

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025

10:41 A.M.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The House will come to order. Good morning, 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 Tuesday, February 11th.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Madam Speaker, I move

to dispense with the further reading of the Journal of Tuesday, February the 11th and that the same stand approved.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Without objection, so ordered.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Madam Speaker and colleagues, for -- in the Chambers, those in and around the Capitol, I know they're -- we're all over the place getting the work of the people done. But these words I want to share with you. It's just a follow-up to Mr. Deruso's [sic] resolution that he did on yesterday, and it says, Love and kindness are never wasted. They are always -- they always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless the one who gives [sic]. These -- these words are from Barbara Degelis [sic], who is an American TV personality and a relationship specialist.

Madam Speaker, members do have on their desks a main Calendar, and after you have done any housekeeping and/or introductions we are going to begin our floor work by taking up Calendar resolutions on page 3. We will then take up the following bills on debate: Rules Report No. 28 -- 38, my apology, Rules Report No. 38 by Mr. Otis, and Rules Report No. 55 by Ms. Shimsky. We will also consent four new bills to the Calendar, beginning with Rules Report No. 97 on page 7. If there is a need for further floor activity today, Madam Speaker, we will advise at that time.

That's a general outline of where we're at. If you can

begin with your housekeeping and your operations, very much appreciate it. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you. We have no housekeeping this morning and we have a few introductions.

Mr. Colton for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. COLTON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to introduce today a few members who are visiting us from a mosque that is very prominent in my district. We have Imam Hafiz Maaz Ali -- and if they can stand -- and Chaplain Muawaz Ali. Hafiz is a title which indicates somebody who has memorized the Holy Quran and can recite it from memory, and both of them are members of the Iqra Masjid in my district in Brooklyn. They have been very active in the neighborhood, working to bring together peace and understanding among people and to unite interfaith communities, setting an example by serving those in need without discrimination of race, color or faith. They have actually, during COVID, set up many food distributions and -- which were open to all, and even after COVID they have continued those food distributions. We thank Imam Maaz and Chaplain Muawaz. Accompanying them also are Ahmed Usman Habib and Shahla Gul, who are visiting here and staying in the district in Brooklyn. And I ask that you extend your warm welcome and the privileges of the House to these distinguished visitors from my district.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

On behalf of Mr. Colton, the Speaker and all the

members, we welcome you to the Chamber, extend the privileges of the floor and hope you enjoy the proceedings today. Thank you so very much for joining us.

(Applause)

Ms. Kassay for the purposes of an introduction.

MS. KASSAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am very proud to introduce two members of the SUNY Student Assembly who are here in the Capitol today, along with 100 fellow Student Assembly members from SUNY campuses throughout the great State of New York. The SUNY Student Assembly meets throughout the year to serve as the official Statewide SUNY student governance organization, representing the over 1.3 million students across our SUNY system. We are -- here with us now are Luca Rallis and Stella -- Sarah Elbaroudy, who serve as shared governance leaders at Stony Brook University. They play key roles in representing student interests and advocating for the policies and initiatives that benefit the student bodies.

Having served on the SUNY New Paltz Student Senate myself, I ask my colleagues to join me in hearing and celebrating the voices of these student representatives, as I have no doubt that we will be welcoming them as well as the other SUNY Student Assembly members to our Chambers as our colleagues in the future.

Madam Speaker, please welcome these distinguished guests to the Chambers and extend to them the cordialities of the

House.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

On behalf of Ms. Kassay, the Speaker and all the members, welcome, young people from SUNY. We welcome you to the Chamber, extend the privileges of the floor. Hope you enjoy our proceedings today. Thank you so very much for joining us.

(Applause)

Mr. Gray for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. GRAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is my pleasure to introduce a couple of guests that are with us today. First is Corey Fram. He's from the wonderful Thousand Islands in the 116th Assembly District. As you know, tourism is one of our major industries in New York State, and Corey does a phenomenal job in terms of representing tourism and representing the Thousand Islands. We also have with us Emily Simmons, who comes from Carrie Woerner's district, Assemblywoman -- Assemblywoman Woerner's district, and she is with Campground Owners of New York.

And so we'd like to welcome them to the Chamber and offer them the cordiality of the floor.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

On behalf of Mr. Gray, Ms. Woerner, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you to the Chamber, extend the privileges of the floor and hope you enjoy our proceedings today. Thank you so very much for joining us.

(Applause)

Resolutions, page 3, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 107, Mr. Eachus.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 15, 2025 as National School Resource Officer Appreciation Day in the State of New York.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 108, Mr. McDonald.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 28, 2025 as Rare Disease Day 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. 109, Mr. Raga.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 20, 2025 as a Day of Social Justice 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.

Page 4, Rules Report No. 38, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00433, Rules Report No. 38, Otis, Santabarbara. An act to amend the State Technology Law and the Civil Service Law, in relation to the disclosure of automated employment decision-making tools and maintaining an artificial intelligence inventory; to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2024 amending the State Technology Law relating to automated decision-making by State agencies, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.7543-B and A.9430-B, in relation to the effectiveness thereof; to repeal Sections 1 and 3 of a chapter of the Laws of 2024 amending the State Technology Law relating to automated decision-making by State agencies, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.7543-B and A.9430-B, in relation to the short title and disclosure; to repeal Sections 403 and 404 of the State Technology Law relating to impact assessments and submission of certain reports; and providing for the repeal of certain provisions upon expiration thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On a motion by Mr. Otis, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced.

An explanation has been requested, Mr. Otis.

MR. OTIS: Thank you. This legislation is a chapter amendment to a bill that we passed last year and that was signed by the Governor to institute some transparency related to the use of AI by State agencies. What the chapter amendment does is this will cover AI used in employment-making decisions by State agencies. It will

provide the Office of Information Technology Services with the responsibility of posting the -- an inventory of all of the AI tools that are used for this purpose. The ITS will provide guidance to State agencies on how to provide information for that inventory, and the public will be made aware, number one, on State websites when AI is used for these purposes, and access to the inventory will be available on State websites as well.

MS. WALSH: Thank you very much. Will the sponsor yield for just a few questions?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MR. OTIS: Of course.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MS. WALSH: Thank you very much. So, I know that in the past the -- has the State in the past used things like Indeed or anything like that for -- to -- to try to get people to apply for work with -- with the State?

MR. OTIS: I really don't have a list of the tools they've used. The important thing here and with this legislation, the first in the nation where by statute we are requiring State agencies to provide transparency for these activities. So that's a question we can ask ITS. They haven't done the inventory yet since the law is not in -- in effect yet, but I would say more broadly that we are doing this for State agencies. But as I often say as Chair of the Science and Technology Committee, to private sector groups that come in that

using AI, leaving aside whether there's Federal or State regulation at all, if you're using an AI tool you should know what you're using. You should understand how it works, you should give that the kind of scrutiny to make sure that you are aware of the implications and functionality of the tool that you'd be using. And so this is a step in the right direction to have the State do that and provide transparency to the public what they're using.

MS. WALSH: And you mentioned that this is the first in the nation. Is there -- so you weren't able to rely upon what any other state was doing in order to develop it. So what -- how -- how was this original legislation developed and then how were the change -- how were the changes made in the chapter thought up and put in?

MR. OTIS: So, there is -- is AI legislation floating around in other state legislatures around the country and some legislation in Washington. Most of those have not passed. But this is the first passed specifically related to State agency use of AI. And so other states are sort of dabbling in the area of AI use in the private sector and -- and that's something we're gonna have to continue to look at. But we've looked at what other states are looking at in terms of drafting and language, and these changes were through chapter amendment negotiations with the Executive branch.

MS. WALSH: And what were the primary concerns about State agency use of AI in making employment decisions?

MR. OTIS: Well, I -- I think just generically, the

public needs to know when AI is being used. State agencies should be providing some level of introspection about what they're using, how it works, is it accurate, is it discriminatory. These are things that we should not be just defaulting on; you're going to buy an AI tool and just assume it does everything and you don't have to think about it. We're gonna want some analysis, and the inventory will allow the public to say, *Oh, you're using this*. You should know that there are faults in that -- that system or that methodology. And State agencies already -- under the -- the Governor policies already has some protocols for responsible AI use by State agencies that were not statutory, but they're in play and that the Governor and her team have been forward-thinking about these issues as well.

MS. WALSH: So now they'll be statutory, and there'll also have to be the transparency where they'll have to disclose it on any agency website that this is something that they're -- that they are utilizing.

MR. OTIS: So, State agencies would disclose on their website when -- where they're using it. The inventory would be provided through the work of ITS on their website.

MS. WALSH: Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Otis. I appreciate it.

MR. OTIS: Thank you.

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.)

Mr. Blumencranz to explain his vote.

MR. BLUMENCRANZ: Thank you, Madam Speaker. On the -- sorry, to explain my vote. This bill made substantial improvements from the first round of what we saw last year and after our debate and productive conversations with the sponsor. I appreciate the new language within the bill. While there has been substantial changes, I still think it's important that we work collabor -- collaboratively to see the clarity and language when it's so important as we enter this technological revolution and the use of technology in improving government and efficiency.

Thank you, and on the bill I'll be in favor.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Blumencranz in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? The Clerk will announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Page 6, Rules Report No. 55, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Senate No. S00759, Rules Report No. 55, Senator Harckham (A01679, Shimsky). An act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law, in relation to expanding the Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling program; and to amend a

chapter of the Laws of 2024 amending the Environmental Conservation Law relating to expanding the Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling program, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.5331-A and A.5906-A, in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: An explanation has been requested, Ms. Shimsky.

MS. SHIMSKY: Okay. This bill is a chapter amendment which would delay by one year the expansion of the Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling program as enacted by Chapter 552 of the Laws of 2024. Specifically, it would delay until January of 2027 the inclusion of businesses with one ton of food scraps per week; delay until January of 2029 the inclusion of businesses with half a ton of food scraps per week; and delay until January of 2027 the 50-mile distance rule for food scraps recycling.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Would the bill sponsor yield?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MS. SHIMSKY: Sure.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MR. SIMPSON: So, other than the changes that you just cited, were there any other changes in this bill other --

MS. SHIMSKY: No.

MR. SIMPSON: Were there any changes from -- by

DEC and the methodology used to calculate the amount of waste?

MS. SHIMSKY: No.

MR. SIMPSON: So, it's still --

MS. SHIMSKY: Only the numbers changed. Only the dates changed, that was it.

MR. SIMPSON: Okay. Could you tell me how many new facilities -- first of all, how many facilities are there now currently in New York that accept composting material?

MS. SHIMSKY: Forty-four.

MR. SIMPSON: And that was last year's number.

MS. SHIMSKY: Yes, that's correct.

MR. SIMPSON: It's the same currently?

MS. SHIMSKY: Well, it's fairly early in the year.

MR. SIMPSON: So there hasn't been any improvement in the accessibility to composting facilities?

MS. SHIMSKY: We're -- we don't have an updated measurement at this point.

MR. SIMPSON: Are you aware of any programs that have been designed by DEC to encourage small businesses or offset the cost in implementing, planning, figuring out how they're gonna comply with this law?

MS. SHIMSKY: There -- there is funding from EPF to help educate businesses and to move forward with compliance, yes.

MR. SIMPSON: Has that money actually gotten out the door and produced any results?

MS. SHIMSKY: Yes.

MR. SIMPSON: So in new facilities or new -- it's actually going to the businesses to help offset any costs in planning?

MS. SHIMSKY: It's available to businesses. It's going toward education.

MR. SIMPSON: Okay. Do we have any data on how many people are currently taking advantage of the composting facilities that are available that are captured under the -- the current law?

MS. SHIMSKY: Um, hold -- hold on. I believe we do. Five hundred ninety-four.

MR. SIMPSON: For the entire State?

MS. SHIMSKY: Yes.

MR. SIMPSON: Okay. And we presumably would know how many tons of composting material, we would have all that data?

MS. SHIMSKY: Well, under the methodology we could do the math. I can't do it in my head right now, but we do have the math.

MR. SIMPSON: I'm just trying to get more familiar with the program and where New York State has gone as far as their planning to accommodate this law. You know, in my district there's a big push for composting. I think we all support it, but one of the issues is the lack of accessibility to a composting facility. And I think, you know, the Governor stated her concerns with this. And, you

know, for me to support this law I would like to know, you know, what progressive things are we doing so that our small businesses and food generators or waste generators can comply with this law.

Because we know when a law is passed, if there isn't a good sustainable program there's failure and we have the opposite result.

MS. SHIMSKY: Well, that's why we're giving the extra year to make extra sure that we have what we need in place. In other states which have moved further along than we have, my understanding is that it's a combination of public and private entities that step in and make sure the composting is done.

MR. SIMPSON: Okay. Just check to see if I hit all my questions. I think I've hit my questions.

MS. SHIMSKY: Okay, thank you. And the one thing I would say is if the concern is that we're not far enough along, voting for a one-year extension would probably be a good idea, but that's just me.

MR. SIMPSON: I'd like to go on the bill, please.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On the bill.

MR. SIMPSON: Again, we have a -- a well-meaning, well-intentioned piece of legislation, a chapter amendment and, you know, where the Governor rightly calls out the ability for people to comply with this law. I'm not so sure that even a year and the extensions in this chapter will make this any better, any easier for our restaurants and our food generators to comply. I think we -- it's incumbent on us, as the Legislature, to ensure that our

agencies have done the legwork, have done the planning, made the investment on behalf of the taxpayers so that the intended results are actually seen. And far too often in this Chamber we pass laws that are preemptive, lacking of any planning, any engineering, any real thoughtful process into how we're gonna make this easy. And we've seen in other garbage situations -- take for instance the TVs and the electronics. When that first came out and people were faced with the cost of bringing back their TV, where did we find those TVs? On the back roads, in ravines, and we had a real problem in a lot of our rural communities. And this law will force businesses in rural communities that don't have access within the 50 miles or 25 miles, it's gonna force them to make tough decisions and it's gonna impact their bottom line at a time when we know that businesses are already struggling in New York. Every New Yorker is struggling with affordability. The last thing we should be doing is passing a scrappy, crappy law.

So I vote no and I encourage my colleagues here in the Chamber to take a pause. Let's not pass this law right now, let's just take a break and work on a program that works. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Gandolfo.

MR. GANDOLFO: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Will the sponsor please yield for a couple of more questions?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MS. SHIMSKY: Sure.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MR. GANDOLFO: Thank you. So, I have a couple of questions on the donations of the edible food. Is there a procedure to ensure that the edible food being donated is safe to eat and not contaminated or expired?

MS. SHIMSKY: This bill does not address that. There are other public health and other regulations that do.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. Now, in that vein, is there any risk to a business that donates these foods, the edible food, and but by the time it gets to its final location something -- someone gets sick, something's not correct, are they shielded at all from any liability?

MS. SHIMSKY: This bill strictly deals with the date of implementation, so that's not -- this bill -- that's not relevant to this bill.

MR. GANDOLFO: Well, I mean, it's -- it delays it by a year, so I guess they would have more time to get ready. My question was within that one-year time frame, do we expect any regulations coming from DEC or anything like that, any -- anything promulgated to address an issue like that? Because I know DEC is given -- they're supposed to get the reports on this every year. Do they have any regulatory authority to promulgate additional guidelines on this?

MS. SHIMSKY: I don't have a crystal ball as to what DEC might regulate, but again, this basically deals with the one-year extension of the implementation.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. And the one-year extension, you believe that's enough time for some of these smaller restaurants to be able to get into compliance and execute this properly?

MS. SHIMSKY: I should think it -- I should think it will. What we're seeing in other states is it doesn't take -- it does not take vast amounts of time to get this done.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. And the one-year delay, was that something that was requested by the industry, by any of their trade associations?

MS. SHIMSKY: It was -- it was negotiated with the Governor's office.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. But so, was -- it's not something that the industry -- was negotiated by the industry or by the Legislature?

MS. SHIMSKY: It was -- it was negotiated by the two political branches of government, the Legislature and the Governor's office.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. Because one -- one of the concerns that I have even with the one year delay, a lot of businesses feel like there are going to be additional costs imposed on them. It's -- it's kind of difficult. So with the year delay now, what -- what's a reasonable cost that small businesses, restaurants, should expect to incur complying with this?

MS. SHIMSKY: Okay, the answer is still the same

but if it's helpful, we did not get any memos of opposition to this bill.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. Okay, thank you. Thank you to the sponsor.

Madam Speaker, on the bill briefly.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On the bill.

MR. GANDOLFO: It -- it's a good thing that we're delaying the -- the enactment of this program by a year. I think it will give businesses more time to comply, but the underlying issue still remains that it is burdensome on a lot of small businesses. I know the industry has taken some issue with it because they were already preparing for a different kind of program. And now even with the one-year delay, all the time and effort and money they put into their original plans is now kind of null and void. So, again, it's great to give them one more year, but I -- I still think the underlying program here misses the mark.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Durso.

MR. DURSO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Would the sponsor yield for a couple of questions?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MS. SHIMSKY: Yes.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MR. DURSO: Thank you, ma'am. Just to follow up,

you said currently there's 44 recycling facilities now that are taking food scraps?

MS. SHIMSKY: Yes.

MR. DURSO: Okay. And you said 594 restaurants currently are involved in the program, are using the program?

MS. SHIMSKY: Correct.

MR. DURSO: Okay. So the implementation of -- for this amendment, excuse me, is pushing it -- the implementation back a year?

MS. SHIMSKY: Correct.

MR. DURSO: What is the -- the reason that it's being pushed back a year? I know we're talking about, but the reason why it's pushed back a year, right, is to give restaurants more time to implement this, correct? And --

MS. SHIMSKY: Yes.

MR. DURSO: -- for more facilities to open also, correct?

MS. SHIMSKY: Yes.

MR. DURSO: Okay. How many facilities do we -- do we think will be open within a year's time?

MS. SHIMSKY: Well, that's not a yes -- that's not a simple question because depending on the size of the facilities, the locations of the facilities, that number can differ.

MR. DURSO: Okay. But -- but does DEC and the State have a idea of maybe how many -- I mean, there's only 44 now,

right, so if -- if we're pushing this back a year to give restaurants more time to implement it, wouldn't we also be hoping that in that time frame, more facilities would be able to open up so that the restaurants can comply with the law that's being put in place?

MS. SHIMSKY: One would think, but again, in terms of timing, supply and demand curves are kind of a wiggly thing.

MR. DURSO: So -- so we have -- we -- we have no clue, really, how many facilities we think could be open within the next year. Do we know of any plans of other facilities being opened, where they are, do they fall within the distance that is required in this law?

MS. SHIMSKY: Well, under the laws of economics, if you wanted to open a business to take these materials, presumably that's where you'd opened them. I mean, we have to trust the free market to a certain degree.

MR. DURSO: So -- so we have no idea of how many more facilities would be opened within the next year.

MS. SHIMSKY: The answer is still no.

MR. DURSO: Okay.

MS. SHIMSKY: And we don't -- there's no simple answers as to how many we'd need, either.

MR. DURSO: Okay. So this being pushed back a year, there's 44 facilities. Did the distance -- the distance portion of this law change in the amendment at all?

MS. SHIMSKY: No.

MR. DURSO: No. So it's just literally the timeline.

MS. SHIMSKY: Correct.

MR. DURSO: Okay. Thank you, ma'am, I appreciate it.

MS. SHIMSKY: Thank you.

MR. DURSO: On the bill, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On the bill.

MR. DURSO: So, again, I agree with everybody, I think the program itself and the idea of the program is good, and I appreciate it being pushed back another year to implement it. But again, we're implementing a program that not every restaurant or facility is going to be able to take part in, whether it be distance or costs to the small business. And the State itself is not set up with the proper facilities at this time that can take in the food scraps and do what is necessary.

So again, I -- I feel this bill misses the mark. I appreciate the sponsor taking the questions, and I appreciate the bill pushing the timeline back, but again, I just don't see how the State's gonna implement this. So I will be a no on this. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Chang.

MR. CHANG: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Would the sponsor yield?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor

yield?

MS. SHIMSKY: Yes.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MR. CHANG: Thank you for introducing this bill.

There is waste, overall. But does the bill includes [sic] collection of public school for breakfast or lunch? They -- they use quite a bit of waste on -- on the food. Does it include those food scraps from public school?

MS. SHIMSKY: This bill only deals with the date of implementation.

MR. CHANG: Okay.

On the bill, ma'am.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On the bill.

MR. CHANG: Certainly. It's great for this bill to -- to preserve to -- to recycle food, but also from my personal observation and experience going to public school, there's tremendous amount of food waste going on, and unfortunately, the school policy are those food -- they have to destroy the food, destroy it. And many kids -- as we -- as Body Legislature, we -- we agree on providing free lunch and free breakfast to all students, which I do support that. But some -- most kids do not eat those school lunches, and whatever the reason are, and that's another source of scrap food that we can collect instead of completely destroyed [sic] by -- by the school policy.

So in [sic] this bill I will support that. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last

section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: A Party vote has been requested.

Ms. Walsh.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Minority will generally be in the negative on this chapter amendment. But if members do wish to vote in the affirmative they may do so at their desks. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Majority vote is generally gonna be in favor of this bill that works in the favor of people all across the aisles, so I'm hoping that people will stay on line and be with us on this one, and that is to vote yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Ms. Walsh to explain her vote.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. So, I think that the -- the idea of recycling food scraps is a good one. We know that there's a lot of waste. But I think actually one of the former speakers raised a very interesting point about our schools and the waste that may be going on in our schools. I think, you know, one of

the things that I've noticed over the last few years, whether we're talking about, you know, EV mandates or things like that, we're -- where a lot of times we're requiring either private business or in that case, schools, to go ahead of our State agencies. And I think it would be really interesting if we really did want to take a lead as a state, to have our State agencies go first or have our schools in this case with food scraps go first rather than putting this on private business and restaurants to have to comply initially. So I -- I just -- I -- I think that the overall idea of reducing waste is a good one, it's a laudable one. I just don't think that this bill quite -- and the program that it creates is quite right yet.

So for that reason I, along with many of my colleagues, will be in the negative. Thank you.

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

Mr. Yeger to explain his vote.

MR. YEGER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I apologize for the confusion on the button. I -- I generally believe that -- that the gentlewoman who spoke heretofore about the mandates that we put on private businesses that we are not willing to accept on ourselves, on the government agencies, is an incredibly good point. And it's a battle that I faced consistently in the City Council where I came from. What we have today is a vote to delay implementation of a law that we may not like, and I'll take that any day that I can get it. If we have a bad law and we get a chance to maybe revisit this, I think

we should revisit it in the future. Putting mandates on businesses without the support of government to be willing to put its money where its mouth is, I think is bad practice. It hurts businesses, it hurts the private sector, and the cost is ultimately borne by us as consumers because we are the ones who are gonna have to pay for the added cost that we're imposing on businesses. I would vote no if it were to -- if this was a question to impose this, but what we're doing today is the opportunity to extend the implementation and I really do hope we have a chance in this Body to revisit whether this was a wise thing to do in the first place.

So on that I vote aye. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Yeger in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? The Clerk will announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

On consent, page 7, Rules Report No. 97, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00429, Rules Report No. 97, Jackson. An act to amend the Real Property Law, in relation to notice to certain tenants of a bed bug infestation in residential rental premises.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On a motion by Ms. Jackson, 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 30th day.

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 several, I think, very important changes to the original bill that was passed last year with -- with quite a bit of opposition, I -- which I think really does make the bill better. For -- for one thing, the -- the notice to the tenants in the immediate vicinity of the bedbug infestation rather than all tenants is part of the chapter, and I think that that make sense. So if there is infestation in one apartment, you're gonna be looking to those living above, below and on either side of that apartment rather than everybody in what could be a very large building. I think that that's a -- a good change. And I think also the amount of time given for the notice, moving from 24 hours to 72 hours, is also a very positive change.

So, I'll be happy to support this chapter amendment which I do think improves the -- the bill that we talked about last year. Thank you very much.

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

Are there any other votes? The Clerk will announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes for the purposes of an introduction.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me the opportunity to interrupt our proceedings for the purposes of introducing a guest who has just entered our Chambers. On behalf of our colleague Mr. Meeks -- in fact, most of our colleagues on this side of the aisle would like to say to you all that Robert Ricks, the father of Robert Brooks, Sr. [sic] is here to visit with us. Mr. Ricks is the founder of the Mentoring Inspiring Boys and Girls Club. He introduce youth to Martial Arts and Arts. He works with Lift Every Voice Youth Choirs, and through many performances and working on literary issues in education issues, and he's been a very positive effect in the community of Rochester. Mr. Ricks is here today following the death of his son Robert Brooks at Marcy Correctional Facility. He has been meeting with several people across -- in our Capitol today, Madam Speaker. He's looking to bring awareness to a major issue that we are not new to in the State of New York where people will go somewhere to pay for whatever society thinks they've done wrong and end up dead.

So I would ask you and the rest of our colleagues in the Chambers to honor the presence of Mr. Brooks [sic]. He is -- Mr.

Ricks, I'm sorry. He's actually doing what every other parent would do: Working and advocating to make sure that this doesn't happen again. So please welcome him to our Chambers.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

On behalf of Mrs. Peoples-Stokes, Mr. Meeks, the Speaker and all the members, sir, Mr. Ricks, we welcome you to the Chamber, extend the privileges of the floor. Hope you enjoy our proceedings today, and we thank you so very much for joining us. Thank you.

(Applause)

On consent, page 7, Rules Report No. 98, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01098, Rules Report No. 98, Hunter. An act to amend the General Municipal Law and the Public Authorities Law, in relation to including providing onsite child care services or facilitating new child care service by a project into a uniform tax exemption policy; and to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2024 amending the General Municipal Law and the Public Authorities Law relating to including providing onsite child daycare facilities by a project into a uniform tax exemption policy, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.2498-A and A.5248-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? The Clerk will announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01473, Rules Report No. 99, Stirpe. An act to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2024 amending the General Municipal Law relating to including lakes in adopt-a-municipal park, shoreline or roadway programs, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.4636 and A.4563, in relation to fees for activities undertaken pursuant to a lake program.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On a motion by Mr. Stirpe, 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 60th day.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? The Clerk will announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03923, Rules Report No. 100, Kassay. An act to amend the General Municipal Law, in relation to removing certain requirements for official websites of small municipalities; and to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2024 amending the General Municipal Law relating to requiring municipalities to maintain municipal websites, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.3353-A and A.2852-A, in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On a motion by Ms. Kassay, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced. This bill is laid aside.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

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

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: We do have a few resolutions.

Ms. Clark, a resolution -- Ms. Clark on the resolution.

One second, we need to read the resolution first.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 110, Ms. Clark.

Legislative Resolution commemorating the 21st Annual Susan B. Anthony Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Ms. Clark on the resolution.

MS. CLARK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise on -- it's the week where we celebrate Susan B. Anthony's birthday. This -- it falls on February 15th, so it will be Saturday this year, but back home in Rochester we will be celebrating it tonight. But for me, getting the moment -- getting the opportunity to commemorate who she was, what she did and what she means to us in Rochester, in Upstate New York and across this country is something that I feel so honored to do every year. She is -- she herself represents so much that is what we look for now, strength and resiliency against many obstacles and many of those who wanted to -- wanted nothing to do what she was saying about women's rights to vote. Her contribution to what ultimately became the 19th Amendment is what we celebrate; her refusing to back down on compromise is what we need right now as we all fight to have an inclusive government that represents everyone, that ensures that all voices are at the table when we're deciding how as a State or a country we want to live. I can think of no other moment in time where it feels so needed to channel that kind of strength and to channel that kind of commitment. As a country and as a State, our diversity is our biggest strength. It's what makes us a vibrant country. I'm so excited that her legacy lives in Rochester, but I'm also excited to always share it here on the floor as we continue our fight in the State Legislature.

Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Ms. Walsh on the resolution.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank the -- the sponsor of this resolution for bringing it forward again this year. I am always happy to speak about Susan B. Anthony, partly because having gone to the University of Rochester, Mount Hope Cemetery, that's right where she rests. She had an amazing, long and incredibly productive life. She passed away at 86 and was single for her whole life, which she attributes to a lot of her productivity. She -- she wasn't going to be a drudge or a doll, she was gonna be her own woman and she -- and she truly was.

I -- I wanted to speak for a minute about the amazing collaborative relationship that she had with Elizabeth Cady Stanton. I mean, they -- often -- Elizabeth Cady Stanton's husband said that Elizabeth forged the thunderbolts and Susan B. Anthony threw them. That -- that's an amazing relationship to have with anybody, and they had just such a long friendship and -- where Susan B. Anthony really became like another member of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's family; watched her kids, helped -- helped take care of the kids so that Elizabeth could write. And I think it -- it's just really a real lesson that, you know, working together we can accomplish so much and that it's always great to have partners as we identify things that need to change and that we can work together to make that happen. I think that she also really proved that civil disobedience has a great value, and that although the road can sometimes be very long to get what we want, that if we just kind of keep plugging and keep working and working we can get there. And I -- I just think that she was an

amazing, remarkable woman -- and I would mention, a Republican woman -- and I'm very proud to be able to speak on this resolution.

Thank you.

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

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, too, want to rise and congratulate and thank the sponsor for again putting this resolution in. Sometimes we forget how many shoulders we stand on when we land where we want to be in our careers. It was people like this young lady who fought for our rights to do these things, and so no one could ever -- should ever forget that. As a person who is now serving on the Smithsonian's Women's History Museum that will happen in the future, much of what we talk about in our committee meetings around the table is how women's history often disappears because it never shows up. It's like written in disappearing ink. So as long as we can do these things in our Chamber and honor women like this, her history will never disappear and the ink will never go away that she laid out.

So, again, thanks to the sponsor and thank you for the life of this amazing woman.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

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

We do have a number -- excuse me, one other resolution before the House.

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

(Whereupon, Assembly Resolution No. 111 was
unanimously approved.)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: I now move that the
Assembly stand adjourned until Thursday, February the 13th -- that's a
legislative day, and that's tomorrow -- and that we will reconvene at
2:00 p.m. on February 24th -- I should repeat that -- that we will
reconvene at 2:00 p.m. on February 24th, Monday being a Session
day.

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

(Whereupon, at 11:46 a.m., the House stood
adjourned until Thursday, February 13th, that being a legislative day,
and to reconvene on Monday, February 24th at 2:00 p.m., that being a
Session day.)