TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025 2:54 P.M.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The House will come to order. Good afternoon, colleagues.

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 Hunter led visitors and members in the Pledge of Allegiance.)

A quorum being present, the Clerk will read the Journal of Monday, January 20th.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Madam Speaker, I move

to dispense with the further reading of the Journal of Monday, January the 20th and that the same stand approved.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Without objection, so ordered.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, ma'am. I want to begin our Session today with a quote from the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King whom we all just celebrated yesterday with a lot of reverence. His words for us today, *By making [sic] a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in.* Again, these words were said by Dr. King in 1959.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, members have on their desks a main Calendar. Our first order of business for today will be taking up a resolution that honors the life and the achievements of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We're also gonna be calling for the following committees off the floor: Education, Tourism and Health will be all called off the floor today. We will -- are gonna start our floor work by taking up Calendar resolutions which are on page 3. We will then begin to consent 29 new bills that were added to our Calendar last week, starting with Rules Report No. 6, it's on page 4. Majority members should be aware that there will be a need for a conference immediately following our floor work today. And as always, Madam Speaker, we'll consult with our colleagues on the

other side of the aisle to determine what their needs may be. There may be a further need for floor announcements, but right now, Madam Speaker, this where we're at, this is our general spot. So if you have any housekeeping and/or introductions, now would be an appropriate time.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you, Mrs. Peoples-Stokes. We have no introductions and no housekeeping today.

Resolution No. 28, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 28, Mr. Heastie.

Legislative Resolution commemorating the observance of the 40th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the State of New York on January 20, 2025.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mrs. Peoples-Stokes on the resolution.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to commend the Speaker for again putting in this resolution honoring the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King. As was mentioned, yesterday was Dr. King's day of not off, but a day of honor, a day of service. And across this nation all 50 states celebrated that holiday. But just from -- for a historical perspective, Madam Speaker, I would like to share the fact that this became a holiday in 1983 after it was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. Initially there were only, I want to say, three states that agreed to

accept it as a statewide holiday as well, and those states were Illinois, Kentucky and Massachusetts. Eventually all 50 states, as I mentioned, joined the movement to celebrate this hero in our community in our lifetime, and all 50 states do it. And so I think it's a -- a great position for New York State to be in to join the rest of the country in celebrating Dr. King.

I will also say this because a few people, particularly my constituents, challenged me on why we will be celebrating Dr. King's day the same day as the inauguration of our new President, Number 47. I said, it's real simple; according to the law that was passed in 1983 and signed by Ronald Reagan, the first observance of this happened in 1986. But it would have to happen on January the 20th of every year. Or that's the first Monday after his birthday -- third Monday after his birthday. And so this is what the law says. This -- this day, it has to be -- has to happen. And at the same time in 1933, based on the 20th Amendment, Americans decided that the President would have to be installed the third Monday after the last election in January. That would be the 20th. If that Monday had happened to be a 21st, then it would have worked for the inauguration according to the law, but it wouldn't have worked for Dr. King's celebration. So there's a reason why these two things happened at the same time. Now, I don't know what that reason is because, you know, one of these gentlemen really fought to put things in place for equal rights, fairness and justice. And the other gentleman has already told us that some of these things are not right and they have to be changed.

So we celebrated them both on the same day. I think that's iconic, it's ironic and there's some purpose to it, and I'm grateful that we have had this opportunity to do so.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Anderson on the resolution.

MR. ANDERSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to briefly speak on this important resolution this afternoon as we honor and commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. There's a quote that Dr. -- Dr. King said that is one of the quotes that folks really may or may not know that came from him. And the quote reads, *No one really knows why they're alive until they know what they've died [sic] for*. And as I was traversing my district over King weekend, this was a quote that stood out to me as well as a quote that I worked with our partners at the BPHA Caucus to bring out. And why this quote? *No one really knows why they are [sic] alive until they know what they died [sic] for* understands, right, that we all have a charge and a purpose and a commitment. And when we're thinking about the charge, the purpose and commitment of Dr. King for civil rights here in this State and across our 50 states and across our world, we understand that -- the blueprint that he left for us. We understand the revolutionary message that he had at the time to ensure, one, that we integrated, but, two, we gave human and civil rights to African Americans and those many broader communities to ensure that their voices were heard, but also to ensure that they were looked at as the

same.

I also want to acknowledge that as we are still in troubling times across our country as it relates to our justice and criminal legal system, that it's important to acknowledge that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere, and that in this moment we are calling for justice for Robert Brooks who was brutally murdered a few weeks ago. Why is that important? How does that relate to Dr. King? Dr. King fought for prison reform. Dr. King fought for civil rights. Dr. King fought for criminal legal reforms. And towards the end of his life he fought against poverty and he fought to ensure that we had economic justice and freedom for our communities. So let's understand in its -- in his full context the life that Dr. King lived and how important it is for us to commemorate it.

Madam Speaker, I withdraw my request. Thank you so much.

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

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Madam Speaker, could we call the Education Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room, and immediately after that go to page 3 on our Calendar?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Education Committee in the Speaker's Conference Room.

Mr. Blumencranz for an introduction.

MR. BLUMENCRANZ: Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. I'd like to introduce a colleague -- a -- a constituent of mine and her colleagues from across Long Island, Miss Jeanne Abatelli, as well as many other business owners and advocates who are here today to make sure that the voices of individuals in her industry and all over New York are heard here in Albany and across our State. So thank you so much, Jeanne, and to the many others who are here today fighting to make sure that we do the right thing by our small businesses here in New York and by all New Yorkers.

So thank you so very much, Miss [sic] Speaker. Would you give her the cordialities of the floor?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you, Mr. Blumencranz. On behalf of Member Blumencranz, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome Miss Abatelli and our small business owners here to the Chamber, extend the privileges of the floor, and hope you enjoy the proceedings. Thank you for joining us today.

(Applause)

Resolutions, page 3, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 24, Mr. Magnarelli.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 20-27, 2025 as National Passenger Safety Week in the State of New York.

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

adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 25, Mr. Epstein.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 2025 as Mentoring Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Mentoring Month.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 26, Ms. Woerner.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 2025 as Stalking Awareness Month in the State of New York.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 27, Ms. Lupardo.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 2025 as Radon Awareness Month in the State of New York.

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

adopted.

On consent, page 4, Rules Report No. 6, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00414, Rules Report No. 6, Lupardo. An act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law, in relation to types of New York grown, produced or harvested milk products included in the definition of surplus agricultural products for the purposes of the Nourish New York program.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: 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. A00417, Rules Report No. 7, Lupardo. An act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law, in relation to expanding the definition of crops, livestock and livestock products to include cannabis; and amends a chapter of the Laws of 2024 amending the Agriculture and Markets Law relating to expanding the definition of crops, livestock and livestock products to include cannabis, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.1752 and A.1234, in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Ms. Walsh to explain her vote.

MS. WALSH: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Good afternoon to my colleagues. So, this chapter amendment clarifies that only legally-cultivated cannabis is entitled to get an ag assessment. When we voted on the underlying legislation there were some no votes, and -- and it may be those people who disagree with the whole concept of legalized cannabis. But I will be supporting this chapter because I do think it is an important clarification to make that only legally-cultivated cannabis is going to get the ag assessment, but some of my colleagues may feel differently.

But thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you. Ms. Walsh in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes -- the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00421, Rules Report No. 8, Anderson. An act to amend the Banking Law, in relation to

including establishing a branch in a banking development district as a factor indicating that a banking institution is helping to meet the credit needs of its entire community for purposes of assessing such banking institution's performance; and to repeal certain provisions of such law relating thereto.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Ms. Walsh to explain her vote.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, this bill is another chapter amendment, one of a series of chapter amendments. This time it would amend the original bill by repealing mandatory consideration of a banking institution's participation in the Banking Development District program, and instead add it as a factor to the list of factors that the superintendent may consider if in his or her judgment it reasonably bears upon the extent to which an institution is helping to meet the credit needs of an entire community. So although on the original bill taken up last year there were a significant number of no votes, the chapter, I believe, addresses many of the concerns that we had last year with the bill. The New York Bankers Association has withdrawn their objection to the bill because of the chapter.

And so I will be supporting this legislation and I thank the Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you. Ms. Walsh in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Madam Speaker, would you please call the Tourism Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you. Tourism Committee in the Speaker's Conference Room.

The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00439, Rules Report No. 9, Solages. An act to amend the General Business Law, in relation to removing dealers of ammunition from certain provisions regarding the use of certain merchant category codes by payment card networks.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00440, Rules Report No. 10, De Los Santos. An act to amend the General Business Law, in relation to the development of safety resources, information and protocols for lithium-ion batteries.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

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

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Mr. De Los Santos to explain his vote.

MR. DE LOS SANTOS: Thank you, Mr. [sic] Speaker. I want to thank you for your ongoing commitment to continue to protect family throughout New York State as we include in this amendment that passed last year, the addition to include mopeds that will continue to provide safety to families and those children that have been affected throughout the City of New York by the (inaudible) fires.

Thank you for this incredible piece of legislation.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you. Mr. De Los Santos in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00518, Rules Report No. 11, González-Rojas. An act to amend the Executive Law, in relation to the collection of certain demographic information by certain State agencies, boards, departments and commissions, and to

amend a chapter of the Laws of 2024 amending the Executive Law relating to the collection of certain demographic information by certain State agencies, boards, departments and commissions, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.6584-C and A.6219-B, in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect --

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: This bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00692, Rules Report No. 12, Rosenthal. An act to amend the Public Health Law, in relation to making technical changes to certain provisions of such law; and to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2024 amending the Public Health Law relating to requiring that functional epinephrine auto-injector devices be made available in places of public assembly and that at least one employee or volunteer of such place of public assembly be trained in its proper operation and use and be present at such facility function, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.1078-A and A.2885-A, in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: 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. A00751, Rules Report No. 13, Eachus. An act to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2024 amending the General Business Law relating to requiring charging cords for micromobility devices, mopeds, and bicycles with electric assist to have a red tag attached, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.7760-A and A.8102-A, in relation to charging cords on limited-use motorcycles.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: 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: Madam Speaker, if you would please call the Health Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room. The Health Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you. Anyone on the Health Committee, Speaker's Conference Room immediately.

The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00843, Rules Report No. 14, Bores. An act to amend the General Business Law, in relation to violations of provisions prohibiting third-party restaurant reservation services from arranging unauthorized restaurant reservations with food service establishments.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

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

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: 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. A00914, Rules Report No. 15, Clark. An act to amend the Public Health Law, in relation to requiring the Department of Health to evaluate and make recommendations related to maternal health care and birthing best practices; to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2024 requiring the Department of Health to convene a maternal health care and birthing

standards workgroup, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.7702-A and A.8207-A, in relation to the effectiveness thereof; and to repeal Section 1 of such chapter.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Ms. Walsh to explain her vote.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, this chapter amendment makes changes to a bill that we passed last year unanimously. And the reason I'm speaking on this one is that I am really unhappy with the changes that are being made in the chapter. I would have preferred the original bill that my colleague put forward. What this chapter is doing is instead of convening a workgroup on maternal health care and birthing standards and actually having that workgroup meet, develop recommendations and best practices and then communicate it back to the Legislature and also the Governor, what the Governor's chapter says is instead of doing it that way there's not gonna be a workgroup, that the Commissioner of Health will just -- is authorized to evaluate and make recommendations. But it basically cuts the Legislature out of it in terms of reporting back from a workgroup. So I think it weakens what the sponsor was originally trying to do.

I will support the chapter because I think it needs to -- we need to make progress in this area, but I -- it's just one more example of where I really think that sometimes chapters kind of eviscerate the intent of the -- of the bill. So I'll vote in the affirmative but with -- with disappointment, I guess. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you. Ms. Walsh in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

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

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: We have no housekeeping. We have a number of resolutions we will take up with one vote.

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

(Whereupon, Assembly Resolution Nos. 24-27 were unanimously adopted.)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Madam Speaker, would you please call on Ms. Clark for the purposes of an announcement?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Ms. Clark for the purposes of an announcement.

MS. CLARK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have the exciting news to call conference for the Majority Conference after Session. We will be in the Speaker's Conference Room. Please be there. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you. Majority Conference in the Speaker's Conference Room.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: I now move that the Assembly stand adjourned and that we reconvene at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, January the 22nd, tomorrow being a Session day.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On Mrs. Peoples-Stokes' motion, the House stand adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 3:55 p.m., the House stood adjourned until Wednesday, January 22nd at 1:00 p.m., that being a Session day.)