

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025

10:36 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 4th.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Madam Speaker, I move

to dispense with the further reading of the Journal of Tuesday, February the 4th and that the same stand approved.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Without objection, so ordered.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you. Colleagues and -- that are in the Chambers and guests that are here, as well, I'm going to share a quote for -- with you today on February the 5th of 2025. These words are from Victor Hugo. Victor was a French romantic author, poet, and playwright. His words for us today: *There are many great deeds done in the small struggles of life.* We're often struggling, so be grateful that there are some good deeds coming out of it.

Okay. Madam Speaker and -- members have on their desk an A- -- a main Calendar, and after you have done any housekeeping and/or introductions we're going to begin our floor work by taking up Calendar resolutions on page 3. Then we will continue consenting where we left off on yesterday beginning with Rules Report No. 84, it's on page 8. Majority members should be aware that there is going to be a need for a conference immediately following our floor work here today and as always, Madam Speaker, we will check with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to determine if they may have any needs. There probably will be some need for additional floor activity as we proceed. Should it be so, ma'am, I will be pleased to make you aware of it.

At this moment, though, that's a general outline of

where we are so if we could begin just with housekeeping and introductions, that would be great. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you, Mrs. Peoples-Stokes. We have no housekeeping, no introductions. We're going straight into work this morning.

(Applause)

Resolutions, page 3, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 90, Ms. McMahon.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 5th, 2025 as Girls and Women in Sports 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. 91, Mr. Schiavoni.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 2025 as Turner Syndrome 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 8, Rules Report No. 84, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A02434, Rules Report No. 84, Bronson, Colton. An act to amend the Labor Law, in relation to protection of employees of call center contractors of the State; and to repeal certain provisions of the Labor Law relating thereto.

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

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. A02443, Rules Report No. 85, Yeger. An act to amend the Insurance Law, in relation to requiring health insurance plans to provide coverage for epinephrine auto-injector devices.

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

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect January 1st,

2026.

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.

Mr. Yeger, this is it for you, your very first bill. Congratulations.

(Applause)

The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A02675, Rules Report No. 86, Kay. An act to amend the Insurance Law, in relation to coverage for prenatal vitamins.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On a motion by Ms. Kay, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced. Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect January 1st.

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.

Ms. Kay, it's your time, as well. Congratulations on your first bill.

(Applause)

The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A02746, Rules Report No. 87, O'Pharrow. An act to amend the Transportation Law, in relation to the membership of the Republic Airport Commission.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On a motion by Mr. O'Pharrow, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced. The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00415, Rules Report No. 89, Shimsky. An act to amend the Real Property Tax Law, in relation to the payment of real property and school district taxes in installments; and to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2024 amending the Real Property Tax Law relating to the payment of real property and school district taxes in installments, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 3604-A and A. 7813-A, in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

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

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. A00416, Rules Report No. 90, Shimsky. An act to amend the Real Property Tax Law, in relation to assessment relief for victims of a local or major disaster in an eligible municipality; to repeal Section 467-n of the Real Property Tax Law, relating to assessment relief for disasters; and to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2024 amending the Real Property Tax Law relating to enacting the "Climate Change Property Tax Relief Act," as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 7515-A and A. 7748-B, in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

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

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. A01099, Rules Report No. 91, McDonald. An act to amend the Elder Law, in relation to information regarding the Home Energy Assistance Program for participants in the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage Program.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 180th 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; good morning to my colleagues. So this is one of those chapter amendments that people may have preferred the original over the chapter. The original legislation provided for automatic enrollment of EPIC recipients into the HEAP program, but this chapter amendment eliminates that. Now EPIC recipients will receive information about HEAP, but there won't be any automatic enrollment. People will have to seek to be enrolled and may or may not qualify. So some of our members may be irritated by the -- the change from the original legislation, others might appreciate the potential cost savings and

assurance that only the people who qualify will get the HEAP benefits. I'll be supporting this legislation, and I appreciate the opportunity to explain my vote. Thank you.

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.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01469, Rules Report No. 92, Simon. An act to amend the Public Authorities Law, in relation to requiring electric vehicle charging stations to include at least one space to accommodate wheelchair accessible electric vehicles.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On a motion by Ms. Simon, 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.

Ms. Walsh for the purposes of an introduction.

MS. WALSH: Yes, thank you very much, Madam Speaker. So we all know that advocacy starts young and today, on behalf of Assemblymember Brabenec, I'm happy to introduce members of the Warwick Valley High School Youth in Government group that are here today visiting in Albany, have come to the People's House. They have been meeting with their State representatives in an effort to secure funding for libraries and other educational endeavors. And I'm going to quickly hopefully not butcher their names, we have Leila Morris, Christian Katsabanis, Emma Espinola, Gary Polakoff, Quinn Nowakowski, Milad Alaie, and Robert Morris, as well as their co-advisor and co-chaperones Scott Meyer and Jerome Safier, and the advisor is Kevan - I'm going to say it wrong probably - Ottochian, sorry. Would you please welcome them, Madam Speaker? Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you. On behalf of Ms. Walsh, Mr. Brabenec, 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. Walsh for the purposes of an introduction.

MS. WALSH: Thank you again. So also on behalf

of Assemblymember Brabenec, today we're joined in the Chamber by Darrell Frasier, who is the Mayor of the Village of Sloatsburg, New York, which is in Rockland County. And would you please, Madam Speaker, welcome the Mayor to the Chamber. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Of course, thank you. On behalf of Ms. Walsh, Mr. Brabenec, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you, Mayor, 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)

The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A02436, Rules Report No. 93, Schiavoni. An act to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2024 authorizing the Town of Southampton, County of Suffolk, to enact by a local law a homestead exemption, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 2094-A and A. 3872-A, in relation to authorizing a town with a population between 69,000 and 69,500 to enact a homestead exemption by a local law and in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

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

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. Schiavoni to explain his vote.

MR. SCHIAVONI: Good morning, Madam Speaker, and I rise today to support Assembly Bill No. 2436 that I sponsored. This bill is going to help individuals and families whose primary residence is located in the Town of Southampton. Because of a policy of 100 percent reassessment in the town, there are those whose primary residence on the East End that their assessments have increased dramatically. I have worked on this as a councilman in the Town of Southampton. It was advanced by my predecessor, Fred Thiele - thank you, Fred - and now it is here today for a chapter amendment. So I will be voting in the affirmative. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you. Mr. Schiavoni in the affirmative.

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

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mr. Schiavoni this is it for you, your very first bill. Congratulations.

(Applause)

The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A02437, Rules Report No. 94, Schiavoni. An act to amend the Real Property Tax Law, in relation to a property tax exemption for ocean rescue squad members

in certain municipalities; and to repeal Section 1 of a chapter of the Laws of 2024 relating to the eligibility of enrolled members of the East Hampton Volunteer Ocean Rescue and Auxiliary Squad for a tax exemption on real property, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 2159-A and A. 1640-A.

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

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect January 1st.

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. A02438, Rules Report No. 95, Schiavoni. An act to amend the Real Property Tax Law, in relation to the establishing eligibility for a tax exemption on real property for enrolled members of ocean rescue squads in certain municipalities; and to repeal Section 1 of a chapter of the Laws of 2024 relating to the eligibility of enrolled members of Southampton Village Ocean Rescue for a tax exemption on real property, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 2158-A and A. 1353-A.

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

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect January 1st.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Mr. Schiavoni to explain his vote.

MR. SCHIAVONI: Good morning, Madam Speaker, and I rise to support this bill and of course the previous bill. These are specific to our ocean rescue corps that we have on the Eastern end of Long Island. We have several hundred miles of beaches and waterways, and these are volunteer organizations whose members train all year-round to protect the community at-large, and we would like to treat them as regular members of our first responder units, similar to ambulance, as well as firefighters. And I will be voting in the affirmative. Thank you, and thank you to the members of the East Hampton Ocean Rescue Squad and Southampton Village Ocean Rescue Squad.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you. Mr. Schiavoni in the affirmative.

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

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A02579, Rules Report No. 96, Cruz. An act to amend the Public Service Law, in relation to call centers for gas and electric corporations; to amend a chapter of the Laws of 2024 amending the Public Service Law relating to call centers for gas and electric corporations, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8626-A and A. 9444-A, in relation to the effectiveness thereof; and to repeal certain provisions of the Public Service Law relating thereto.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The bill is laid aside.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

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

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: We have a resolution by Mr. Weprin. The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 92, Mr. Weprin. Legislative Resolution mourning the death of Lou Carnesecca, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Weprin on the resolution.

MR. WEPRIN: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to speak on this very significant resolution. This resolution commemorates the life and mourns the passing of Lou

Carnesecca, St. John's University's legendary basketball coach who served as head coach of the men's basketball team for over two decades. Coach Lou passed away November 30th, 2024, about a month shy of his 100th birthday. Throughout his life and remarkable career, Coach Lou impacted the lives of countless student athletes, fans, colleagues, and inspired generations to pursue excellence not only in sports, but also in life. A tireless advocate for the values of sportsmanship, teamwork, and education, Coach Lou elevated the stature of St. John's University and solidified its place as a premiere basketball program. He also contributed to the development of numerous future NBA stars, most notably Chris Mullin, who became one of his greatest players in the history of the program. His efforts led the St. John's basketball team to national prominence, numerous NCAA Tournament appearances, and Big East Conference championships.

Lou Carnesecca's influence extends far beyond basketball, as he remains a beloved figure in the St. John's community and across the world of college athletics. His passing leaves a profound void in the world of college basketball, yet his memory will continue to inspire future generations, reminding us of the power of sports to shape lives and build communities. Lou Carnesecca was a constituent of mine in both the New York City Council and the New York State Assembly, and lived around the corner from me in Jamaica Estates. I would regularly run into him on Union Turnpike early in the day, he was an early riser, where he'd be going to breakfast at two

establishments in my district that he cherished. First, years ago Roger's Coffee Shop and then later, Lulu's Bakery right next to my district office, until well into his mid to late 90s.

I ask that this legislative Body honor and commemorate the extraordinary life and contributions of Lou Carnesecca whose legacy as a coach, mentor, and leader will endure for generations to come. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Fitzpatrick on the resolution.

MR. FITZPATRICK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, too, rise to speak on this resolution. I had a wonderful personal experience with Coach Carnesecca after the death of my father. My brother and I organized a 3-on-3 basketball tournament to raise money for the Cleary School for the Deaf out my district where I was a trustee for many years. And we reached out to Coach Carnesecca to ask him if he would lend his name to support our tournament. We ran it for nine years and he enthusiastically said yes, asked us to come into his office, we took photos, and we had a very successful run for nine years raising money for Cleary School for the Deaf.

So I want to -- I couldn't thank Coach Carnesecca enough for lending us his good name and his reputation, and he even wore a sweater for the photograph. So he was a great coach, many wonderful evenings on my couch watching St. John's basketball, knew a couple of players over the years from Long Island who played for him, and I wish him -- may he rest in peace. Thank you.

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

We do have a number of resolutions before the House. Without objection, these resolutions will be taken up together.

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

(Whereupon, Assembly Resolution Nos. 93-95 were unanimously adopted.)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Madam Speaker, would you please recognize Member Clark for the purposes of an announcement.

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

MS. CLARK: Yes, very exciting. I'm calling for a conference immediately after Session in Hearing Room C; Majority Conference, Hearing Room C.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Majority Conference immediately following Session in Hearing Room C.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: I now move that the Assembly stand adjourned until Thursday, February the 6th, tomorrow being a legislative day, and that we reconvene at 2 p.m. on February the 10th, Monday being a Session day.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On Mrs.

Peoples-Stokes' motion, the House stands adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 11:23 a.m., the Assembly stood adjourned until Thursday, February 6th, Thursday being a legislative day, and to reconvene on Monday, February 10th at 2:00 p.m., Monday being a Session day.)