texas, Casey's service was marked by valor and dedication, earning her numerous honors and accolades.

Beyond her military service, Casey's life was a tapestry of compassion and adventure. From her days as a volunteer firefighter to her love for the outdoors, she touched countless lives with her warmth and her kindness. Whether she was guiding Girl Scouts through the intricacies of aviation or cheering on her favorite country artists from that VIP section, Casey's enthusiasm was contagious.

The Frankoski and Nardacci families, which is where Casey's family comes from, are very strong pillars of the community in Rensselaer. And I remember when we received Casey's body at the airport back in March, I was talking to her Uncle Tommy, who she worked with for a summer in a communications firm, and she was great. He loved it. He said, *Casey, stay with me. I'll give you a job.* She goes, *No, Uncle Tom, I love to fly, I love my country. I want to do my service.* So she leaves behind a cherished network of relatives, friends and beloved pets. Though she may be gone from our sight,

Casey -- Casey's spirit will continue to inspire all of us, guiding us with her light and reminding us of the profound impact one person can make.

Today, colleagues, as we honor Casey's memory, let us carry forward her legacy of compassion, bravery and joy. Rest in peace, Casey. You will be missed but never forgotten.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Again, may we stand.

A moment of silence.

(Whereupon, a moment of silence was observed.)

On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; the resolution is adopted.

We have number other resolutions which we will take up with one vote.

On these resolutions, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolutions are adopted.

(Whereupon, Assembly Resolution Nos. 2207-2209 were unanimously approved.)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: I now move that the Assembly stand adjourned until Friday, May the 16th, tomorrow being a legislative day, and that we reconvene at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, May the 20th being a Session day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Assembly stands adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 12:25 p.m., the House stood adjourned until Friday, May 16th, that being a legislative day, and to reconvene on Monday, May 20th at 2:00 p.m., that being a Session day.)