THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026 10:39 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 Wednesday, April 15th.

Mr. Fall.

MR. FALL: Madam Speaker, I move to dispense with the further reading of the Journal of Wednesday, April 15th, and that the same stand approved.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Without objection, so ordered.

MR. FALL: We have a quote for today by Anonymous. And the quote says: *Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift... that's why we call it the present*. And these words are by Anonymous.

Members have on their desk a main Calendar. Before any housekeeping and/or introductions, we will be calling for the following committees to meet: Ways and Means and Rules. These committees will produce an A-Calendar which we will take up today. I will announce any further floor activities as we proceed, and members of the Majority Conference should be aware that there will be need for conference following the end of Session. As always, I will consult with the Minority on their conference needs.

So with that as a general outline, Madam Speaker, let us begin by calling for the Ways and Means Committee to meet in the Speaker's Conference Room.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you. Ways and Means Committee members please make your way to the Speaker's Conference Room. Ways and Means Committee members to the Speaker's Conference Room.

A couple of pieces of housekeeping.

On a motion by Ms. Hyndman, page 26, Calendar No. 221, Bill No. A06388-A, the amendments are received and adopted.

On a motion by Mr. Weprin, page 33, Calendar No. 325, Bill No. A10030-A, the amendments are received and adopted.

Mr. Fall.

MR. FALL: Madam Speaker, may you please put the House at ease?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On Mr. Fall's motion, the House stands at ease.

(Whereupon, at 10:42 a.m., the House stood at ease.)

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(Whereupon, at 11:12 a.m., the House was called back to order.)

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The House will come to order.

MR. FALL: Members have on their desk an A-Calendar. Madam Speaker, I now move to advance the A-Calendar.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On a motion by Mr. Fall, the A-Calendar is advanced.

Page 3, Rules Report No. 94, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A11000, Rules Report

No. 94, Pretlow. An act making appropriations for the support of government; to amend Chapter 98 of the Laws of 2026, relating to making appropriations for the support of government, in relation thereto; to amend Chapter 100 of the Laws of 2026, relating to making appropriations for the support of government, in relation thereto; to amend Chapter 102 of the Laws of 2026, relating to making appropriations for the support of government, in relation thereto; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Governor's Message is at the desk.

The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: I hereby certify to an immediate vote, Kathy Hochul, Governor.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: An explanation has been requested.

Mr. Pretlow.

MR. PRETLOW: Absolutely, Madam Speaker. As we move along toward a final budget solution, we're going to continue to enact appropriations. This current appropriation before us will ensure funding for State operations and other programs through April 20th. The bill includes funding for additional emergency payroll, unemployment insurance, public health programs, MTA support, OPWDD and veterans programs and general State charges.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Palmesano.

MR. PALMESANO: Yes. Thank you, Madam

Speaker. Will the Chairman yield for some questions?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the Chair yield?

MR. PRETLOW: Yes, I will.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Chair yields.

MR. PALMESANO: Thank you, Mr. Pretlow. A few quick questions and then I'll get in some others. First and -- and good morning, of course. How much does this total, the amount now that we would've expended in the three extenders?

MR. PRETLOW: Of the total appropriations to date is $7.5 billion.

MR. PALMESANO: Okay. And this increase over the previous extender is how much?

MR. PRETLOW: Over previous extender is $79.1 million.

MR. PALMESANO: So on Monday we'll have another extender that we'll have to do. On what payroll and other expenses -- State expenses will that account for if we're taking up a fifth budget extender?

MR. PRETLOW: The April 20th will ensure payment of the administrative payroll -- the administration payroll.

MR. PALMESANO: Okay. Just to -- now if I could, I do have some other questions but before I do that, I just want to kind of get your perspective a little bit on where we're at. You know, Monday we passed the extender. Since then we've seen some

bantering in between our colleagues on the other side and the Governor. One saying the Governor's not negotiating, the other -- Governor saying they're not telling the truth and then you see some reports there might be some progress. And I kind of want to just maybe with a little fun, I'll get back to our -- our baseball discussion the other day about the innings. I mean the Yankees won last night in the bottom of the 9th which is a good thing. I know when we were talking the other day about just to put it in perspective where -- where you see we are based from -- from Monday, have we moved up any innings or are we still in the -- are we in the Little League now still or --

(Crosstalk)

MR. PRETLOW: Mr. -- Mr. Palmesano, I remembered how you had asked me this question last week and I thought long and hard over it. And we have nine budget bills to pass on real -- real bills. If you consider each of these budget bills an inning, I would say that we're in batting practice pregame.

(Laughter)

MR. PALMESANO: That's -- that's -- that's -- I -- I love your sense of humor, but it's also a little scary. But yeah, because I know I was joking around saying we're in extra -- are we in extra innings, but in extra innings you're right at that -- anyone can win on -- in that inning. So it doesn't seem like we're even close to that even.

MR. PRETLOW: Like I said, we're in -- we're in -- some people are getting the hot dogs in the parking lot.

(Laughter)

MR. PALMESANO: Yeah. So -- so we have some work to do. Okay, fair enough.

MR. PRETLOW: Absolutely.

MR. PALMESANO: So on that note, you know, a day before tax day, the Governor seemed to concede on a proposed new tax in New York, and although that idea is really not new and it's been proposed before, the proposal had changed from the Governor's no tax increase in the budget. Do we believe introducing new policy at this stage in the budget process allows for proper review, and have we seen any -- has there been language exchanged on the actual language that we're looking to adopt --

MR. PRETLOW: At -- at -- at this point that's just under discussion. There's no official language.

MR. PALMESANO: No language?

MR. PRETLOW: No.

MR. PALMESANO: And since it's under the discussion, I mean has there really been any analysis? I mean, obviously this has been around for a while. A tax like this, what -- how -- what kind of impact this could have on future investment in New York City real estate particularly at the high end?

MR. PRETLOW: I think people will continue to buy high-end properties in New York State, especially on Long Island and Manhattan.

MR. PALMESANO: Okay. And if -- even if capital

is mobile, you don't think there's any risk that invent -- investors will simply choose other markets, and how does that -- how does this affect our long-term property values and tax base --

MR. PRETLOW: Much said is about the -- the -- the -- the flight of rich people and them selling their -- their multi-million dollar homes, but oddly enough somebody always buys one. So they're replaced by another billionaire so I don't think that that's a concern.

MR. PALMESANO: Okay. On -- on that note, like, I know this is a -- seems like -- does this proposal really address the root cause of New York City's budget gap, or is this simply just another way to add additional revenue to help close it?

MR. PRETLOW: This is -- this is not -- our addressing New York City's budget gap. This is just trying to make -- trying to come to a idea or a path for the State budget.

MR. PALMESANO: Okay. And along with that, are there going to be any structural changes that would accompany a proposal like this to as -- to assure a long-term fiscal stability with a proposal like this?

MR. PRETLOW: That's not being discussed right now.

MR. PALMESANO: Okay. Fair enough.

Another point I'd like to hop over to, I said, you know, earlier also we saw some number -- some comments that the Governor seems now to be blaming the current budget standstill, at

least in part, when it comes to the climate discussions on a lawsuit from climate acts -- activists related to the State's climate law and Cap-and-Invest. Has the Governor provided any legislative language outlining the proposed changes to the climate law that she's talking about? Have you guys seen any language in what we're talking about?

MR. PRETLOW: I have not seen language, sir.

MR. PALMESANO: Okay. So -- and I guess I will -- when we do see language (indiscernible) share with us I would expect?

MR. PRETLOW: Yes.

MR. PALMESANO: And hopefully -- I know when we talked the other day, I'll bring this up again because, you know, our school districts are looking for school votes soon and they don't have that certainty yet. On the climate issue I brought up -- and the EV school bus mandate. You seem to indicate that could be part of the discussions. Do you think the EV school bus --

(Crosstalk)

MR. PRETLOW: I -- I think it'll have to be part of the discussion because the availability of electric school buses to date is really slim and I don't think that we can find 7,000 battery-powered school buses in the time frame alit -- allowed -- allotted by the law that we had passed earlier.

MR. PALMESANO: I -- I -- I agree. It'd be -- so is it something that maybe you're -- you're at liberty to say that the Majority's pushing for a -- an official delay in not just the waiver

process, let's delay the electric school bus mandate for school districts?

MR. PRETLOW: I'm not going to speak for the -- the entire -- my side of the aisle, but -- I'll -- I'll say that is something that's under discussion.

MR. PALMESANO: All right. That's fair enough. And you think with the comments from the Governor, do you think the real issue, the opposition from the activists -- really the opposition from the activists, is it about the challenge of meeting the aggressive emission targets on the timeline set in law? You think it's the timeline -- if the timeline feasible? Are the targets feasible? Is that why we -- we should be looking to move the -- some -- move the needle a little bit as on delaying this and postponing it?

MR. PRETLOW: Well, the -- the, you know, this is really being driven by a lawsuit as I know you're aware --

MR. PALMESANO: Right.

MR. PRETLOW: -- it's not really the advocates we have to now abide by -- by -- by the lawsuit. The discussions are happening as we speak. If you read today's *Times*, several states are scaling back on the aggressive laws that we have written for climate change. Not that climate change isn't important and not that clean water isn't important, but because of actions on the federal level and the subsidies that were formally being provided in wind and solar with making -- and battery storage is making those a little less likely to happen on time.

MR. PALMESANO: Sure. And certainly obviously the -- the memo that came out from the administration, NYSERDA saying the cost with implementing the policies is part of that issue and discussion, too, so, but we don't have to get into the -- the nuts and bolts of that right now, I -- I don't really need to necessarily do that but -- so really then the targets and the timeline, I know what you're talking about from the federal perspective and (indiscernible) but are really -- concern we keep hearing from the business community and others out there are the targets are not feasible, the timeline's not feasible, the grid's not ready for it from a feasibility perspective, that's all being part of this discussion and should be part of this discussion. Don't you agree?

MR. PRETLOW: Yes. Yes.

MR. PALMESANO: All right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your time again. I appreciate it. I look forward to speaking to you again next week.

Madam Speaker, on the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On the bill.

MR. PALMESANO: Madam Speaker, my colleagues, what did Yogi Bear [sic] say? It's déjà vu all over again? We see Groundhog Day, you know, he's going to see his shadow over and over again like a dog chasing its tail. This is our fourth budget extender since April 1st. Four budget extenders, one budget bill. As the Chairman said, we have nine more budget bills to pass. You know, obviously we joked around a little bit at what -- about what

inning we're in, but there really is kind of some uncertainty. We have a long ways to go in this process, and I just think at this point, the -- the only emergency really seems to me is that this Body really can't do this basic job of passing a budget. Maybe it'll stop softening the language a little bit. This isn't a delay, this a -- this is a complication. This is not a complication, this is really a failure. It's a failure to process, it's a failure to transparency and yes, it's a failure of leadership. I will remind my colleagues, our school districts back home are preparing your school budgets right now and they don't know how much aid they're going to receive from us to put that before their voters. That's not fair, that's not transparent, that's not right. We can do a better job on that front. It seems that at the same time, we see this little bit of public infighting between our colleagues down the hall saying the Governor's not negotiating, the Governor calling them -- saying that they're lying. It makes for big head -- good headlines, but it doesn't make for good government.

Let's be clear, and this isn't divided government, this is one party control. One party control is crawling -- controlling this budget process and when the party -- when the process is controlled by one party, there really shouldn't be a stalemate, but it seems to be -- it should be an exception, but it seems to be the norm. And then this week again, you know, the week of tax day, a brand new tax was introduced after the Executive Budget, after the amendments, after the budget hearings, after the One-House budgets. It really to me, you know, sometimes seems to raise a fundamental question: What is the

purpose of the process? Why present an Executive Budget that is a roadmap that can be rewritten at the last minute? Why do we hold pub -- public budget hearings if major new proposals can be introduced after the fact and then asking members -- not giving members time to analyze and engage on it? That's really not how transparency is supposed to work, my colleagues. This is not how good policy is made. Last minute proposals do have real consequences.

I read the pies -- deny -- denies the public of some meaningful opportunity to weigh in. It prevents a thorough fiscal and policy analysis, limits input and shuts others out of the legislative process. It appears that we -- we almost are just like a rubber stamp with a -- with a delay button and that's not working. It's not -- no longer about policy differences or tough negotiation. I mean New York State is not a small state and it's not an inexperienced government. Every time we pass one of these extenders we are -- become complicit in lowering the standard of this institution and the expectations of the public. What we're really saying here is not acceptable and what we're saying is, *this is best the Legislature can do.* It's not.

And so yes, we're going to pass this extender today, but really let's call it what it is. It's not a solution, it's not progress, just another Albany budget failure. And again, as Yogi Bear [sic] said, this is like déjà vu all over again. Let's get to work. The -- the New Yorkers we represent back home deserve better, so hopefully -- I

know we're probably going to be doing another budget extender, but let's get to work and get this done for the people we represent.

So again, I will be voting yes on this extender, but we have a long way to go and -- and we owe it to the people we represent to do the right thing by them.

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.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mr. Fall.

MR. FALL: Madam Speaker, do we have further housekeeping or resolutions?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: We do have a few pieces of housekeeping.

On behalf of Mr. Hevesi, Bill No. A05893, Assembly bill recalled from Senate.

The Clerk will read the title of the bill.

THE CLERK: An act to amend the Social Services Law.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: A motion to reconsider the vote by which the bill passed the House.

The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

The Clerk will announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

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

On behalf of Ms. Paulin, Bill No. A02425, Assembly bill -- Assembly bill recalled from Senate.

The Clerk will read the title of the bill.

THE CLERK: An act to amend the Social Services Law.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: A motion to reconsider the vote by which the bill passed the House.

The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

The Clerk will announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

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

We have no resolutions.

Mr. Fall.

MR. FALL: Can you call on Ms. Clark for an announcement?

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

MS. CLARK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm here to announce there will be Majority Conference immediately following Session in the Speaker's Conference Room. Majority Conference immediately following Session.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Immediate Majority Conference, Speaker's Conference Room at the adjournment of Session.

Mr. Fall.

MR. FALL: I now move that the Assembly stand adjourned until Friday, April 17th, tomorrow being a legislative day and that we will reconvene on Monday, April 20th at the call of the Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On Mr. Fall's motion, the House stands adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 11:33 a.m., the House stood adjourned until Monday, April 20th at the call of the Speaker, that being a Session day.)