

MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2025

3:07 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 Friday, February 28th.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

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

dispense with the further reading of the Journal of Friday, February the 28th and that the same stand approved.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Without objection, so ordered.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, ma'am. For colleagues and guests that are in our Chambers this afternoon, I would like to share this quote with you. This one is coming from Ayesha Siddiqi. She is a scientist, a political commentator, and an author who advocates for children. Her words for us today, "Be the person you needed when you were younger." Again, these words from Ayesha Siddiqi.

Madam Speaker, members have on their desk a main Calendar. It has 25 new bills in it, and we're going to begin our floor work today by taking up Calendar resolutions on page 3. Then we will take up the following bills on debate, kind of sort of where we left off last week: Rules Report No. 71 by Mr. Epstein; Rules Report No. 77 by Mr. Jacobson; and Rules Report No. 87 by Mr. O'Pharrow. We will also begin consenting the 25 bills that are on our -- the new bills, rather, and they are on page 4. Majority members should be aware that there will definitely be a need for a conference once we conclude our floor work today and, as always, we will check with our colleagues to determine what their needs may be. Members should also be aware that at the conclusion of Session on tomorrow, we will be taking up a privileged resolution and having a moment of silence in honor of Dr. Hazel Dukes, the President and CEO of the NAACP. I

will announce further floor activity if that's -- if it's going to be necessary.

Madam Speaker, with that, it's however a general outline of where we're going today. We should begin by taking up housekeeping and introductions.

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

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: We have no housekeeping today so we'll go straight into introductions.

Mr. Anderson for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. ANDERSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker; good afternoon, colleagues. It's a really exciting day here in the State's Capitol as we celebrate and commemorate Bring Your Parents to Work Day. I have my parents joining us here for our proceedings. My father, (inaudible) Bility, who served as a health care worker in 1199 Union at the St. Vincent's Hospital. Also my mother, who served as a community organizer and an activist, as well as a parent activist in our communities. And so I brought them up to Albany today. I'm excited to have them join us here in the Chamber and I will ask that you extend the cordialities of the floor to my parents.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

On behalf of Mr. Anderson, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you family members to the Chamber and extend the privileges of the floor. Thank you so very much for sharing

your son with us. We do truly enjoy him, he has many bills he likes to tell us about, and hope you enjoy the proceedings today. Thank you so very much for joining us.

(Applause)

Ms. Chandler-Waterman for the purposes of an introduction.

MS. CHANDLER-WATERMAN: Thank you, Mr. [sic] Speaker, and thank you -- thank you Majority Leader for allowing me the honor to introduce this amazing woman from your district in Buffalo, Cariol Horne, as we kick off Women's History Month. Cariol Horne is a former police officer from Buffalo Police Department. We thank individuals like Cariol Horne who are brave and continue to advocate for vulnerable populations. Thank you to Cariol Horne. Because of you, we have hope. Please, I ask that you extend the cordialities of the floor to Ms. Horne today.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On behalf of Ms. Chandler-Waterman, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you, Ms. Horne, to the Chamber, extend the privileges of the floor, hope you enjoy our proceedings today. Thank you so very much for joining us.

(Applause)

Ms. Jackson for the purposes of an introduction.

MS. JACKSON: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. Today is our second annual Bring Your Parents to Work Day, and it's an important day for us and our parents because we would not be here

if it was not for them. So we wanted the parents to come today just to see what it is that we do around this thing we call the Assembly. And so while we have a number of parents here for our Assemblymembers, we also have our staff that participated, as well, and I just want them to all just stand up and we can acknowledge them from the floor. But it's important that our family know what we do because we are pulled away from them for four days out of the week sometimes, or even longer, and we're doing the people's work. And I know that they're proud of us, but now they really get to see what it takes to be a member. So to the staff and to the members, Madam Speaker, I ask that you give all the parents in the House the cordiality of the floor.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

On behalf of Ms. Chantel Jackson, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you family members to the Chamber, extend the privileges of the floor. Thank you so very much for joining us and allowing us to use your family in very positive ways. Thank you very much for joining us.

(Applause)

Mr. Jones for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. JONES: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And with us today I have Geana Dyer who is a nurse by trade and the mother of Ronin right over there - Ronin is making his way around the Assembly Chambers here earlier. Ronin was diagnosed with Cockayne Syndrome Type 2 in September of 2022. Cockayne Syndrome is a rare genetic neurodegenerative disorder that affects the

way cells grow and repair themselves, and can impact any body part. Individuals with CS may have symptoms such as rapid aging, hearing and vision loss, speech immobility impairment, and difficulties with swallowing. Children with CS face additional challenges, as well, but are also recognized for their uniquely jovial and joyful demeanor.

After Ronin's diagnosis, Geana did what nurses do best, and started searching for resources and treatment options that could help those living with Cockayne Syndrome. Many families affected by CS experience immense financial burdens due to the high cost of adaptive supplies and equipment, medical travel, home and vehicle modifications, and therapies such as physical, occupation, speech, aquatic, and hippotherapy, which are essential for symptom management, but often insurance does not cover it. Their work focuses on getting products and supplies that they need now, starting with everyday items such as umbrellas and sunblock and, eventually, CS families, they want to see have big ticket items like home and vehicle modifications for wheelchairs and paid medical travel expenses.

Geana was inspired by this and she started one of the first in the nation Cockayne Syndrome foundations. Raising awareness for Cockayne Syndrome is critical to supporting research, improving access to care, and fostering and understanding and compassion for those affected by this devastating disorder. With us today are Geana and Ronin Dyer, Grandma Vicki Brassard, Justus Brassard and Kathy Ryan. Madam Speaker, would you welcome

these fine people to the People's House and give them all the courtesies and cordialities of the floor in the People's House.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Yes.

On behalf of Mr. Jones, the Speaker and all the members - hi, Ronin, how are you - 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)

Ms. Cruz for the purposes of an introduction.

MS. CRUZ: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to introduce Rachel Sabella, she is the Executive Director of No Kid Hungry New York. Rachel has been leading the efforts to end child hunger by expanding school meal programs and connecting children to effective nutrition. She's done extensive work in my district and we're actually currently working on my little dream which is to have a pantry right out of my district. She has been a relentless advocate to ensure that no child starts a school day hungry, emphasizing the need for both strong policies and dedication of frontline workers. She's a life-long New Yorker and she's been inspired by her grandmother who served as a cafeteria manager in a public school in New York City, and her mother, a kindergarten teacher who instilled in her a deep, personal commitment to feeding children. She holds an undergraduate degree in political science and a Master in Arts from the School of Social Public Policy from SUNY Empire State College.

She has -- under her leadership No Kid Hungry New York has distributed over \$2.5 million in food during the COVID-19 pandemic. She's been critical -- her support has been critical to the work that we do here in supporting schools and community organizations in feeding our children. She's been recognized and supports the hunger heroes, individuals making a direct impact feeding children across the State, and her work has been integral to - and I want to give a shout-out to my colleague, Jessica González-Rojas, for the work that she's doing to make sure that every child gets two meals at our schools every day.

Please help me welcome, Madam Speaker, Ms. Sabella, and extend the cordialities of the House to her.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On behalf of Ms. Cruz, the Speaker and all members, we welcome you, Ms. Sabella, to the People's House. We extend the privileges of the floor. Thank you for doing the wonderful work that you're doing, no kid should be hungry at school. We appreciate the work that you're doing and thank you so very much for joining us today.

(Applause)

Ms. Walker for the purposes of an introduction.

MS. WALKER: Good afternoon, Madam Speaker, and thank you so much for pausing in our deliberations today to allow me to take a few minutes to welcome some guests from my district. They represent the leadership of the BMS Family Health and Wellness Centers, better known as BMS. BMS serves more than 17,000

residents in East and Central Brooklyn, including beautiful Brownsville where I was born and raised. Community health care centers like BMS, which started under the tutelage of the Brownsville Community Development Corporation, really sit on the front lines across the State. They have the most experience with community outreach and can really affect community-based health care outcomes. They are often aware of health trends before information reaches traditional health care networks or the Department of Health.

The BMS Family Health and Wellness Center focuses on disease prevention and empowered our community through education, coordination, and advocacy. BMS has been a staple in my community since 1982 and is also the place where I received my immunization shots when it was established as a Federally-qualified health care facility. Though its roots go back as far as the 1960s, the services that they provide is regardless of one's ability to pay, immigration status, or whether or not they have insurance.

Today, about two dozen people boarded a bus from Brooklyn to Albany to discuss the positive impacts on health care outcomes and health care justice. I will not name everyone, but I want to quickly acknowledge the President and CEO, Michelle Everett-Oxley; Allison Jones, who recently received the community health care award here in Albany, the Manager of Client Services; also Renee Muir, who is the Managing Director of Development. Thank you so much, Madam Speaker, and please welcome them to the floor and extend the cordialities of the House.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Yes.

On behalf of Ms. Walker, the Speaker and all the members, BMS, 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)

Mr. Friend for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. FRIEND: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is my honor to be able to welcome members of the Owego FFA to our House. In the House with us today are Mason Hill, Mariana Slocum, Jessica Baumbach, Grayden Stanton, Mikayla Wilbur, Mahayla Walsh, Mary Cox, Kayla Coppage, and their advisors Derek Hill and Susan Armstrong. It was my pleasure to be able to meet with them in my office just a -- a short time ago and be able to talk about some of the great activities that they're working on.

They're very enthusiastic about their program and continue to make it grow and bring it even into the pre-school and kindergarten programs, K-6 would be phenomenal for them to extend their programs. They have a 30x60 barn on school property where they have gerbils, hamsters, chickens, pigs, cows, guinea pigs. They also do work in their greenhouse and also do work with floral arranging that has enabled some of those members to start their own businesses and go out and get a job. Just recently, the New York FFA District 7 leadership development events were hosted by the Owego FFA Program. They had over 250 students that attended and

competed in various events there, and Owego is very fortunate that they're going to have six members qualified to move on to sub-States. Would you please welcome them to the floor and extend the cordialities of the House. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Of course.

On behalf of Mr. Friend, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you Owego Future Farmers. 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. Simpson for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is my honor to introduce a group of musicians from the 114th Assembly District, We Are Instrumental, whose mission is to improve accessibility to musical education for children in the Northern New York by providing well-working instruments and enrichment opportunities, while supporting efforts through relevant professional development training for teachers of the region.

We're joined by Executive Director and Founder, Evan Mack; President Michael Iturrino; students Deirdre Kleemann, Shaelene Dedrick, Keirra Bechard, Quinn Lang, and Irelan Porter. Additionally, the group is accompanied by Lori Orestano James, President of New York State Alliance of Arts Education. Therefore, Madam Speaker, could you please welcome this excellent group to the People's House and extend to them the cordialities and privileges of

the House.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On behalf of Mr. Simpson, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you folks from Ticonderoga today to the Chamber, extend the privileges of the floor, hope you enjoy our proceedings, and thank you so very much for joining us today.

(Applause)

Resolutions, page 3, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 145, Ms. Barrett.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 2-8, 2025 as School Social Worker 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. 146, Ms. Cruz.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 3-7, 2025 as School Breakfast Week in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Ms. Cruz on the resolution.

MS. CRUZ: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to bring this resolution to the floor. I rise today to

introduce this resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 7 -- 3-7th, 2025 as School Breakfast Week in the State of New York. School breakfast is more than just a meal. It is essential to combatting child hunger and enhancing academic success. In 2024, over 152 million school breakfasts were served across New York, benefitting more than 876,000 students. And as you've often heard from our colleagues, Jessica González-Rojas, it is key to ensuring that our children are doing well in school. It is why she's fighting the fight that she's fighting to make sure that in this budget, every child is learning without feeling hungry.

I want to recognize our -- our prior introduction and the work that she's doing, and to ask our colleagues to make sure that when we are working through the budget this year, we're remembering not just this week, but every week that every child who goes to school as you said, Madam Speaker, earlier, should not be hungry. They should be able to learn and not be hungry; it is as simple as that.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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. 147, Mr. Lavine.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 2025 as Reading Month in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Lavine on the resolution.

MR. LAVINE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. To quote former President Barack Obama from his 2005 remarks on the importance of literacy, quote, Reading is the gateway skill that makes all other learning possible, unquote. Reading is a crucial skill that allows a person to actively participate in the ever-changing world that surrounds us. Proficient reading levels lead to a multitude of positive effects, one of which is an increase in civic engagement. Educated readers are more likely to vote as they age and become involved in our communities, which obviously promotes a healthier democracy.

Unfortunately, not every New Yorker gets the opportunity to achieve the benefits of reading. In a study done by the Department of Education, it was found that amazingly 1 in 5 Americans possess low literacy rates. On top of that, reading scores in 2024 were not significantly different -- significantly different from the scores in 1998. Of course, we have to factor in the effects of the COVID epidemic when we analyze that comparison. Studies show that 3.9 million New Yorkers lack a functional level of literacy. Lack of reading skills leads to economic instability, evidenced by the fact that 43 percent of adults with the lowest literary rates -- literacy rates, rather, live in poverty. Reading's a critical skill that benefits the lives of each and every one of us. We in this Legislature must turn and we in the State of New York, as well, and we in America must turn our attention to increasing literacy rates, whether that be through

supporting local libraries, book drives, or continuing education programs. In doing so, we can ensure that our communities have the skills to succeed in our world.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak, and I want to thank all my colleagues for their support of this important resolution. Thank you very much.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 148, Mr. Raga.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 2025 as Multiple Sclerosis 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. 149, Mr. Jones.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim October 2025 as Cockayne Syndrome Awareness Month in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Ra on the resolution.

MR. RA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As our

colleague, Mr. Jones, spoke about earlier in his introduction, this resolution is very important to many, and especially families dealing with Cockayne Syndrome. This is a very rare disorder, affecting only about one in every two million births in the United States, and it's coincidence, but maybe not coincidence, that we are doing this resolution today on the birthday of our former colleague, Missy Miller. And anybody who was here when Missy was here was familiar with her son, Oliver, she used to bring with her, but also probably heard her talk about her late daughter, Melanie, who was afflicted with this disorder. Missy had lost Melanie back in 1997 just two days after her 7th birthday, and Melanie was originally diagnosed at the age of three, and then properly diagnosed with Cockayne Syndrome at the age of 5.

So we do these things on a regular basis, obviously, in this Chamber to promote awareness, but it really is an opportunity for us to all learn about different diseases, disorders that we may not be familiar with, and hopefully moving forward find ways to work with those families and provide them the resources they need and hopefully the treatments they need to -- to allow their family members to live the best lives possible.

So I thank my colleague for bringing this resolution forward, and all of my colleagues for supporting it, and happy birthday, Missy.

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. 150, Ms. Jackson.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim November 4th, 2025 as Bring Your Parents to Work 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.

Page 10, Rules Report No. 71, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Senate No. S00810, Rules Report No. 71, Senator Myrie (Epstein--A00438). An act to amend the Election Law, in relation to not including the process for declining designation to a county committee party position in the notice provided by the Board of Elections of the City of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: An explanation has been requested, Mr. Epstein.

MR. EPSTEIN: This requires that the Board of Elections in New York City send notices to people who are running for a county committee that they're on the ballot.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Slater.

MR. SLATER: Thank you. Will the sponsor yield?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MR. EPSTEIN: Of course.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MR. SLATER: Thank you very much. Just a couple of questions for clarity on this, because this bill has been amended several times, correct?

MR. EPSTEIN: That is true.

MR. SLATER: Thank you. And so the changes made in this bill compared to the one that we passed last year, can you just explain the differences for us?

MR. EPSTEIN: Sure. The chapter amendment just takes out the requirements that -- that people who don't want to run can -- can decide not to accept the nomination for county committee. Because of a short time frame for when the petitions are submitted to when they're getting notice, there wouldn't have been enough time for people to decide they don't want to run, so it takes that requirement out of the law.

MR. SLATER: Right, so -- so the declination portion is eliminated; is that correct?

MR. EPSTEIN: So yes, you can't -- you can't decide you're not going to run, exactly.

MR. SLATER: Okay, which was the intent of the original bill, I believe, if I remember correctly.

MR. EPSTEIN: I mean, there's been numerous versions of this bill over the last four or five years and that's one of the versions.

MR. SLATER: Understood. But the -- but the bill

that was signed into -- the bill was signed into law, but there was a proposal made by the Governor, if I --

MR. EPSTEIN: That is correct.

MR. SLATER: And so the Governor was asking as part of her approval to take away the declination portion?

MR. EPSTEIN: That is correct.

MR. SLATER: Understood. So just to make sure I'm clear, under the new law how would a candidate for a county committee know about their ability to decline if it's no longer part of the notification?

MR. EPSTEIN: So there are other provisions in the law that existed before this bill was passed and signed that allow people who are running for county committee to decline the nomination. This requires the Board of Elections to send an actual physical notice, which they currently don't do, so people will have affirmative knowledge that they're actually running.

MR. SLATER: So is there really any difference from the last cycle versus the new -- the coming cycle with this new chapter amendment in place?

MR. EPSTEIN: Yes. The difference will be that people will actually know that they're running when they're running, versus in the last cycle, people didn't even know they were running until after they were elected, or after a year later when they were required to show up at a meeting.

MR. SLATER: Understood. So there was no

requirement that they even be notified by the Board of Elections that they were put on the county committee.

MR. EPSTEIN: Exactly. You don't have to affirm that you're being put on the county committee, there's no note -- there's no notification, prior notification, and there's no notification afterwards that you're being nominated.

MR. SLATER: And so this only applies to New York City though, correct?

MR. EPSTEIN: Correct.

MR. SLATER: And is that because that lack of notification only exists in New York City?

MR. EPSTEIN: That lack of notification was a problem in New York City.

MR. SLATER: Understood. So this bill only applies to New York City, so how would -- and I know you mentioned it earlier, so if you can just provide me a little more specificity. So if somebody receives one of those cards, or notification, that they were added to county committee in New York City --

MR. EPSTEIN: Right.

MR. SLATER: -- how would they go about removing themselves?

MR. EPSTEIN: How do they go about what?

MR. SLATER: Removing themselves if they do not want to be on the committee.

MR. EPSTEIN: Yeah, so if they didn't do it during

the declination period, they could after the election decide that they don't want to be in that position and withdraw their candidacy and decline it then.

MR. SLATER: Okay. And so just to make sure I understand, you feel that this fixes a problem, right, the problem being the notification.

MR. EPSTEIN: Yeah, this fixes a problem that people don't know and that we've seen numerous articles over the last five years where dead people had been nominated for county committee, or people didn't know they were running or had moved out of the district. This then provides the notice and allows people to have information about them being on the ballot and being able to then do something about it.

MR. SLATER: Understood, understood. Well, I really do appreciate you bringing some clarity to the -- to the legislation before us, and I appreciate you spending some time with me today. Thank you so much.

MR. EPSTEIN: Thank you.

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.)

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

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Page 10, Rules Report No. 77, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01015, Rules Report No. 77, Jacobson. An act to amend the Election Law, in relation to permitting candidates for office to be employees of a Board of Elections with prior authorization and a majority vote of the election commissioners.

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

An explanation has been requested, Mr. Jacobson.

MR. JACOBSON: This is a chapter amendment on a bill -- whoops, sorry about that. This is a chapter amendment of a bill which we passed last year regulating conflicts of interest at the Boards of Elections. And this chapter amendment changes the -- slightly the requirement that if somebody works for the Board of Elections and is running for an office within that county that the person works for, that person would have to take an unpaid leave of absence. And what has happened with the amendment is that there can be a waiver to that requirement if by a majority vote of the Commissioners in that county, which usually means both the Democrats -- Democratic Commissioner and a Republican Commissioner, then the person can

receive a waiver provided that person is -- excuse me, provided that person follows the rules and regulations and -- of the State Board and that the person does not work directly on anything related to that person's candidacy. The bill also adds a requirement for the State Board to promulgate rules and regulations saying what and how the employee must follow.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Slater.

MR. SLATER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the sponsor yield for a handful of questions?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MR. JACOBSON: Yes.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MR. SLATER: Thank you very much. So how does allowing BOE staff run for office comport with the original intent of this legislation?

MR. JACOBSON: Well, the original bill said that you would automatically have to take a leave of absence. This bill allows a waiver to happen under certain -- certain circumstances. And the authorization to allow such a waiver has to come first. You can't stay there and say, *Oh, I need a waiver now.* So that's what happens.

MR. SLATER: Understood. And this applies to all Board of Elections employees.

MR. JACOBSON: Correct.

MR. SLATER: Including poll workers?

MR. JACOBSON: Yes, if -- if that person was running for office.

MR. SLATER: Okay. So poll workers, as well. And so the cure for the candidate is before they become an official candidate they need authorization by a majority of Commissioners, correct?

MR. JACOBSON: Correct.

MR. SLATER: And so by majority of Commissioners, you know, I live in Westchester, there are only two.

MR. JACOBSON: Correct.

MR. SLATER: So both Commissioners have to agree to provide that waiver; is that accurate?

MR. JACOBSON: That's accurate.

MR. SLATER: Okay. And then in regards to the State Board of Elections framework, does it provide the -- does the bill provide framework for the State Board to adopt the necessary rules for this to be implemented?

MR. JACOBSON: Yes, it does.

MR. SLATER: It does. Can you explain them to me, please?

MR. JACOBSON: Sure. Well, it says - and I'll read it to you, which I'm sure you have read - the State Board shall promulgate rules and regulations relating to the circumstances that may permit a Board of Elections -- may permit a Board of Elections to authorize an employee who is also a candidate for an office who has

an election overseen by the Board at which they are employed to remain employed, provided that such employee be restricted from working on matters directly related to the election in the jurisdiction in which the employee is a candidate, and any other restrictions as set forth by the State Board rules and regulations.

MR. SLATER: Thank you very much. Now, I didn't hear about a time frame for the State Board to promulgate those rules and regulations.

(Pause)

MR. JACOBSON: Well, the bill, as I'm sure you read the original bill and now this is chapter amendment to it, takes effect one year later. So by that time, the Board should do that.

MR. SLATER: So the bill takes effect in a year, so this election cycle where we have local elections all over New York State, it would not apply.

MR. JACOBSON: That's right.

MR. SLATER: Okay.

MR. JACOBSON: We would hope that the employees would do the right thing, but that's why we have the new law.

MR. SLATER: Understood. And forgive me, is there an appeal process if a candidate requests a waiver and there's a split amongst the Board of Elections Commissioners?

MR. JACOBSON: No.

MR. SLATER: There is no appeal process.

MR. JACOBSON: There's no appeal process.

You're not entitled to a waiver. You're entitled to work at the Board until you become a candidate and then you have to take a leave of absence as was shown originally. If there's a primary, you have to do it right away; if there's no primary, it's 90 days before the election.

MR. SLATER: Does the -- does the framework that the Board of Elections has to promulgate, does that provide any guidance about allowing a scenario in which a candidate can work until, I don't know, October 15th and then have a leave of absence?

MR. JACOBSON: No. No, that would not be allowed because that part of the -- when the person has to leave was not changed.

MR. SLATER: So then it's really not a waiver because they're still an employee of the Board then.

MR. JACOBSON: No. If -- if the two Commissioners, say in Putnam County or Westchester where there are two, if they agree, then the person would get a waiver and can stay there, provided they do not work on anything directly related to their race, their political campaign race, and provided that they follow any other rules and regulations that the State Board develops.

MR. SLATER: So if the State Board says that the Commissioners can require a leave of absence, that would be allowed?

MR. JACOBSON: Could you repeat that again? I'm not sure what you're asking.

MR. SLATER: Amongst the regulations that the Board of Elections is going to promulgate that allows for the waiver, they could, in theory, provide discretion that allows for the Commissioners to require the same leave of absence that you were requesting earlier. There's nothing that stops the State Board from promulgating a regulation like that, correct, within the one-year time frame.

MR. JACOBSON: No. What it is simply is that the two Commissioners agree, they then get to follow -- they then -- if they agree on the waiver, then the employee/candidate is allowed to stay there working at the Board provided they do not work directly on anything affecting their race, and then any other thing else that the Board -- the State Board determines is necessary.

MR. SLATER: Do you need a waiver for a primary election and then another waiver for a general, or is the one waiver good for all elections?

MR. JACOBSON: No, I think the one waiver would be sufficient.

MR. SLATER: And is this the same process for special elections?

MR. JACOBSON: Yes.

MR. SLATER: And is -- there's no timeline that the candidate has to request that waiver for -- in a special election scenario specifically because of those shortened time frames in an election calendar?

MR. JACOBSON: Right. Look, the purpose is is we're restoring more confidence in our electoral process. So the whole idea is that if you're working at the Board, unless you get this special waiver, you really shouldn't be working there when you're running for office at the same time.

MR. SLATER: No, I understand, I just want to make sure that we're clear for people in New York State if they want to run for office and they're employees of the Board that they understand what we're asking of them moving forward.

MR. JACOBSON: And I'm sure they will read this many times over, and also the new rules and regulations that will be established by the State Board.

MR. SLATER: Thank you. And by the way, does the -- does it require the State Board, when they promulgate their rules and regs, are they required -- they're required to notify and share those regs with the Board of Elections of each county, correct?

MR. JACOBSON: The State Board is required to have the -- to promulgate these rules and regulations.

MR. SLATER: Right.

MR. JACOBSON: As any other rules and regulations.

MR. SLATER: Well, I just want to make sure we're clear because while employees at the State Board may be able to read the legislation that you've proposed, regulations that are being considered by the State Board of Elections is a different process, so I

just want to make sure we understand that.

MR. JACOBSON: No, it has the word "shall."

MR. SLATER: Okay. Well, I appreciate it. Thank you so much for answering my questions.

MR. JACOBSON: Sure.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Ra.

MR. RA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the sponsor yield?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MR. JACOBSON: Yes, I will.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MR. RA: Can you just clarify, I know that the language says they can't work directly on the election in that jurisdiction, is there any or do we expect regulatory, like, prohibitions on certain titles that are maybe at a certain level of the hierarchy that really can't perform their duties without being involved with the entire gamut of the elections that are being supervised within that county?

MR. JACOBSON: No. It would apply to all employees.

MR. RA: Okay. Would that include a Commissioner?

MR. JACOBSON: Yes, including the Commissioner.

MR. RA: It includes a Commissioner.

MR. JACOBSON: Correct.

MR. RA: So basically the Commissioner could be a candidate as long as the other Commissioner signed off, because presumably they would vote to give themselves a waiver, correct?

MR. JACOBSON: It could happen.

MR. RA: Now, my understanding is under current law, Commissioners cannot run for office, or they need to take -- without taking a leave of absence.

MR. JACOBSON: Without...

MR. RA: Without taking a leave of absence.

MR. JACOBSON: I believe that's true.

MR. RA: Okay.

MR. JACOBSON: I mean, let's put it this way, I would assume considering all the duties that a Commissioner has, they would be hard put to run and also deal with the conflicts.

MR. RA: I'm sorry, can you repeat that? It's a little noisy back here.

MR. JACOBSON: Say it again? I'm sorry.

MR. RA: Can you repeat what you just said, it's a little noisy back here.

MR. JACOBSON: I didn't hear it.

MR. RA: Can you repeat the last statement you made, it's noisy back here; I didn't hear it.

MR. JACOBSON: Well, I said that the Commissioners would have difficulty performing all their obligations when they're working there while also a candidate because so many

things come before employees, including the Commissioner, that would be in conflict, and so that's what I said.

MR. RA: I would certainly agree, but I mean if I'm understanding correctly, under this, that Commissioner just basically needs to get the other Commissioner's sign off because they're going to -- they're going to vote to give themselves a waiver and they would need the other Commissioner to say yes, and then they have a waiver; am I wrong?

MR. JACOBSON: Yes, but they would also be following the rules and regulations of the State Board.

MR. RA: Okay. Now, I know it says prior to running for office, so would the failure to do this, to get this waiver, be a invalidating factor of petitions that are filed for -- for a candidate?

MR. JACOBSON: No. The petitions would still be valid if they were valid, but then once they're valid and there's no waiver, the --

MR. RA: Well, what would happen? The petitions are now valid, there's no waiver; what happens?

MR. JACOBSON: The employee would have to take an unpaid leave of absence.

MR. RA: Okay. Now, what happens if that -- that doesn't occur or...

MR. JACOBSON: Then the State Board or the other Commissioner, or one of the Commissioners could bring an action to remove that person.

MR. RA: To remove that person as an employee, not as a candidate, correct?

MR. JACOBSON: Yes.

MR. RA: Okay. Thank you. 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?

MR. JACOBSON: Sure.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MR. DURSO: Thank you, sir; thank you, Madam Speaker. So just to follow up with that, you had said that if a special election occurs, or any election occurs, they have 90 days, correct, to apply for this waiver?

MR. JACOBSON: No. They have to take a leave of absence 90 days before the election.

MR. DURSO: Or get the waiver, correct?

MR. JACOBSON: Or get the waiver.

MR. DURSO: Now, when you apply for the waiver, is there a certain amount of time period that the Commissioners have to answer you? In other words, if I say, *Hey, I'm going to run for office*, I have 105 days but the Commissioners decide to not answer

me for 30 days. Is there any time period, any time frame from the time you apply for the waiver to when the Commissioners have to give you an answer?

MR. JACOBSON: No, but obviously --

MR. DURSO: Why not?

MR. JACOBSON: No, but obviously if one Commissioner doesn't give you an answer, that person's -- that Commissioner is not agreeing to it and I have a feeling that the Commissioner that doesn't agree to it would say, *I'm not agreeing to that.*

MR. DURSO: But how do we put a time frame in for when you have to apply, but there's no time frame for when they have to answer?

MR. JACOBSON: That's correct.

MR. DURSO: Why is that? I know it's correct, I'm just asking why.

MR. JACOBSON: We didn't think it was necessary. We know that if -- if the Commissioner -- if one Commissioner -- if an employee of Commissioner A --

MR. DURSO: Mm-hmm.

MR. JACOBSON: -- of A's party is --

MR. DURSO: Right.

MR. JACOBSON: -- running, I guarantee you that that Commissioner will talk to Commissioner B and say, *Hey, we would like to have a waiver.*

MR. DURSO: What if Commissioner A is out sick for a month?

MR. JACOBSON: Then the Deputy Commissioner takes the -- has the same duties as the Commissioner when the Commissioner is not there.

MR. DURSO: Okay. So if I'm running for office and I send the Commissioner an e-mail requesting this waiver, but they don't receive it for a month and the Deputy Commissioner just sits there and goes, *I didn't get it*, there's really no -- there's no rules and regulations set other than what the Board of Elections, you're leaving to them to set for the next year, correct?

MR. JACOBSON: The Board of Election is going to -- will promulgate rules and regulations. But the main thing is this, you have a candidate --

MR. DURSO: Right.

MR. JACOBSON: -- who is anxious to get a waiver --

MR. DURSO: Sure.

MR. JACOBSON: -- right? And says to that candidate, that candidate's party Commissioner, Commissioner B says, *Hey, did I get the waiver? We didn't hear anything from Commissioner A; I will speak to them, we speak all the time.* And that's what happens. So I have a feeling that he or she, Commissioner B, will walk maybe 25 steps or so over to Commissioner A's office and say, *Hey, what are you doing?*

MR. DURSO: I understand what you're saying, sir, but it's a lot of "I think" and "I feel" as opposed to what's written in the legislation. The fact of the matter is that you're leaving a year for the Board of Elections to come up with rules and regulations that aren't in this legislation, and then we're hoping that the Commissioners will get back to them in time.

MR. JACOBSON: First --

MR. DURSO: I was just saying there's no rules set in here of how long they have to answer, correct?

MR. JACOBSON: Look, you're not entitled to a waiver.

MR. DURSO: No, I understand that.

MR. JACOBSON: Okay. So -- and the State Board will be having rules and regulations. But on a practical matter, and I'm sure you have talked to your Commissioner in your party.

MR. DURSO: I have not, but...

MR. JACOBSON: Ever? Well, I'm sure on some things maybe, but what happens is they have to -- the two Commissioners would have to agree on a lot of things in order that the County Board runs properly. So I am sure that what will happen if a -- if one party's candidate requests a waiver, the -- that party's Commissioner will talk to that and say, *Hey, are you going to give me the waiver or not*, that's all.

MR. DURSO: I understand your --

MR. JACOBSON: And if they don't do that, I think

that party should get a different Commissioner.

MR. DURSO: I agree, but I would love to have seen that actually written down as opposed to "I hope," "I guess," and "I think," which is a lot of what this bill is.

MR. JACOBSON: I -- I have confidence with something of --

MR. DURSO: I'm glad you do.

MR. JACOBSON: Well, I have a -- I think it's a high priority for that party's Commissioner to try to get a waiver.

MR. DURSO: I just -- I understand, I just wish it was a priority enough to actually to put in the bill.

MR. JACOBSON: Well...

MR. DURSO: Eh, we can't have everything.

MR. JACOBSON: It's true; you're right.

MR. DURSO: I appreciate your time, sir, thank you. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 365th day.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: A Party vote has been requested.

Ms. Walsh.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Minority Conference will generally be in the negative on this piece of

legislation, but if anyone would like to vote in the affirmative, they may certainly do so at their desks. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Majority Conference will be in the affirmative. Those who wish to vote in the negative can do so at this time.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

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.

Page 10, Rules Report No. 87, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Senate No. S00754, Rules Report No. 87, Senator Martinez (O'Pharrow--A02746). An act to amend the Transportation Law, in relation to the membership of the Republic Airport Commission.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: An explanation has been requested, Mr. O'Pharrow.

MR. O'PHARROW: Good afternoon, Madam Speaker. This is my first bill, so it's an honor. This bill is an amendment to Chapter 528 of the Laws of 2024 to the appointments of the Republic Airport Commission. This requires the Assembly and

the Senate, both Houses, to submit to the Governor a list of three recommendations for individuals for their -- each of their respective -- four respective appointments. The Governor will select one person from each of the list of three for the respective appointments.

The original bill will be removed -- the original, excuse me, the original bill removed this list of requirements for each appointee, the chapter amendment adds it back in.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Gandolfo.

MR. GANDOLFO: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Would the sponsor please yield for a couple of questions?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MR. O'PHARROW: Yes, I yield.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MR. GANDOLFO: Thank you, and it's great to see your first bill here, but it hasn't passed yet --

(Laughter)

-- it might go down, I don't know, but I appreciate it and I know you weren't here when the bill-in-chief passed, but can you just explain a little bit about the Republic Airport Commission and why we -- why it's important to expand the number of recommendations made to the Governor for the appointments?

MR. O'PHARROW: Well, yes, as you explained I wasn't here last year when it passed, the bill passed. I'm confident it will pass, but the reason being is because we want to look at a larger

pool. We want to make sure we are more efficient and make sure we get added value by applying it and getting more recommendations as opposed to one. So a larger pool will give us a larger -- a lot of better candidates from that pool.

MR. GANDOLFO: And I agree, it's good to expand the pool, but one thing that it is not expanded to here is to include any recommendations from the Republican Minority here. Is there a reason why that wasn't included in this amendment?

MR. O'PHARROW: Well once again, I wasn't here last year, I just got elected. But just like my Republican colleagues, I you know, I appreciate the fact that you're here representing your people, but I think you have an open door policy with the Speaker and I think if you have any recommendation you can do so, and I'm sure he would, you know, honor that.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay, that's -- that's good to hear, maybe that will happen. So thank you for answering those, I'll just go on the bill, please, for a little bit, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On the bill.

MR. GANDOLFO: Madam Speaker, it's great to hear that the Speaker might be open to some Republican appointments to this Commission, that is very much welcome news, but I still have to point out the fact that despite the fact that we are changing this to include more recommendations to the Governor, it does not include any recommendations from the Republican Minority here despite the fact that of the nine Senate Districts on Long Island, seven are

represented by Republicans, and of the 22 Assembly seats, 13 are represented by Republicans, that's in Nassau and Suffolk County. I think it would be a good thing to include some input from our side, especially when the majority of voters in these two counties are voting for Republicans at the moment. I think refusing to add Republican recommendations to the Governor here isn't necessarily in the best interest of representative democracy, and for a Chamber and for a State Legislature that talks so much about the importance of representative democracy, I just thought we could do a little better.

So I will be voting no. This should have some input from Republicans which are the majority party in both counties, but I appreciate my colleague here for answering my questions and happy to see his first bill on the floor here. 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 very much, Madam Speaker. So the Minority Conference for the reasons stated during the debate will be in the negative on this piece of legislation, but if we do have any exceptions, they're welcome to vote from their seat. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Majority Conference will be voting in the affirmative. Those who wish to vote in the negative can do so now.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

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.

Congratulations, Mr. O'Pharrow, on your first bill.

(Applause)

On consent, page 4, Calendar No. 22, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Bill No. A00029, Calendar No. 22, McDonald, Bendett, Buttenschon. An act to amend the State Law, in relation to designating the State of New York a Purple Heart State.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: 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.)

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Bendett to explain his vote.

MR. BENDETT: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I rise to explain my vote. First, I'd like to thank the sponsor of the bill. Thank you for putting forth this legislation honoring all of our Purple Heart recipients and designating our State as a Purple Heart State. I'd also like to thank the Senate sponsor, Senator Ashby, as well.

I'd like to tell everybody that the first Purple Heart recipient was from New York State, as well as the Purple Heart Museum, the Hall of Heroes is in New Windsor in Assembly District No. 99, and my grandfather, Julius Bendett, was also earned a Purple Heart after he was shot in World War II. Most people think you'd probably get sent home after you're shot, but not him. They sent him over to Paris, France and they taught him how to make teeth and that ended up being his career. I want to thank all of the veterans and I want to thank all of the recipients of the Purple Heart, and I especially want to acknowledge two people in this Chamber that have received and earned Purple Hearts, one, my colleague to my left, thank you, and as well as our Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Wayne Jackson. Thank you, colleagues.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Bendett in the affirmative.

Mr. McDonald to explain his vote.

MR. MCDONALD: Thank you, Madam Speaker,

and I want to thank you and my colleagues for their support, my friend, Mr. Bendett, who really brought this bill to me, I appreciate that. Purple Heart is the oldest military award presented to American service members, and honors the brave men and women who've either been wounded on the battlefield or lost their lives while serving our country. There are approximately 19,000 Purple Heart recipients enrolled in the Roll of Honor Database who are either current residents of New York State, or New York State was their State of residence when they served their country.

This legislation designating New York State as a Purple Heart State reflects that New York, like other states, supports veterans, particularly those who have been injured or killed in action. New York State is an excellent candidate to be designated a Purple Heart State because of our designation of many parts of this State of the Purple Heart Trail, as well as many -- several counties throughout the State have also joined with the designation. Locally here in the Capital Region, Rensselaer County, Albany County, Saratoga, and Columbia County, just to name a few. I want to thank my colleagues for their support, we thank our veterans for their service. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. McDonald in the affirmative.

Mr. Eachus to explain his vote.

MR. EACHUS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. There is no official listing nationally of Purple Heart Awardees and so back

in 2006, a group of four gentlemen, one being State Senator Bill Larkin, who is a Republican and I thank him, put -- got together to build what is called the Purple Heart Hall of Honor. And it is that, and I have said this twice before, each of the years that I've been here, it is that Hall of Honor that is attempting to collect all of the stories of Purple Heart recipients. And I encourage my colleagues on the floor to talk to their service organizations, talk to their veterans' organizations, and encourage anybody who has been or received the Purple Heart to tell their story to the Purple Heart Hall of Honor. Again, it was dedicated on November 10th, 2006 by Governor Pataki, and I would like to take this moment to thank my colleague McDonald and Bendett for putting this forward. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Eachus in the affirmative.

Mr. Angelino to explain his vote.

MR. ANGELINO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have to try and keep this lighthearted because it's such a tough subject, but I thank Mr. McDonald and Mr. Bendett for thinking of us. On behalf of four friends of mine who also earned the Purple Heart Medal but never had the chance to wear it, if you've ever had a conversation with me, I wear mine and never fail to mention their names, Captain J.J. McKenna, Sergeant Brian Dunlap, Corporal Joseph Tremblay, and Lance Corporal Michael Glover, all Marines, all friends of mine who also earned the Purple Heart Medal, but never had the opportunity to wear theirs. So on their behalf, and on the behalf of our

Sergeant-at-Arms, my brother, thank you very much. I vote yes.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Angelino in the affirmative.

(Applause)

Mr. Maher to explain his vote.

MR. MAHER: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill. I was a staff member for New York State Senator Bill Larkin when we renamed the Purple Heart Bridge the -- the Bear Mountain Bridge The Purple Heart Memorial Veterans' Bridge in -- near the West Point area. And during my time with him, we interacted greatly with the Purple Heart Hall of Honor Museum, which is the only national repository of Purple Heart Medals and Purple Heart veterans in the country right here in New York. As my colleague had mentioned, Senator Larkin was part of the Genesis Group, which included General Hughes, news reporter Everett Smith, and a beloved veteran in our local community Joseph Farina.

Between them and so many others, they were able to create this institution which was then supported by the State of New York with a \$10 million grant which has really become a tourist destination and attraction for so many people. So this is a very appropriate bill, I'm happy to support. I know that Senator Larkin and so many others would be shining down on us and very grateful for the recognition of our Purple Heart veterans' service. I vote in the affirmative.

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

Mr. Chang to explain his vote.

MR. CHANG: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As a Afghanistan war veteran for nearly a year out there, I do know many of them who got injured on this services. I want to thank the sponsors for this bill. We definitely need to recognize our fellow veterans, Purple Heart veterans, in this great State of New York, and I vote affirmative. Thank you very much.

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

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: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to interrupt the proceedings to make a brief introduction. Earlier today, we had the pleasure of taking up a resolution about bringing our parents to work day, and we know that it's always a real pleasure when we have family join us. Today on behalf of Assemblymember DiPietro, he was very pleasantly surprised today to have his wife, Theresa; his daughter, Ava; and family friend Lori Wiskup come to visit him here in the People's House, and we were hoping that you could extend a warm welcome to the three of them on behalf of Mr. DiPietro.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Of course.

On behalf of Ms. Walsh, Mr. DiPietro, 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)

On consent, page 4, Calendar No. 23, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00112, Calendar No. 23, Berger, Levenberg. An act to amend -- to repeal certain provisions of the Insurance Law relating to anti-arson applications.

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. A00123, Calendar No. 24, Cruz, Jackson, Dilan, Simone, Taylor, Raga, Levenberg, Cunningham, Chandler-Waterman, Tapia, Walker, Bichotte Hermelyn, Rivera, González-Rojas, Meeks, Rosenthal. An act to amend the Criminal Procedure Law, in relation to rules of evidence

concerning the admissibility of evidence of a defendant's creative expression.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00189, Calendar No. 25, Rosenthal, Seawright, Simon, Reyes, Cook, Raga. An act to amend the Private Housing Finance Law, in relation to the supervision of certain limited profit housing companies.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00612, Calendar No. 26, Hevesi, Meeks, Epstein, Slater, Eachus, Maher. An act to amend the Social Services Law, in relation to the appropriate staff/child ratios for family day care homes, group family day care homes, school age day care programs and day care centers.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00805, Calendar No. 27, Epstein, Raga, Levenberg, Burdick, Shimsky, Reyes, Simone, Tapia, González-Rojas. An act to amend the Public Buildings Law, in relation to requiring gender neutral bathrooms in State-owned buildings.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01351, Calendar No. 28, González-Rojas, Bichotte Hermelyn, Seawright, Reyes, Shimsky, Forrest, Levenberg, Septimo. An act to amend the Public Health Law, in relation to certification of fetal death certificates by a midwife or physician assistant.

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. A01365-A, Calendar No. 29, Paulin, Gibbs, Zinerman, Septimo. An act to amend the Public Health Law, in relation to requiring nursing homes to designate dedicated storage spaces for the storage of the bodies of deceased persons.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01395, Calendar No. 30, Paulin, Sayegh, Hevesi, Tapia, Reyes, Dinowitz. An act to amend the Public Health Law, in relation to permitting a close friend to make

an anatomical gift of a decedent's body.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: 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. A01572, Calendar No. 31, Weprin, Otis. An act to amend the Insurance Law, in relation to requiring the Superintendent of Financial Services to promulgate regulations which provide standardized definitions for commonly used terms and phrases in certain insurance policies.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01894, Calendar No. 32, Paulin. An act to amend Section 3372 of the Public Health Law, relating to practitioner patient reporting.

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. A01914, Calendar No. 33, Paulin. An act to amend the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, in relation to renaming Agency Building 1, Agency Building 2, Agency Building 3 and Agency Building 4, located at the Empire State Plaza.

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.)

Mr. McDonald to explain his vote.

MR. MCDONALD: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to explain my vote. I want to thank the sponsor for this legislation. As many of you know, this is your home for most of your workplace. We have the State Capitol which we're in, we have the Robert Abrams Attorney General's Building, we have the Corning Tower and then we have Agency 1, 2, 3, and 4 which no one really understands why they're called 1, 2, 3, and 4. It was an idea that was

on a blueprint probably a long time ago. So the intention of this bill is to work with the existing Commission to look at the ten mighty rivers that flow through New York State and to make recommendations to the Governor to rename those buildings reflecting at least four of those ten rivers, whether it's the Hudson or the Mohawk, the Genesee, the Harlem River, wherever it may be. I think it's a great idea and, as you know, the rivers really are about our Industrial Revolution. It's about what made this State so strong, and I want to thank the sponsor for this great idea. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. McDonald 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. A02287, Calendar No. 34, Rosenthal. An act to amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York, in relation to including the illegal conversions of dwelling units in the definition of harassment.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A02431, Calendar No. 35, Braunstein. An act to amend the Public Service Law, in relation to clarifying how certain non-billing information regarding the delivery of water is disclosed to residents of cooperatives,

condominiums, or multi-family dwellings.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03028, Calendar No. 36, Dilan. An act to amend the Insurance Law, in relation to allowing domestic insurers to make certain records available by electronic means.

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. A03267, Calendar No. 37, Jones, Sayegh. An act to authorize certain health care professionals licensed to practice in other jurisdictions to practice in this State in connection with an event sanctioned by the World Triathlon Corporation; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration 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.

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: Madam Speaker, do we have any further housekeeping or resolutions?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: We have no housekeeping.

We 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. 152-156 were unanimously adopted.)

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: Can you please take a moment to recognize Ms. Clark.

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

MS. CLARK: I'm announcing the shocking news

that we will have conference in Hearing Room C immediately following Session.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Immediate Majority conference in Hearing Room C after the adjournment of Session.

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: I now move that the Assembly stands adjourned and that we reconvene at 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 4th, tomorrow being a Session day.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On Ms. Solages' motion, the House stands adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 5:27 p.m., the Assembly stood adjourned until Tuesday, March 4th at 12:30 p.m., Tuesday being a Session day.)