

**TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025**

**1:18 P.M.**

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The House will  
come to order.

Good afternoon, colleagues.

In the absence of clergy, let us pause for a moment of  
silence.

(Whereupon, a moment of silence was observed.)

Visitors are invited to join the members in the Pledge  
of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Acting Speaker Hunter led visitors and  
members in the Pledge of Allegiance.)

A quorum being present, the Clerk will read the  
Journal of Monday, May 19th.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Madam Speaker, I move to dispense with the further reading of the Journal of Monday, May the 19th, and that the same stand approved.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Without objection, so ordered.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Colleagues and guests that our in Chambers, I'd like to share a quote with you today. This one comes from Malcolm X. I don't think we need to explain his background, he's pretty well known. Actually, from New York. I won't say whether it was Queens or Brooklyn, but I know it's New York. His words for us today: *If you have no critics, you likely have no success.* Again, words from (indiscernible) Malcolm X. Very much missed. Yesterday was his birthday, tomorrow.

Okay. Madam Speaker, colleagues have on their desk a main Calendar and a debate list. And before any housekeeping and/or introductions, we'll be calling for the following committees to meet off the floor -- and I hope members can hear me all throughout the Capitol, because when it's time for these committees, you should be over here in the Capitol building so that we can start these meetings on time -- Higher Ed, followed by Judiciary, followed by Labor, followed by Local Governments, Mental Health, Racing and Wagering, Real Property Taxation, Small Businesses, Codes and Ways and Means.

Madam Speaker, after any housekeeping and/or introductions, we're gonna begin our floor work by calling for the

following bills on debate: Calendar No. 58 by Ms. Barrett, Calendar No. 73 by Ms. Levenberg, Calendar No. 83 by Ms. Paulin, Calendar No. 94 by Ms. Woerner, Calendar No. 96, Mr. Weprin, Calendar No. 109, Mr. Berger, Calendar No. 138, Ms. Barrett, Calendar No. 142, Ms. Lunsford and Calendar No. 143, Mr. Magnarelli and Calendar No. 157 by Mr. Weprin. There may be a need to announce additional items for the floor today, Madam Speaker. If so, I will advise at that moment. However, that's the general outline of where we're going today. If you could now please call the Higher Ed Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room, we might begin our work.

Thank you, ma'am.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Higher Ed Committee members please join Chair Hyndman in the Speaker's Conference Room. Higher Ed Committee in the Speaker's Conference Room.

We have ten committees off the floor, my colleagues, today. If you could make your way towards the Chamber, we'd like to get through them expediently.

We have no housekeeping and many introductions today.

So we will start with Ms. González-Rojas for the purposes of an introduction.

MS. GONZÁLEZ-ROJAS: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Colleagues, I rise today with great pride to welcome

the incredible students, staff and community of the Lexington School of the Deaf to the People's House. As a representative of Assembly District 34, which is home of the Lexington School of the Deaf, it is a true honor to recognize this vital institution and the transformative work it has done for deaf and hard of hearing New Yorkers since its founding in 1864. Today, we celebrate not only the school's rich history and commitment to education, but also the 26th Annual Esther Lustig Memorial Basketball Classic, an inspiring event that brings together students and the legislature in the spirit of joy, athleticism, and remembrance. This tradition honors the legacy of beloved activist Esther Lustig, and it continues to thrive thanks to the steadfast support of former Speaker Pro Tem Jeff Aubry and our broader Assembly community.

Lexington is our largest school for the deaf in New York State, serving more than 350 students from across the five boroughs. It is more than a school. It is a hub for language, for culture, for support, for empowerment. With programs that include mental health services, speech and hearing care and vocational training. It is also where I received my health services for my hone -- my own hearing disability and my hearing aids.

To the students visiting us today, thank you. Thank you for inspiring us with your leadership, your excellence, and your energy. We are so proud to have you here and I am rooting for you tonight. And I know we'll have a wonderful game, with many of the All-Stars of the State Assembly and the State Senate.

So, Madam Speaker, please welcome the Lexington School of the Deaf to the People's House, and extend them the cordialities of the floor.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On behalf of Ms. González-Rojas, the Speaker, and all the members, we welcome students from the Lexington School for the Deaf here to the People's House, the Assembly Chamber. We extend the privileges of the floor to you. Hope you enjoy our proceedings today and best wishes for a successful win this evening during your basketball classic. Thank you very much for joining us today.

(Applause)

Mr. Wieder for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. WIEDER: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise today with great pride to welcome and introduce a truly remarkable individual to this Chamber, the People's House, Mr. Moshe Kaff, the Director of Emergency Medical Services and the Office of Emergency Management for the Village of New Square. Mr. Kaff has dedicated himself wholeheartedly to the safety and well-being of his community. For years, he has led EMS and emergency response effort with unmatched professionalism, precision, and compassion. In moments of crisis, Mr. Kaff is not only prepared, he is often the first to respond, guiding teams, saving lives, and providing reassurance when it's needed the most. But his work doesn't end when the siren stops. He is constantly planning, training, and strengthening the village readiness for all emergencies, from natural

disasters to public health challenges. He leads not for recognition, but out of a deep, deep sense of duty and heart. And that is truly leadership. Mr. Kaff's services is a credit not just to New Square, but to all of New York State.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you extend to Mr. Kaff and his wonderful wife all the privileges and courtesies of this esteemed Chamber. We are truly honored by his presence today.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On behalf of Mr. Wieder, the Speaker, and all members, we welcome you, sir, to the People's House, our Assembly Chamber, extend the privileges of the floor to you. Hope you enjoy our proceedings today. Thank you so very much for joining us.

(Applause)

Mr. Taylor for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

On behalf of Assemblymember Jackson and myself, we want to welcome Maurice Anderson, 17 years old, is a Harlem and a Bronx resident, and student of Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change. He has been an active member of the Madison Square Boys & Girls Club Pinkerton Clubhouse, located across the street from the world-renowned Polo Ground Public Housing Towers.

Maurice has began his academic -- academic journey at Thurgood Marshall Lower School and continued on to the Thurgood Marshall High School, where he has learned the importance

of creating a positive change in his clubhouse -- in his community. And during this time in high school, he joined the Pinkerton Clubhouse and became actively involved in the leadership program, community service groups, health and nutrition programs. Due to his dedication and outstanding contributions, Maurice was named the Madison Square Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year Representative. And as our representative, he will compete against other Boys and Girls Club members across this great State of New York, and a chance to represent New York State at the national level as the 2025 Boys and Girls Club of America Youth of the Year.

Madam Speaker, would you please extend the cordialities of this House, representing -- welcoming Maurice Anderson, along with Ms. Sara Galarza and she's here from Madison Square Boys and Girls, and he was just recently accepted into U of A, and he'll be back here at the University of Albany this fall, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On behalf of Mr. Taylor, Ms. Jackson, the Speaker, and all members, we welcome you, young man, to the Assembly Chamber, and extend the privileges of the floor to you. We wish you continued academic success for all of your future endeavors. And congratulations in advance because we know you're gonna bring home the gold. So, thank you so very much for joining us today.

(Applause)

Mr. Jones for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. JONES: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise today to introduce students from the State and Local Government class from Clinton Community College. Their professor, Tom Mandeville, has been teaching at CCC since 1990 and is the senior-most faculty member. He has been bringing students down to Albany for the past 15 years plus, but this will be his last visit to Albany as an instructor, since he will be retiring at the end of this year.

For over 35 years, Professor Mandeville has impacted thousands of students during his tenure and provided hands-on learning experiences, like this field trip, to enhance their education. He also has encouraged many of his students to participate in the interim program right here in Albany. I'd like to thank him and his class for their visit today, and hope that they may have a great experience learning about the legislative process firsthand. With us today are Edward Ackey, Andre Anderson, Danika Clowney, Victor Dueno, Luke Rathbun, Joshua Sharp, Amelia Smith, Toinenaejah Young and of course, Professor Mandeville.

Madam Speaker, will you please welcome this fine group to the People's House.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On behalf of Mr. Jones, the Speaker, and all members, welcome, student scholars from Clinton Community College. We welcome you to the Assembly Chamber. And to you, Professor Mandeville, congratulations to you on your longstanding academic success, and for your future

retirement. Well-deserved after all those many years. We extend the privileges of the floor to you. Hope you enjoy our proceedings today. Thank you so very much for joining us.

(Applause)

Mr. Gray for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. GRAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Give me -- it's my pleasure today to have Fire Chief Will Lipczynski with us -- invite you to say that name later -- currently resides in Chaumont, and -- with his wife and three children. His youngest son Jack is also known as Assemblyman Jack. And -- so Will is currently the Chief for the Chaumont Fire Department. He also serves as the Cape Vincent Ambulance squad's Director of Operation. He has been the Fire Chief for five years and prior to that was an Assistant Chief for the department. Before joining the Chaumont Fire Department, Will served in the U.S. Army. He joined in 2006, and was deployed to Iraq in 2009, serving in Iraqi -- Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Will began his firefighting in North Tonawanda, New York. In 2002, at the age of 18, he was -- became Assistant Chief at the -- as the Fire Chief at West Carthage Fire Department. In total, Will has been in the fire and EMS service for 23 years. Will has also worked with a number of different state of emergencies. He has on his resume, 2017, 2019 flooding. And then again in 2023, he was the chief in charge of the battery fire that we had that lasted for eight days.

So, Madam Speaker, would you please offer the

cordialities of the floor to Will Lipczynski.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On behalf of Mr. Gray, the Speaker, and all the members, welcome, Chief, to the Assembly Chamber. We extend the privileges of the floor to you. We thank you for your longstanding contributions and service to our community through the fire service and as an Army veteran. We thank you for that. Hooah. And we hope you enjoy our proceedings today. Thank you very much for joining us.

(Applause)

Ms. Lucas for the purposes of an introduction.

MS. LUCAS: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to make an introduction today of Yeshimabeit Milner, know affectionately as Yeshi. Yeshi is originally from Brooklyn, New York and was born in a hospital -- Brookdale Hospital, to be exact -- that services my district, which is the 60th Assembly District. And she is today visiting the Capitol. Yeshi is the Founder and Executive Director of Data for Black Lives. She has worked since she was 17 behind the scenes as a movement builder, technologist, and data scientist. She started Data for Black Lives because, for too long, she straddled the worlds of data and organizing, and was determined to break down the silos to harness -- the -- to harness the power of data to make change in the lives of Black people. In seven years, Data for Black Lives has changed the conversation around big data and technology across the U.S. and globally. Yeshi has received much recognition for her work. She is a graduate of Brown University, she

is an Echoing Green Fellow and Ashoka Fellow, and in 2019, became a Forbes Under 30 [sic] Social Entrepreneur. In 2020, she received a *New York Times* Good Tech Award for Data for Black Lives COVID-19 database. And in 2021, was awarded the John F. Kennedy New Frontier Award, which recognizes leaders under 40 who have made significant contributions to politics and public service.

I'd like to thank her for coming up -- coming to the Capitol and to the People's House to support the conversation today that we had around disavocation [sic] of data within the broad Black community on behalf of US Friedman and within the State of New York.

Madam Speaker, if you will offer Yeshe a welcome and the cordialities of the floor today, that would be greatly appreciated.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

On behalf of Ms. Lucas, the Speaker, and all the members, we welcome you, Ms. Milner, to the People's House, the Assembly Chamber, extend the privileges of the floor to you. Thank you for all of the important work that you're doing in our community. We hope you enjoy our proceedings today. Thank you so very much for joining us.

(Applause)

Page 9, Calendar No. 58, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A04712, Calendar No. 58, Barrett, Seawright, Kay, Levenberg, Magnarelli, Glick, Simon,

Epstein, Lunsford, Santabarbara, Sayegh, Kassay, Griffin, Otis. An act to amend the Energy Law, in relation to the composition of the State Energy Planning Board.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: An explanation has been requested.

Ms. Barrett.

MS. BARRETT: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This legislation would add a representative of the Utility Intervention Unit from the Department of State to the State Energy Planning Board. Prior to 2012, the Utility Intervention Unit was part of the Consumer Protection Board and had their own seat on the State Energy Planning Board. Since the Consumer Protection Board was eliminated, there hasn't been a consumer protection-focused representative on the State Energy Planning Board, which I serve on on behalf of Speaker Heastie. This bill will add an important voice to represent consumer interest, as the State Energy Planning Board continues its process to plan for the future.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Palmesano.

MR. PALMESANO: Yes, Madam Speaker. Will the sponsor yield for some questions?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MS. BARRETT: Yes, Madam --

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields. We're on debate. If we could have quiet, please. Thank you.

MR. PALMESANO: Thank you. Hello again, DiDi.

MS. BARRETT: Hello.

MR. PALMESANO: I'm -- I'm not going to belabor this, I just have a couple of quick questions. I know we talked about this in committee. So, this bill is specially just adding a consumer advocate to the State Energy Planning Board, correct?

MS. BARRETT: Correct.

MR. PALMESANO: And is it -- my understanding is there's currently 13 members on that board?

MS. BARRETT: I believe yes, there are 13 members; two of which are appointed by the Legislature, one the Assembly and one the Senate.

MR. PALMESANO: Okay. So, the appointments from the Legislature, they're -- come from the Speaker and the Majority Leader and the Senate, correct?

MS. BARRETT: From the Senate. I don't know who -- who gets the -- the Senate's representative is actually a gentleman who works for Central Hudson. So, I don't know who specifically appointed him.

MR. PALMESANO: Okay. There -- and just -- just so I know, there's no Minority appointments on that -- on the Energy Board as it stands right now currently, is there?

MS. BARRETT: No. This is not -- you know, there's nothing in this bill that, you know, that -- that relates to that. And -- and no, there's --

MR. PALMESANO: I --

MS. BARRETT: -- there -- the other appointees are all from the Governor's agencies.

MR. PALMESANO: Yeah. I understand that. I just wanted to verify. I know your bill is specifically is (indiscernible) the consumer. I know that's not the whole board you're creating, so I know it's not us to make that decision. I just wanted to clarify, so there are no Minority appointments on the current Board as it stands, right?

MS. BARRETT: Not from the Minority Party, if that's what you're referring to?

MR. PALMESANO: Yup. And what -- how long of a term do the individuals -- when they're appointed, is there a -- is there a term period of time? Or is it just until they might be notified? They can be removed at any time?

MS. BARRETT: No. There is not a time limit, no.

MR. PALMESANO: Okay. Now, the NYISO's a -- a part of that, but they're not a nonvoting member, is that correct? Is that my understanding?

MS. BARRETT: NYI -- NYISO -- the -- the president of NYISO has attended every meeting that I've attended since last -- last fall, I believe it was? So, yes, he's certainly part of the conversation.

MR. PALMESANO: So, they're -- they're a part of the dialog, but they're -- they're nonvoting members, is that correct?

MS. BARRETT: Yes, I believe that's correct.

MR. PALMESANO: So, I guess I want to ask the question: Do you believe -- and I know this bill doesn't do that -- and I know it's not current -- I'm gonna ask you the question. Do you believe there should be Minority appointments to the -- to the Board given the fact that we represent 6 million people? And given the fact that all the major changes that are going on with energy policy in the State of New York?

MS. BARRETT: I believe that there should be a consumer representative because that is the one missing piece --

MR. PALMESANO: Yeah. I agree.

MS. BARRETT: I have no idea the other people who attend, what political party they're a part of. We are really here to plan for the future of New York State's energy interest. And this bill --

MR. PALMESANO: I understand.

MS. BARRETT: -- is about making sure that the consumer voice is heard. And that I do believe we should have --

MR. PALMESANO: And -- and I totally understand where you're doing with the bill, it's not -- not the issue. I was gonna brought -- so, the Speaker has an appointment, the Majority Leader, the Senate has an appointment, the Governor has appointments. I guess it's not relative -- maybe it's not relative, maybe it is relative. Would you -- would you like to carry a bill that would put a Minority -- Minority appointments on the bill? I'd join you as cosponsor in that legislation, just to have a voice up for the Minority

for the 6 million people --

MS. BARRETT: I -- I just -- I really don't see that -- that -- the political party is relevant at this point. I carry this bill because I think this is really important that consumers' voices, no matter what party they are, even if they don't -- aren't part of a party. I mean, you know, I have a lot of people in my district who are Independent or, you know, N-O-Ps, as they're called, and they're -- they're -- still have energy issues. They still have affordability issues. And that's what I'm here to fight for.

MR. PALMESANO: I -- I -- I agree with you.

Madam Speaker -- thank you for your time -- Madam Speaker, on the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On the bill.

MR. PALMESANO: Certainly, and I -- I will say to the sponsor, she's very patient with me. We've had some of these discussions. I understand what she's trying to do to put a consumer advocate on the -- on the planning board -- Energy Planning Board. There should be a consumer advocate on the Energy Planning Board because they're gonna have a lot to talk about, for sure. Right now, the -- I believe that the Consumer Energy Planning Board has 13 members. Most are appointed by the Governor, and one appointee comes from the Speaker of the Assembly, one appointee comes from the Majority Leader of the Senate.

In my opinion, and in our opinion, think about it; what we're doing with the energy policy in the State, there should be

Minority appointments to this board. They're still gonna be outnumbered. We represent 6 million -- 6 million people in the State of New York. And the major changes that are going on with the energy policy in the State, the -- the -- how impactful and far-reaching it is, is significant with this climate energy agenda that's being advanced in this House. Especially with the so-called green energy mandates that are being implemented time and time again, and we can go through a whole host of those. The NYISO is a member of that board. You know, obviously, they study reliability of the grid. Unfortunately, they're not a nonvoting member, which I think is something to point out. But I just think, from the perspective, although I agree with the Sponsor that a consumer advocate is a worthwhile appointee to this board, but I can't just let them slip by. It's not about political party, it's about fairness and representation. If the Speaker of the Assembly and the Majority Leader of the Senate have an appointee to this Energy Planning Board, why cannot the Minorities have appointees to this Board? We're still outnumbered. And why do I think this is so important? Look at the CLCPA that we passed in 2019. That board created a Climate Action Council of 23 members. The Minority appointment -- each Minority had a point -- one appointed. We were still outnumbered. If the individuals from the Minority were not part of that board, the -- the scoping plan that would have come out of that board would have been ten, 20, 30 times worse. Many of my colleagues here on both sides of the aisle recognize that to be the case, I'm sure. We need to have our voices

heard. Maybe there's differences of opinions, that happens. I get that you think differently about the green climate energy than we do. But you need to have differences of opinion to come -- to try to come to an agreement. We would still be outnumbered, ladies and gentlemen, my colleagues, if the Energy Planning Board -- if we had Minority appointments on that board. But as my colleague, the sponsor said, she's been to meetings. She's part of the discussion. The Minority does not have a voice in that discussion because we are not allowed appointees to it. I think that's something in the issue of fairness and good policy that this House would try to implement. And I don't understand. I just think to dismiss it out of hand, *well, it's not a political party*, I -- I just -- I find that -- I take issue with that, to be honest with you. The leaders of this House should each have an appointee to let them bring -- bring people in with different perspectives maybe from the other side. And there are different perspectives, we know that. So, bring that different perspective into this Body of expertise so when they're debating the future energy policy of the State, that it's not just a -- a rubber stamp for what wants to be done or what's being pushed by advocates and others, that there can be a dissenting voice to say, this needs to be part of the equation just like we have with the Climate Action Council. Because, I'll tell you again, if we did not have those appointees, those appointees that came from the Minority, were probably the only two that had tremendous expertise and background in energy policy in the State of New York. They were still outvoted because that's how it works, just

like it works in the House. We're still outvoted. Sometimes we say we win the debate, but we lose the vote. That's what happens. But at least there was a voice at those Climate Action Council meetings that could be a dissenting voice, a voice of reason, a voice of common sense because that's what they were. We should have the same type of diversity and expertise and vision on our Energy Planning Board, especially as they work to implement this policy. And my colleague, the -- the Ranker, I'm glad she's on that board because I think she does have understanding and common sense, I know she does, and is fighting -- looking for the best policies. But I think it would be helpful if we had legislation to add Minority appointments to this board particularly given the far-reaching impact the energy policy in this State is having.

And the consumer advocate, which I'm looking forward to seeing what they have to say, is gonna have a lot to talk about because of the costs that are being -- are coming down the tracks at the consumers, that some just do not realize, that we talked about. What costs, you might say? The cost just to convert from -- the cost, if we do nothing with the CLCPA, which you implemented, would -- with just the methodology used to measure omissions, every other state that -- country, internationally, uses a 100-year methodology, we use a 20-year methodology. If we don't do anything, it's gonna increase prices at the pump 63 cents a gallon and increase natural gas home heating costs at 79 percent. That's a lot for the consumer advocate to take in.

The PSE in July of '23 approved \$43 billion in future ratepayer increases that pay for these green energy mandates. Not much -- not many people talked about that. That's gonna be something that this -- I can't wait to hear from the consumer advocate to talk about. The cost to convert your home over from natural gas to full electrification, which is the plan and desire of this Body and the Governor, would cost homeowners \$35,000 to convert their homes over from natural gas to full electrification. That's a lot for this consumer advocate to take in.

The school bus mandate, the electric school bus mandate, which we pegged \$8-15 billion just to -- to re-cost the replacing school buses, that are the mother-of-all unfunded mandates placed on our school districts and property taxpayers. That's a lot for our consumer advocate, who will be on that board, and it would be nice if they had Minority appointments on that board to digest and talk about that as well.

The impact of the ACT regulation, which is going to devastate the trucking industry in the State of New York, which has 300,000 jobs and transports 96 percent of the goods across the State. That's gonna be a lot for this consumer advocate to digest and take in during the discussions with the Energy Planning Board.

Also, the Advanced Clean Car rule, which says in 2025 that 35 percent of the vehicles sold should be electric vehicles, which is going to have a mandate that they can't meet because there's no charging infrastructure, just like the trucking industry has no

charging infrastructure on the Thruway. But these mandates, these regulations, are being implemented this year, both of them, by the DEC. That's going to be a lot for this Consumer Energy Board to take in; that's a lot for that energy planning board to discuss. And if we had a seat at the table, that's something we would be talking about.

I can go on and on by the fact -- how about in 2019, the -- the residential rate for electricity was 17 cents per kilowatt hour, but now it's 26 cents per kilowatt hour, 59 percent higher than the national average. And the -- the -- the commercial rate is 57 percent of the higher national average. That's a lot for this consumer advocate to take on. That's a lot for the -- our -- our Energy Planning Board to take on. And if we had a seat at the table too, we'd be talking about these things just like I'm talking about it here. It's okay to have a difference of opinion. We're still gonna get outnumbered. But these are the things we're talking about. So, these costs, these -- and we're not even talking about reliability, which is why the NYISO should actually have a voting board member on that board just to consult them because the NYISO sounded the alarm about the threat, to the reliability of the grid, with the policies that are being implemented, and the reports will continue to come out and show that, the thinness in the margins. And when we talk about businesses and we talk about energy policy and care about things, affordability and reliability. They can't get affordable and reliable energy in New York State, you know they're gonna go elsewhere. Just like the trucking companies are gonna go elsewhere when they can't do business in New York State.

Just like the -- the Advanced Clean Car rules is gonna limit choice and increase prices for consumers. Just like the ACT Regulation is gonna increase homeowner costs because the price of lumber being shipped is gonna be shipped by out-of-state trucking companies. And the price of food is gonna go up because they -- they're gonna have to ship food across the State from out-of-state trucking companies. That's a lot for this consumer advocate to take in, but that's a lot for us to take in.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is -- on the other side, my friends, my colleagues, this is a policy that you're pushing for. The policy's really designed to dismantle the affordable and reliable natural gas infrastructure supply delivery system. It's totally designed to take away consumer choice on how you heat your home, cook your food, power your vehicles, power your buildings and the vehicles you drive. It will jeopardize the reliability of the grid, leading to a dangerous blackout. And it will continue our nation leading outmigration of more businesses, families, farmers, manufacturers leaving the State of New York.

So, although I agree with my colleague that this -- this bill, having a consumer advocate is a good thing and I know many people will vote for it, probably on my side of the aisle, too, my vote is gonna be in the negative simply because of -- we certainly need the Minority appointment on this board given the far-reaching impact of the energy policy in this State.

So that -- for that reason I'll be voting in the negative. Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you to the sponsor.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Ms. Lunsford to explain her vote.

MS. LUNSFORD: Thank you very much.

I want to commend the sponsor of this bill. I think this is a great step forward for consumer protections. But I also just want to take note that this Body routinely appoints people of varying political affiliation to these task force -- to these task forces and boards. I myself has been -- consulted on appointments when they have been relevant to my region, and I myself have recommended a registered Republican who has been appointed. I think the idea that having Minority appointments somehow diversifies a viewpoint, when even among both parties what may be the opinion of one region versus another, regardless of the party, is somehow monolith is a misunderstanding of what these appointments are for. Even on our Republican side of the aisle, the idea that someone from the Finger Lakes and Long Island and Queens would all appoint the same person, I think, is folly.

So, considering that I have seen this Body routinely choose people of merit and experience over political affiliation, I'm very happy to see the sponsor's bill pass as written. Thank you very

much.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Ms. Lunsford in the affirmative.

Mr. Ra to explain his vote.

MR. RA: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'm gonna be voting for this, but I -- I do want to note, the reason that the topic keeps coming up with regard to Minority appointments is, yes, we have a very regionally diverse State. We have diverse opinions with regard to energy issues or any other issue within our respective conferences. But, it seems to me, that there's really no other reason why when we do some of these task forces, that we don't give Minority appointments than just saying, *hey, we're the Majority. We -- we get to choose and -- and they don't get anybody.*

So, I -- I think it misses the point that there is clearly politics at play when you say that even -- I mean, even when we do one, right, maybe there's three for the Majority, one for the Minority. I don't think that's too much to ask that we help increase the diversity of opinion, whether it's Upstate, Downstate, rural, suburban, city. It -- it just makes sense that when a conference represents 6 million people, that they should have the opportunity to have a seat at the table and have somebody that -- that they bring forward because of their qualifications. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Ra in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the result.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

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

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Judiciary Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room. Please meet Chair Lavine in the Speaker's Conference Room, Judiciary Committee.

Page 10, Calendar No. 73, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A02447, Calendar No. 73, Levenberg, Yeger, González-Rojas, Shimsky, Chang, Griffin, Sayegh, Kassay, Otis, Santabarbara, Colton. An act to amend the Public Service Law, in relation to requiring corporations and municipalities to notify property owners prior to beginning certain services.

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

An explanation is requested.

Ms. Levenberg.

MS. LEVENBERG: Madam Speaker, this bill will require utility cooperations and municipalities to notify customers if they reasonably believe scheduled utility work will impact the use of

residential, commercial or other property prior to beginning the scheduled work.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Palmesano.

MR. PALMESANO: Yes, Madam Speaker. Will the sponsor yield for some questions?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MS. LEVENBERG: Absolutely.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MR. PALMESANO: Thank you, Ms. Levenberg.

I don't have a lot for you. Of course, I always start out saying that and I apologize. I just have a few questions. First, does this bill exempt New York City in light of the fact that the Legislature passed a bill in 2022 requiring utilities in New York City to provide notice of impactful work?

MS. LEVENBERG: It does not.

MR. PALMESANO: It does not? So, this would just build up -- build upon that, then?

MS. LEVENBERG: Absolutely.

MR. PALMESANO: Okay. Does this bill apply to LIPA or its service provider?

MS. LEVENBERG: As any utility or municipality that is performing utility services.

MR. PALMESANO: What is the effective date of this legislation? When will it take effect?

MS. LEVENBERG: Ninety days.

MR. PALMESANO: Ninety days after it's signed into law?

MS. LEVENBERG: Yes.

MR. PALMESANO: Okay. One of the concerns that I -- and also, I know you -- I should ask this, I know you amended the bill recently. Can you tell me -- or us what changes were made to the bill for the amendment? The -- specifically, if there's anything specific that changed from the previous version? Because I just noticed that when I came in today.

MS. LEVENBERG: So, we had added a New York City carveout, but we took it out. But I -- I don't know if that's what you're referring to or...

MR. PALMESANO: I'm sorry. I couldn't hear you. What did you say?

MS. LEVENBERG: We had added a carveout for New York City, but we did take that out once we understood that not everything was covered that we were hoping to cover. I don't know if that's what you were referring to.

MR. PALMESANO: No, I was just trying to see where -- what was changed in the bill because there's a whole --

MS. LEVENBERG: Yeah. I think it -- yeah -- it is possible that we had made some amendments prior to that last year. Not a hundred percent sure if I -- if I can capture those at this moment.

MR. PALMESANO: One of the concerns that I

heard about, you know, during the -- the process of this, the genesis of this bill, was the fact that, you know, the automative process was not just as easy as hitting a switch. And there could be some upgrades that would need to be made, some changes that would need to be made to assist some of their infrastructure, and that could take some time.

Given the effective date -- it says 90 days -- would you be willing to have discussions about looking at an effective date that might be able to accommodate some of these providers as far as looking at their IT infrastructure system, which they have voiced some concerns, at least to me, about being -- implement this legislation, this law and this requirement, to comply with the -- the mandate that it has. Would you be willing to maybe talk -- have some conversations and look at that effective day and say, *okay. If this is the way it's going to be, can we at least adjust the effective date out a little bit to have a little bit more flexibility so we can put this in place?* Is that something that you might be open to for discussion?

MS. LEVENBERG: Assemblymember, I am not exactly sure what you're referring to, but I'm going to go back to your previous question --

MR. PALMESANO: Sure.

MS. LEVENBERG: -- because we did work with the utilities on this.

MR. PALMESANO: Mm-hmm.

MS. LEVENBERG: And one of the -- the key points

of this, is that they use -- they -- they can use established practices. There's a lot of flexibility in terms of what kinds of notification that they can provide. It can be written, it can be electronic and it, you know, can be telecommunications, I believe. It -- it's not required, any particular one that they use. So, I'm not sure that they would need to upgrade their systems to comply. Right now, they have established practices for some notifications already. And this just, again, relies on established practices.

MR. PALMESANO: Okay. Thank you for your time.

MS. LEVENBERG: Thank you.

MR. PALMESANO: Madam -- Madam Speaker, on the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On the bill.

MR. PALMESANO: Yes. I appreciate the sponsor's time. I know there's been some amendments to this legislation, I know there's been some discussions. I think some of the questions I wanted to just get on the record is just some of the concerns that I heard through the genesis of this legislation; specifically relative to possible -- the -- the notification, but not -- with the IT system. There has been some concerns, at least raised to me, about that process and it might not be as simple as it sounds. And that's why I asked the question about the effective date and whether or not, as that happens, is that something we can work with. The industry, who we -- who wants to comply if this is a law, they want to comply, they want to be

effective, because providing notification of work in a community is a -- is a positive thing, to let them know that the work's going on. I think everyone would agree with that and I think that's what the sponsor's trying to get it [sic]. I just want to make sure we're avoiding unintended consequences that could be very costly and disrupt the process as well.

So -- but based on that and based on the conversation I had, based on the discussion with the sponsor and the amendments that have been made, I am going to be supporting this legislation. Surprisingly enough, right? But -- and I -- so, I will be supporting and I would ask my colleagues to do the same. And then just ask the sponsor of this to continue to have an -- an open mind and -- and be able to listen for any other questions that might come up before -- if this bill moves forward and gets signed into law.

So thank you, Madam -- thank you for your time and thank you, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Read the last section.

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

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the result.)

The bill is passed.

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

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to interrupt our proceedings for the purposes of introducing guests that are in our Chambers. I'm happy to welcome students from the conference of the Big 5 School Districts who are here with us today to share some time in the Chambers. They are joined by high school students from city school districts of my hometown of the great city of Buffalo, as well as Rochester, Syracuse, New York City, Yonkers, Albany, Utica, and Mount Vernon.

From Buffalo public schools we have Rayhan Rashid, who's a student at Math Science Technology Prep; Julius Jackson from South Park; Aundrea Sanders, Director of Crisis and Prevention Services in the city of Buffalo School District. In New York City public schools we have Nashawn Dobbins from Eagle Academy in the Bronx; Terrence Bess, View -- Channel View School of Research; Andrea Ferguson, Senior Director of the Community Engagement Program for New York City School Districts; and Sharon Rencher is the Senior Executive for New York City Public Schools.

From Rochester we have DaJuan Jackson from Edison Career and Technology High; Shaheem Ellis from Edison Career and Technology High; and Kyle Paris (phonetic) is the Director of Youth Engagement and Cultural Relations at Rochester City School Districts.

From Syracuse we have Azmira Suljic from Nottingham High; Jesse Smith from Nottingham High; and Thomas Little, the Social teacher -- Social Studies teacher from Nottingham High School as well.

From Yonkers we have Monica George, Yonkers Montessori Academy, and Margaret Ian (phonetic) from Lincoln High School. April Rodney is the Special Education and Biology teacher from Lincoln High School.

From Albany we have Ayanna Miller (phonetic), Albany High; Xavier Soto, Albany High and Sean Fitzsimons. He's the AP-US Government and Global Studies teacher at Albany High.

From Mount Vernon we have Kaden Mitchell from STEAM Academy; Leonard Oduro from STEAM Academy; Arthur Ryan Muhammad is the Youth Development Specialist.

And from Utica City School District we have Victoria Gomez from Thomas Proctor High School; Heather Concepcion (phonetic) from Thomas Proctor High School; Monica Bravo, World Language and Spanish teacher from Thomas Proctor High School as well.

Madam Speaker, would you please welcome these scholars to our Chamber, along with their teachers and directors, give them the cordialities of the floor, and provide them with the gracious welcome you generally do?

**ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER:** On behalf of Mrs. Peoples-Stokes, the Speaker and all members, we welcome you

young people to the Assembly Chamber, our People's House, from the Big 5 School Districts all across our State. It's wonderful to see you here today, our academic high achievers, and especially our Nottingham Bulldogs in the back, I see you, from Syracuse City School District. We extend the privileges of the floor to you. Hope you enjoy our proceedings today. Thank you so very much for joining us today.

(Applause)

Page 10, Calendar No. 83, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00852-B, Calendar No. 83, Paulin, Weprin, Colton, Lee, Alvarez, Santabarbara. An act to amend the General Business Law, in relation to requiring bicycles advertised for sale or resale in New York State to have an identifying serial number.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: An explanation has been requested.

Ms. Paulin.

MS. PAULIN: Yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The bill would require that bicycles be advertised for resale, with a photo of the bicycle and at least the last four digits of its identifying serial number.

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?

MS. PAULIN: Yes.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MR. GANDOLFO: Thank you.

So first, I'm looking at this bill and it looks like we're essentially just inserting language into the current General Business Law to extend those existing requirements for new bicycles being sold to bicycles on the resale market? Is that generally --

MS. PAULIN: Yes.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. Now, I see -- and this applies to bicycles manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1989. That's correct?

MS. PAULIN: Yes.

MR. GANDOLFO: So, before 1989, bicycles were not required to have a serial number etched into them?

MS. PAULIN: That's correct.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. So, in terms of the prohibition on the resale of the bicycles, can someone still resell a bicycle on a -- some kind of marketplace that was made before 1989, being that it might not have any kind of identifying serial number?

MS. PAULIN: Yes. And they can also -- you know, we made an exception so that there wouldn't be a liability for a -- a site if it was a third-party site.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. So, people can still sell an antique bicycle, or some kind of vintage bicycle, third-party?

MS. PAULIN: Yes.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. Now, I know in this amended version it requires a photograph of the bicycle and a photograph of the last four digits of the serial number to be included in the listing? Is that two separate photos? Like, one photo of the full bicycle --

MS. PAULIN: We don't specify.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. It's not specified. Okay. But either way, you have to make sure that a prospective buyer can see that serial number?

MS. PAULIN: (Nodding head.)

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. Is there currently a database maintained of these bicycle serial numbers that a prospective buyer can punch it in and look it up to make sure it's legitimate, not stolen, not reported stolen?

MS. PAULIN: That's -- not to my knowledge.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. So, if -- in that -- so, we just don't know. So, what would a prospective buyer do with the serial number that was provided?

MS. PAULIN: To make sure that it was legitimate?

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. But there's no database that we -- that --

MS. PAULIN: Oh, I guess you're asking -- I'm asking you. You know --

MR. GANDOLFO: Oh.

MS. PAULIN: -- to make -- you're -- you're asking so that they are sure and competent that it's legitimate? I mean, if somebody reported a stolen bicycle, it would -- the serial number would go to the police department. So there could be an ability to check through that means.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay.

MS. PAULIN: You know, obviously, not all bicycles are reported stolen --

MR. GANDOLFO: Right.

MS. PAULIN: -- but I think a good number are.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. Now, in terms of -- I know this applies to an online marketplace. What would be the definition of an "online marketplace"? I know Facebook, for example, a lot of people buy and sell on the Facebook Marketplace --

MS. PAULIN: eBay.

MR. GANDOLFO: eBay, Facebook. Would a post on Facebook that wasn't in the marketplace section, say if someone had a bicycle for sale, they don't list it as an official listing in the marketplace but just take a photo of a bicycle they have and say, *hey, does anyone want to buy this bike?* Would that now be considered the online marketplace and would they need to add an extra photo of the serial number?

MS. PAULIN: I -- I would say it's to their advantage to do that --

MR. GANDOLFO: Right.

MS. PAULIN: -- because otherwise they could be, you know, potentially -- you know, what -- what essentially this is supposed to catch, is if there is someone who is consistently putting up bicycles, for example, because usually a bicycle -- that -- is more -- they do it more than once, right? So, it's enable -- it enables law enforcement to -- to go through those sites. And if it's a similar person, similar address, similar phone number to contact, you know, it's a way of catching thefts.

MR. GANDOLFO: Right. I was asking more in -- in terms of not someone necessarily trying to dodge the requirement, but someone who might not know that this is the new requirement. Someone may be cleaning out a relative's house --

MS. PAULIN: There's a lot of -- of leniency, obviously, with someone who didn't know.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. I see in here, so for the -- I know the Department of State can issue \$250 fine for violations and -- but before they issue that fine, they would issue a warning to the person in violation --

MS. PAULIN: That's common practice.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. Okay. Now, if a -- if a buyer notice -- plugs in a serial number into a -- some kind of database and it comes back as this might be a stolen bike, is there any obligation on that potential buyer to report it to law enforcement that they --

MS. PAULIN: No. Just would hope they would, but

no.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. All right. All right. I think those are all the questions I have. Thank you.

MS. PAULIN: Okay. Thank you.

MR. GANDOLFO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER DILAN: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 30th day.

ACTING SPEAKER DILAN: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the result.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will you please have the Judiciary -- I'm sorry, the Labor Committee go immediately to the Speaker's Conference Room?

ACTING SPEAKER DILAN: Labor Committee, Speaker's Conference Room. Labor Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room.

(Pause)

Page 12, Calendar No. 94, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A06581-A, Calendar No. 94, Woerner, Burdick, Bores. An act to amend the Environmental

Conservation Law, in relation to excluding amphibians and reptiles from the definition of small game; and to repeal certain provisions of such law relating thereto.

ACTING SPEAKER DILAN: An explanation has been requested.

Mrs. [sic] Woerner.

MS. WOERNER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This bill increases protections for certain amphibians and reptiles and eliminates the ability to take them by clubbing or spearing.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Ms. Walsh?

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the sponsor yield for just a few questions?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MS. WOERNER: Happily.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MS. WALSH: You know, I really love this bill because we spend so much time sometimes, I think, talking about New York City. This is truly an Upstate bill. This is truly something that we're talking about up here. Could you just explain a little bit more about why this bill is necessary and kind of what the bill does?

MS. WOERNER: Sure. So, this is really about species protection. And in '23-'24, DEC did a special status assessment of 18 amphibians and found that seven species were

declining. Only one of them was stable and nine of them, they were unable to determine the status. So, this is really about protecting native amphibians and reptiles because they are so endangered.

MS. WALSH: So -- and I -- are there foreign amphibians and reptiles? I mean, are they -- they're not all native, then? Can you just talk--

MS. WOERNER: They're not all native --

MS. WALSH: Okay --

MS. WOERNER: -- yes.

MS. WALSH: So I don't --

MS. WOERNER: I know -- I know you live near a lake --

MS. WALSH: I do.

MS. WOERNER: -- and you probably hear the call of the bullfrog in the spring --

MS. WALSH: Each night.

MS. WOERNER: Yes.

MS. WALSH: Each night I do.

MS. WOERNER: And those are -- those are invasive species. They are not native to New York.

MS. WALSH: So, are we allowed, then, under your legislation, to club them, the -- the foreign ones?

(Laughter)

Just the foreign ones.

MS. WOERNER: But the DEC is going to determine

the method by which --

MS. WALSH: Okay.

MS. WOERNER: -- the bullfrogs can be hunted.

MS. WALSH: So -- and it's just wild to think that they are hunted at all. I mean, but they -- would they -- are they -- also the term "harvested" was used, which I just, generally, have a problem with, but -- when we're talking about animals, but -- but, anyways. So, you could club them, you could spear them, you could -- what else can you do? You can catch them with your hands.

MS. WOERNER: Catch them with your hands.

Yup.

MS. WALSH: Okay.

MS. WOERNER: With a -- with a fishing rod.

MS. WALSH: Does the average frog hunter know the difference between the foreign ones and the native ones?

MS. WOERNER: I believe they do, because there are people who appreciate the delicacy of a good bullfrog.

MS. WALSH: Oh. Okay. Wow. Not just the French, then. Apparently there's a market here as well --

MS. WOERNER: Not just the French.

MS. WALSH: Okay. All right. So -- okay. So, the bill -- because the bill changed some -- some language. And -- so what -- what was the purpose of changing the language then? What was it attempting to clarify here?

MS. WOERNER: It is really just updating the statute

to conform to existing DEC regulation. But assumes that people who are getting their licenses might be more familiar with the -- with the statute than with a regulation. And it just provides an additional level of protection for the -- for the -- the native species.

MS. WALSH: Okay. So, the native frogs, the native salamanders, and the native turtles will all be protected because, based on the study that you referenced, it seems as though their numbers are declining. Where it -- am I correct in saying that the -- the numbers of the -- the foreign frogs, salamanders and turtles are increasing then?

MS. WOERNER: We are not necessarily concerned about the --

MS. WALSH: Okay.

MS. WOERNER: -- the non-native species. But as you undoubtedly can determine just by listening, the bullfrogs are in abundance.

MS. WALSH: Okay. All right. So -- and then just to -- just to clarify for myself, so if it's a -- if it's not a native frog, salamander or turtle, there is a possibility of hunting those -- those poor bullfrogs at my pond --

MS. WOERNER: Yes.

MS. WALSH: -- are -- had better be -- beware -- but, the Department will specify exactly how they could be hunted?

MS. WOERNER: Exactly.

MS. WALSH: Okay. We -- and that -- the bill is right now silent about that? It just defers to the Department to figure

that out?

MS. WOERNER: It just defers to the Department, yes.

MS. WALSH: Okay. All right. Well, thank you very much for answering my questions. And thank you, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Pirozzolo.

MR. PIROZZOLO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Would the sponsor yield for a question?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MS. WOERNER: Certainly.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MR. PIROZZOLO: Okay. So, I just heard "hunting" recently and it's been part of the conversation, but are -- are you saying that the decline of these species is because of hunting? Or could it be for other environmental reasons like pesticides being used in lawns and, you know, grasses along the lakes where these animals live?

MS. WOERNER: It is certainly possible that there are many contributing factors to the decline in the population. It is not necessarily true that hunting is the principle reason, but why exacerbate the problem.

MR. PIROZZOLO: No. Agreed. I just wanted to be

clear. Just one last question.

MS. WOERNER: Sure.

MR. PIROZZOLO: Did you say "pulled" bullfrog as a delicacy?

MS. WOERNER: "Pulled" bullfrog? No.

MR. PIROZZOLO: Okay. I thought -- I thought I heard --

MS. WOERNER: No, but, perhaps, people who prepare bullfrogs --

MR. PIROZZOLO: Thank you.

MS. WOERNER: -- consumption --

MR. PIROZZOLO: Just checking.

MS. WOERNER: -- would do that.

MR. PIROZZOLO: Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Manktelow.

MR. MANKTELOW: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Could -- would the sponsor yield for a question?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MS. WOERNER: It would be my pleasure.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MR. MANKTELOW: Thank you. I just want to make sure I understand the bullfrog part.

MS. WOERNER: Yes.

MR. MANKTELOW: So, what bullfrog can we

hunt?

MS. WOERNER: Well, bullfrogs are not native to New York, so any bullfrog you find.

MR. MANKTELOW: So, any bullfrog we want to go after for food, we can do that?

MS. WOERNER: Yes.

MR. MANKTELOW: That's all I needed to know. Thank you very much.

MS. WOERNER: You're very welcome.

MR. MANKTELOW: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Angelino.

MR. ANGELINO: Would you ask the sponsor if she'd yield, please?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MS. WOERNER: For you, Mr. Angelino, certainly.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MR. ANGELINO: Well, this is fascinating. So, first time I've ever read the section of the -- of the law. And I see new, underlined in green, is "common snapping". Now we're adding that to turtles. Does that mean before we could hunt any turtle?

MS. WOERNER: Yes.

MR. ANGELINO: And now it's just the common snapping turtle?

MS. WOERNER: That is correct.

MR. ANGELINO: All right. So -- I -- this is fascinating. Thank you so much. I -- I appreciate that. I -- I'm gonna keep reading, but I wanted to get that in before we went to the vote because I -- I didn't know you could hunt all turtles. I thought it was just snapping turtles.

MS. WOERNER: Well, it's just -- we -- we're just modifying that to be the common snapping turtle.

MR. ANGELINO: All right. I don't want to grab one of those with my hands, so --

MS. WOERNER: No.

MR. ANGELINO: -- that's be deleted, right? Or --

MS. WOERNER: Yes.

MR. ANGELINO: Thank you.

MS. WOERNER: You're welcome.

MR. ANGELINO: Thank you so much.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Gallahan.

MR. GALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

On the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On the bill, sir.

MR. GALLAHAN: Well, as many of you could probably understand, I've hunted snapping turtles and bullfrogs my whole live. And I thank the sponsor for clarifying what we can and can't hunt now.

I have enjoyed the sport for many, many years. If you go to fine restaurants, even in New York City, you're gonna find frog legs on the menu. I don't know how many of you've had frog legs, and contrary to popular belief, and what people say, they don't taste like chicken.

(Laughter)

They taste like frog legs.

(Laughter)

Turtles. There's a lot of meat on a turtle. Turtle soup. Turtle soup is a delicacy in many restaurants. It is in my house and my kitchen. I like to cook and make turtle soup. I like to cook -- I like to -- I like to eat and cook frog legs.

So I -- I really appreciate the sponsor making this perfectly clear to everybody what we can and cannot hunt here. And I'm so glad we're talking about something that interests me and we're not talking about refrigerators and bed bugs this week.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

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 result.)

The bill is passed.

Can we have some quiet in the Chamber, please?

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Madam Speaker, if you could call the Local Governments Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Local Governments Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room. Please see Chair Jones in the Speaker's Conference Room, Local Governments Committee.

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

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you -- thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to interrupt our proceedings to briefly introduce some guests that are in our Chambers on behalf of colleague Jonathan Rivera --

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Colleagues. Please.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you -- thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

On behalf of our colleague, Jonathan Rivera, and myself and many others in the Chambers, we'd like to welcome Casimiro Rodriguez. He is born and raised in Western New York, retired from General Motors and a super active community activist. We have David Montilla. He's a Communication Director for Senator Fernandez. And we also have Ricardo Garcia. Mr. Garcia served in

the U.S. Army after -- retiring after 25 years. Campaigns included Iraq and 9/11 World Trade Center. He works as a Veteran's Coordinator at Hostos Community College.

So, would you please welcome these gentlemen to our Chambers and give them the cordialities of the House?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On behalf of Mrs. Peoples-Stokes, Assemblymember Rivera, the Speaker, and all the members, we welcome you, distinguished guests, to our Assembly Chamber, extend the privileges of the floor to you. We do hope you enjoy our proceedings today. Thank you so very much for joining us.

(Applause)

Page 12, Calendar No. 96, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A07038-A, Calendar No. 96, Weprin, Santabarbara. An act to amend the Insurance Law, in relation to requiring rates paid for rehabilitation and opioid treatment be pursuant to certain fee schedules published by the Office of Addiction Services and Supports.

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 result.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Madam Speaker, we are actually moving along nicely on our committees. Will you please call the Mental Health Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mental Health Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room. Please meet Chair Simone in the Speaker's Conference Room for Mental Health Committee.

Page 13, Calendar No. 109, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A02332-B, Calendar No. 109, Berger, Lee. An act to amend the Social Services Law, in relation to requiring any website or mobile application associated with an electronic benefit transfer system to be offered in the twelve most common non-English languages.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: An explanation has been requested.

Mr. Berger.

MR. BERGER: Thank you.

This bill would require websites and mobile applications for electronic benefit systems to be made available in the 12 most common non-English languages by mandating the EBT systems to expand language services to include the 12 most common languages according to the U.S. Census. This legislation will ensure

that these beneficiaries have equal access to tools that protect their benefits.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Ms. Walsh.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the sponsor yield for a few questions?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor --

MR. BERGER: Yes.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: -- yield? The sponsor yields.

MS. WALSH: Thank you very much. So, I guess, you -- and thank you for your explanation.

So, I guess, I -- I wanted to just take a look at the -- the reason why this is being purposed as far as the addition of the 12 most common languages. And this is a Statewide thing, right? This just -- this isn't just New York City, this is the whole State, correct?

MR. BERGER: Yes.

MS. WALSH: Okay. And why are -- why 12 languages and not say, six, for example?

MR. BERGER: Well, I started with six. The Senate sponsor wanted 12. And like any loving, married couple, we compromised on 12.

(Laughter)

To answer your question, this -- this falls in line with other sections of law. Executive Law Section 202(a), Labor Law Section 710(b), subdivision (4) of New York Real Property Tax Law

Section 1144. There's, you know, plenty of other laws where they used 12 and it was recommended to us to fall in line with that.

MS. WALSH: Okay. And I -- and I appreciate that. Compromise is always a good thing. It's very good to hear about that. But -- so this only -- this is -- only has to do with websites and mobile applications; is that right?

MR. BERGER: Specifically the ebtEDGE system set up by the OTDA.

MS. WALSH: And for some of our maybe newer members, can you explain what that system is talking about?

MR. BERGER: It's a system that would -- allows, you know, beneficiaries of the EBT system to freeze and unfreeze their card in the event of fraud or report fraud. And you can -- you can check your balance and check transactions on there as well.

MS. WALSH: Okay. And -- and that's generally -- is it generally done through a mobile app or through a website versus like an in-person interaction?

MR. BERGER: Yes.

MS. WALSH: Okay. Now if -- if you did go to, say, your local Department of Social Services, is there -- is there a translator available to present information to the consumer in 12 languages?

(Conferencing)

MR. BERGER: Yeah.

MS. WALSH: Okay. So, this is just, in your view,

then, extending the 12-language requirement to anything that would be on a mobile platform like a website or a mobile application?

MR. BERGER: Well, I -- speaking of this, we had one of my local councilwoman who had roughly about 1,900 cases of theft and fraud in the district; primarily people who spoke Chinese as their first language. They came to her office for help. They would go to the website. The website was only offered in English and Spanish. So, this is going to that.

MS. WALSH: And, yes, and I saw -- I appreciate that. And I saw that in your memorandum in support of the legislation. You were talking about an explosion in incidents in which unsuspecting beneficiaries of the SNAP Program had fallen victim to EBT fraud and theft schemes. And, I mean, certainly, I think all of us want to see that there's less fraud in any -- the administration of any of these systems. So, that was a New York City example, though, correct? And -- yup. And --

MS. BERGER: Yup.

MS. WALSH: I'll let you answer. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to cut you off --

MR. BERGER: No. It -- it was an example --

MS. WALSH: That's correct --

MS. BERGER: -- in New York City.

MS. WALSH: Okay. Very good. And I was looking up the 12 most common languages and Chinese was actually just in back of Spanish. My search, quick search, said that 52 percent of

people who speak Chinese spoke English less than very well according to the Census Bureau data. And so, I can appreciate that. And there were a large number, as you said, of people that experienced fraud, who spoke Chinese, from this individual's district that you're -- that you're familiar with.

Okay. I guess my question is, does the -- does the county Department of Social Services have anything to do with, you know, once you're outside of New York City, have anything to do with the administration of these benefits, SNAP benefits? EBT? any of this stuff? Don't they?

(Conferencing)

MR. BERGER: It is a State application through the OTDA. Just the ebtEDGE is just through the OTDA. It's Statewide.

MS. WALSH: Okay. Well, that -- I guess that's where I was confused because the -- I understand that it's a State program, but isn't it administered through the localities? Like the counties around the State? I'm thinking of my particular Department of Social Services, they're involved in --

MR. BERGER: Yes.

MS. WALSH: Yeah. Okay. So, there's been a concern raised by the New York Public Welfare Association. And what they said was that they believed that it could be -- that some counties could experience increased expenses in complying with this legislation. And so I just wanted you to have the opportunity to address that.

(Conferencing)

MS. BERGER: I think any expenses we're talking about are minimal here. If we're investing in systems to safeguard benefits, we should be ensuring that the people those systems are designed to protect can actually access them. I -- this is benefits meant for people who -- to be able to put food on the table. Oftentimes, they're not speaking English as their first language and trying to get the most coverage as we can to use taxpayer dollars effectively, I think, is our -- in our best interest.

MS. WALSH: And I totally understand that argument. And as I said, I think that we all have an interest in trying to prevent fraud. I'm just trying to kind of drill down to that specific concern that was raised by one entity about the -- about the legislation. So -- and there are supporters of the legislation as well for -- for the reasons that you stated. But, what I'm wondering is, if OTDA already is going to have all of this information translated? Is it just simply a matter of the counties putting this up on their sites or the -- what was I going to say? The -- the -- the contractors or the vendors that -- that are being contracted with to provide this information, is -- you know, what additional burden is this on them? Is it just simply uploading what OTDA has already done or did they have to develop this?

(Conferencing)

MR. BERGER: This is something that's already been done. The OTDA is working with the vendors on this. I think it -- this -- any costs we're talking about here are extremely minimal. This

is not complicated technology.

MS. WALSH: And this bill is -- when is the effective date? 30th day, it looks like. On the 30th day?

MR. BERGER: Yeah.

MS. WALSH: Do you think that that would afford enough time to be able to comply with this requirement?

MR. BERGER: Yeah. It's -- it's pretty basic technology. Really straightforward.

MS. WALSH: Okay. Well, I -- I got to tell you, as I was looking at the -- I'm glad that some people know how to translate Tagalog, because I don't even know what that language is, which, you know, 30 percent of people who speak it, though, speak less than -- English less than very well. So, I guess the question is, in New York City we know that there is a huge amount of diversity, which is, I think, one of the best things about New York City. As we get to other parts of the State, like, for example, the area that I represent, but certainly other -- other areas, there would not probably be 12 languages other than English being spoken to any great extent. So, what do you have to say to folks who say maybe individual counties should be able to decide what languages they have predominantly in their areas and be able to make those choices to be able to better help consumers to avoid fraud?

(Conferencing)

MR. BERGER: So -- so there -- there is a section of law, I think, that will -- allows counties to include only up to four

languages. They're not gonna be...

(Conferencing)

Again, I think, you know, while you're right, that there might be some counties that don't necessarily have 12 spoken, I think that it's in our best interest when the cost to do this is so minimal, like beyond minimal, it's in our best interest. If we're going to put in systems that are meant to help these types of people put food on the table, even if this helps a few of those people, we should be doing it.

MS. WALSH: I understand. Can I just follow up? I think you mentioned something -- I think you were conferring with some counsel about four -- something about four--

(Cross-talk)

MR. BERGER: If they -- if there's an Executive Law that provides that if in addition to the 12, you can also introduce an additional four on top.

MS. WALSH: Oh. So it would be an addition --

(Cross-talk)

MR. BERGER: So meaning if --

MS. WALSH: -- 16 --

MR. BERGER: -- you're in one county and the language is not one of that 12, you can have, you know, add -- add more, if you'd like.

MS. WALSH: But every county including -- and I won't name names about -- but we were kind of talking earlier, in one

county (indiscernible) to the western part of our State, they may speak English and maybe Amish, you know, and -- and -- and that's it. So -- but they'll have to provide it, all 12, and then an option to provide up to 16?

MR. BERGER: Yes.

MS. WALSH: Okay.

MR. BERGER: Yes.

MS. WALSH: Thank you very much. I appreciate your answers.

Madam Speaker, very briefly on the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On the bill.

MS. WALSH: So, I -- as I said, I think that there is certainly an argument to be made and I think the sponsor made it very well that we -- we all have an interest, all of us, in protecting taxpayer money and making sure that there is not -- there is not fraud. And we want to make sure that the -- the money is going to the people that it should be going to and not the people that it shouldn't. So, I do think that that has a lot of utility. I questioned, and the reason why I wanted to ask a few questions of the sponsor, is just the sheer number of languages that's being required and mandated, you know, in -- being a one-size-fits-all solution for a very diverse state. And I wondered if, perhaps, it would have made more sense to allow individual counties that are helping to administer the program, to -- to -- to determine as they wish to have no fraud or -- or reduce fraud if they want to help the consumers that are entitled to their benefits, if they might be -- the

counties might be in a better position to figure out what languages really are best used in the mobile applications and websites.

So -- so there may be a few of us who feel that way, others may feel differently. I -- I would imagine that we'll -- we'll be as diverse as this Body is in -- in making our decisions. But I do appreciate the sponsor's answers. And thank you, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Will the sponsor yield for a question?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MR. BERGER: Absolutely.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: So, I'm understanding from your memo, that the need for this ebtEDGE card became clear after OTDA literally was -- had thousands of people calling them because they would go to the store and try to use their card and it would be gone because of the fraud. This happened all over the State; is that right?

MR. BERGER: Yeah.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: And I -- I know when we called from my office in Buffalo, it -- it was in the summer when people were having this issue. And literally the entire card was gone when they went -- with a full cart -- grocery cart full of food and they

couldn't use their cards. And, so, thank you for -- for bringing this up because it's a critically important issue. And it's important for the exact same reasons that my colleague just mentioned. No one wants to see this kind of fraud. The reason these people have access to these cards, is so they can have access to a good quality of life and have access to good food. But if some fraudster has figured out how to, just using a computer, go through and use -- take everybody's resources out before they get to use it, that's what OTDA just repaired. And in repairing that, they needed to allow people to have the ability to cancel the card if they think that there's been some fraud. And sometimes, you have to communicate that to people in the language that they speak. And so I -- I think it's important that you put this bill forward. And I -- I know -- you know, I'm from a community where some 30 different languages are spoken in our public school system. And so we are constantly retrofitting how we deal with people, how we deal with our constituents, based on what their needs are. We have to meet them where they are. So, I want to commend you for this bill. And I also want to commend OTDA for quickly coming up with a app that can be used by the client to protect the card and themselves. So, thank you for this bill.

MR. BERGER: Thank you.

(Pause)

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 30th

day.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: A Party vote has been requested.

Ms. Walsh.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Minority Conference will be in the negative on this piece of legislation, but if people wish to support it, they may certainly do so at their seats. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Majority Conference is going to generally be in favor of this piece of legislation; however, there may be a few that will desire to be an exception. They should feel free to take the vote at the seat.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Madam Speaker, if you could call the Racing and Wagering Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room immediately. We're moving right along here on these committees.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Racing and Wagering Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room. Please meet Chair Woerner in the Speaker's Conference Room for Racing and

Wagering Committee.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the result.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Madam Speaker, could you please call Real Property Taxes [sic] to the Speaker's Conference Room?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Real Property Tax Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room. Please meet Chair Williams in the Speaker's Conference Room for Real Property Tax.

Page 15, Calender No. 138, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08151, Calendar No. 138, Barrett, Santabarbara, Kay. An act to amend the Public Service Law, in relation to proposed rate changes for gas and electric service.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 30th day.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the result.)

The bill is passed.

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

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to interrupt our proceedings. Once again, I would like to introduce three guests that are in our Chamber today.

I want to start on behalf of Ms. Seawright, as well as Mr. Bores. Linda Hoffman and Barbara Baer. These young ladies have been in and around our Capitol for a couple of days. They are with the New York Foundation for Senior Citizens. They do amazing work around housing issues for senior citizens.

Madam Speaker, if you will please offer them the cordialities of the House and welcome them to our floor.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On behalf of Mrs. Peoples-Stokes, Assemblymember Seawright and Bores, the Speaker, and all the members, we welcome you, Ms. Baer and Hoffman, to the Assembly Chamber and extend the privileges of the floor to you. Thank you for your advocacy with the New York Foundation of Senior Citizens. We hope you enjoy our proceedings today. Thank you so very much for joining us.

(Applause)

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

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Madam Speaker, I think my guest has left. Thank you anyway.

(Pause)

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Page 15, Calender No. 142, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00979-A, Calender No. 142, Lunsford, Weprin. An act to amend the Insurance Law, in relation to contactual liability insurance policies.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Can you please call the Small Business Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Small Business Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room. Please see Chair Buttenschon. Small Business Committee, Speaker's Conference Room.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the result.)

The bill is passed.

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: Madam Speaker, can you please call the Codes Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Codes Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room. Please see Chair Dinowitz in the Speaker's Conference Room. Codes Committee, Speaker's Conference Room.

Page 15, Calendar No. 143, the Clerk read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01096-B, Calendar No. 143, Magnarelli, Hevesi, Epstein, Zinerman, Raga, Santabarbara. An act to amend the General Business Law, in relation to the disclosure of pricing changes for online grocery delivery and online pick-up services.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: An explanation has been requested.

Mr. Magnarelli.

Quiet, please.

MR. MAGNARELLI: Madam Speaker, this bill mandates that any food retailer or a third-party delivery platform shall clearly and conspicuously provide a pricing policy and disclose whether the online prices are higher or lower. A third-party platform may satisfy the pricing disclosure by including a prominent pricing policy disclosure on their website or primary landing page.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Ms. Walsh.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the sponsor yield for a few questions?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MR. MAGNARELLI: Yes, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MS. WALSH: Thank you very much.

So, first I want to get an idea of, by name, the kinds of entities that are going to be responsible to do this disclosure. So, when we're talking about, like, Instacart, Amazon Fresh, FreshDirect, some grocery stores like Stop & Shop or, I think, locally, like, Price Chopper, Walmart, they all offer services where you can order online, or through an app, and then you can either come to the store and pick it up or it can be delivered to your home. Are these the kinds of companies that we're talking about that are responsible under this legislation?

MR. MAGNARELLI: Yes, they are.

MS. WALSH: Okay. Now what about -- and I know -- I have not ever done this, believe it or not, but my -- certainly my teenagers have, what about like an Uber Eats or like a Doordash, where they're -- you're ordering food that's being delivered to the house. Are they -- are they covered by this?

MR. MAGNARELLI: Only if it's a retailer that's defined in the statute. So, it would be like a Wegmans or a Price Chopper, or whatever, and the apps that you've already mentioned. If they're picking it up from the store, the grocery store. I'm gonna use that as a generic term, okay? If they're picking it up and delivering it to your house --

MS. WALSH: Yup.

MR. MAGNARELLI: -- those groceries, that would be covered.

MS. WALSH: Okay. That's very helpful. And you mentioned in your explanation, and as I was looking at the bill, one of the questions I had is, when you get into -- and I -- I just pulled up Instacart before, you know, wanted to start -- to speak with you, and I clicked on my local grocery store, and there are, you know, hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of items that are -- that are offered on there, as you would imagine. Will this bill require that each -- you know, like, this is what a gallon of milk costs if you got it in the store, versus this is how much it would cost if you ordered it online, for all the products?

MR. MAGNARELLI: Well, I think this bill doesn't quite go that far --

MS. WALSH: Okay.

MR. MAGNARELLI: -- okay, but I think it could, okay? It's up to the Secretary of State. And my -- my feeling is, that isn't really a stretch. I come from a family -- my father was a wholesale food broker. And that was back in the '50s and '60s. And I can guarantee you, every grocery store knew every price of every item on a shelf. Not only that, and where it was. So, this is not anything that I think can't be done. I'm positive it can be done.

MS. WALSH: Okay. Now you mentioned the Department of State. So, talk about what their role is going to be in implementing this legislation --

MR. MAGNARELLI: Well, just like many other bills that we pass, whatever regulations are needed to -- to make the statute work, you know, according to what we're trying to put down here, they will promulgate those regulations.

MS. WALSH: Okay. But, as you know, like within -- in our debate we're setting, kind of, the legislative history and the intent --

MR. MAGNARELLI: Yup.

MS. WALSH: So, would it be your -- your intent that, what we had described earlier, where it was a complete item by item price comparison, online versus in-person, or would it be something less? And if it's something less, what would it be?

MR. MAGNARELLI: Yeah. Again, if you read the bill, and I know you have --

MS. WALSH: And I have. Yes.

MR. MAGNARELLI: -- okay? I'm not insinuating you haven't. But if you read the bill, it -- it basically is calling for disclosure of whether the pricing that the third-party is charging is higher or lower than the price in the store. That's basically what you have to disclose. And you have to disclose the website of the grocery store -- of the -- the big grocery store. And they have to provide the information of their pricing on the website.

MS. WALSH: Okay.

MR. MAGNARELLI: Okay?

MS. WALSH: Okay. So, it could just say "higher"

or "lower" --

MR. MAGNARELLI: Yes.

MS. WALSH: -- or, you know, an asterisk or something and it could be explained that it's gonna be higher or something like that. The Department of State will tell -- tell them later what they have to do exactly?

MR. MAGNARELLI: Let me just see this again. I want to get the -- the -- I'm sorry?

(Conferencing)

It's got to state whether it's higher or lower and -- and then it can post of the link to the grocery store.

MS. WALSH: Which will have you --

MR. MAGNARELLI: -- and then you check it out yourself.

MS. WALSH: Then you can check it out yourself?

MR. MAGNARELLI: Yeah. The whole idea of the bill is to be open and transparent so the consumer can see exactly what the markups are. Unfortunately, when I looked into this, and, again, it was a family member of mine who said, *you know, we don't know what the pricing is. I've heard that they jack up the prices and -- and charge us fees for taking it off the shelf, another fee for delivering it to your house.* So, you're paying fees but on the -- at the same time, you may be charged a difference in the price it would cost you if you just walked in the store and pulled it off the shelf.

MS. WALSH: Okay. And I -- I could appreciate

that. So, for example, when you said that there could be a generic statement -- oh, you didn't say "generic". That's my word. But a pricing policy statement. For example, I -- I'm looking at one here that a local grocer has used: Prices vary from in-store. Market 32 and Price Chopper set the prices of items on the Instacart Market -- on the Instacart Marketplace. Item prices may vary from in-store prices for some items. And it goes on. It gives, like, a -- a paragraph of a -- of a pricing policy indicating that prices can vary. It doesn't say higher or lower, but as you said earlier, it's fairly, I think to be assumed, that if you're -- if you're looking for convenience, very understandably, convenience will cost --

MR. MAGNARELLI: I --

MS. WALSH: -- extra --

MR. MAGNARELLI: -- I think you're absolutely right. And -- and I, too, have -- they're not young, but I have children who use these things all the time. You're right. You -- you know you're paying more but you're thinking that that charge is shown. This is what I'm paying more, or this is what it cost the service charge to take it off the shelf. You're not thinking you're paying those two charges, plus getting a markup on every item you buy -- you bought. So, all we're trying to say is, I don't have any -- none of this illegal, by the way. We're not saying you can't do this. You can do whatever you want, okay? We just want the public to know what they're paying, and what they're paying for.

MS. WALSH: So -- okay. I was wondering as far as

the burden to whoever manages the platform because prices, I would think, would vary. I mean, in the old days and -- in the old days, when I would shop, you'd go in to -- on the weekend or you'd get from the Sunday paper a circular, and the circular would give you the items that were on sale for that week. They probably still have them but a lot of people are doing their shopping now more online or they're searching for prices online, but -- but prices can change --

MR. MAGNARELLI: -- yup.

MS. WALSH: -- day to day --

MR. MAGNARELLI: Yes.

MS. WALSH: -- for different items. So, would -- would those changes in prices have to be continuously reflected on the website? And isn't that going to just take a -- a lot of work?

MR. MAGNARELLI: We're not mandating that that happen. All we've got to do -- all they've got to do is say, are they higher or lower --

MS. WALSH: Okay.

MR. MAGNARELLI: -- than the prices in the store.  
And -- what?

(Conferencing)

And -- and so -- and it's the third-party provider who's delivering, just has to go on the last prices that were given to them by the retailer, okay?

MS. WALSH: Okay.

MR. MAGNARELLI: All right. And -- and -- and

my feeling is, is the retailer doesn't keep those prices up. How many people around here are seeing prices go down, you know?

MS. WALSH: That's true.

MR. MAGNARELLI: So, you know, the bottom line is, as prices go up, I think retailers are going to want to redo the -- the list and make sure that their website is up to date if a consumer wanted to go that far.

MS. WALSH: And it's really important that -- and I -- I appreciate you answering all these questions because a lot of them occurred to me. And I think it's really important that we know exactly what this framework is going to look like because you also in the bill have penalties and fines that are going to be assessed if they do it wrong.

MR. MAGNARELLI: Right. Well, it's not a question -- if they don't comply, I would like to say. I think --

MS. WALSH: Okay.

MR. MAGNARELLI: -- you know, this is going to be worked out through the industry over a -- over a period of time, I would think. My reaction, as the author of the bill, is that the industry will -- will do the right thing going forward. And I think consumers will be happy with what we're doing because they'll be able to check it out.

MS. WALSH: No, I think -- I think done right, this could be a great consumer measure, you know? And I think that -- I understand that. What I'm trying to -- would it be sufficient to just put

up a -- a notice just saying, if -- if you use this, if you order through this you're going to be paying more for items? Kind of like the pricing policy that I just read out loud --

MR. MAGNARELLI: Yup.

MS. WALSH: -- a portion to you --

MR. MAGNARELLI: I think that's what the bill says --

MS. WALSH: Okay. You're just gonna -- you're gonna be paying more.

MR. MAGNARELLI: It says you're -- if you're either -- it's either lower or it's higher. So you're gonna be told that, right off the bat, and then given the link to the grocery store.

MS. WALSH: And then you do the legwork and figure out --

MR. MAGNARELLI: That's it.

MS. WALSH: -- if I want to pay 20 cents more for a gallon of milk --

MR. MAGNARELLI: This bill does not require the third-party provider to do it item by item by item.

MS. WALSH: That's very helpful to know. Thank you.

So, in addition to, as you mentioned earlier, the actual item -- the higher -- potentially higher item price that you could be paying online, if you're using some of these services, you could be paying a service fee, a delivery fee, a fuel surcharge, a fee -- an extra

fee depending upon a pick-up time, whether it's, maybe, you need it stat for the dinner that you're making that night, or you could wait a few hours. Gratuities would be understandably more, but they could be built in. So does this bill speak to any of those charges or transparency on those charges?

MR. MAGNARELLI: No, it doesn't. It just says you've got to tell whether or not the items you're buying are either a higher price by being delivered to you, or lower.

MS. WALSH: Okay. And I noted that under -- currently, under the General Business Law, it doesn't require the disclosure of such pricing differences between online food products and in-store. But, to the extent that there are any hidden fees that are charged, the General Business Law prohibits the use of deceptive conduct of any business and service in the State. So, I don't know -- so, like you say, the -- we don't get an item by item comparison and maybe these platforms do already indicate a fuel surcharge or an extra delivery charge already. I'm not suggesting another bill for you, Mr. Magnarelli, but I'm just saying that --

MR. MAGNARELLI: Well, it sounds like a good idea.

MS. WALSH: I just want to make sure that we're scoping this out, you know, for what it's covering and what it's not covering. All right. I think that those were really all of my questions.

MR. MAGNARELLI: Thank you.

MS. WALSH: And I appreciate that. Thank you.

Madam Speaker, on the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On the bill.

MS. WALSH: I do appreciate some clarification, because although I had read the bill, I wasn't entirely sure what exactly was going to be required of the different providers. So, I feel a little bit better that it -- it -- it's just going to send you a link and then the consumer's gonna actually have to check it out. I did kind of feel like when I first took a look at this bill, that it should be pretty obvious. In my family we say, it's a report from the Department of the Obvious, that, you know, if you're using one of these convenient services, it's fairly to be expected that you're gonna be paying more money. And -- but how much more money they don't know, really. They don't know now. And they'll have at least more of an alert given to them to say, you -- you know, you may want to consider this, this link that's being provided and do a little bit more of comparison shopping before placing the order. Because the other thing, too, is that for those people -- in my family that have used, say, Instacart before, sometimes there's a tradeoff. You feel like, if I'm not in the store, there's less likelihood that I'm gonna just be throwing extra things into the cart, which is -- which is an issue sometimes. So -- impulse purchasing. So, anyway, to help the consumer balance it out, I do think that this is a good idea. I do think, you know, as we often find out as we pass legislation, when we defer to an agency to do the regulations following, you know, I do hope that the Department of State does it properly, other -- you know, I -- I hope so. But I do think that the

intent behind the bill is a good one. And I do think that it's something that many of our members will support. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

(Pause)

Read the last section.

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

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the result.)

The bill is passed.

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: Madam Speaker, can you please call the Ways and Means Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Ways and Means Committee, Speaker's Conference Room. Please meet Chairman Pretlow in the Speaker's Conference Room. Ways and Means Committee.

Page 17, Calendar No. 157, Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A06595, Calender No. 157, Ms. -- Mr. Weprin. An act to amend the Insurance Law, in

relation to extending certain provisions relating to medical malpractice insurers.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Mr. Gandolfo to explain his vote.

MR. GANDOLFO: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I will be voting in favor of this bill. The reason being is that this we expect, after talking with the industry, that this will be the last extender on this; the reason being that Physicians' Reciprocal Insurers and EmPRO Insurance Company, which were at risk of liquidation, have worked very closely with the Department of Financial Services to the point where they no longer feel that liquidation is very likely in the future. And they also agree that they expect this should be the last extension required. So, with that, I will be voting for this bill. And I hope it will be the last extension we need. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Gandolfo in the affirmative.

(Pause)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the result.)

The bill is passed.

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Can you please go to page 3 for Calendar Resolutions?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Resolutions, page 3, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 538, Ms. Solages.

Legislative resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 4-10, 2025, as Late Onset Hearing Loss Awareness 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. 539, Mr. Brabenec.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 18-24, 2025, as Emergency Medical Services 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. 540, Mr. Lemondes.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor

Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 20, 2025, as Armenian Heritage Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Lemondes on the resolution.

MR. LEMONDES: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise with the utmost respect and humility to honor this day on behalf of all of those killed and displaced by the Pontic Greek, Armenian, and Assyrian genocide, commonly and historically referred to as the Armenian genocide, in recognition of their fate, which ensnared so many. Two of whom were my grandparents. Ironically, this is only the fourth time anyone in my family has spoken publicly of this since our arrival here. And I do so not to seek pity, but simply your acknowledgement that this event occurred.

For the benefit of those who may not know, this genocide was the first state-sponsored mass genocide of modern civilization and served as the blueprint from which the Germans refined the concept to use against the Jews 20 years later. Their participation was as a result of the Ottoman-German Wartime Alliance. Many German officials witnessed firsthand the atrocities committed against these ethnic Christian minorities, both -- the Germans were both military officers and diplomats. Taking place from 1914 to 1922, it was a systematic extermination of an entire population where the Ottoman Turks directed the killing of over 353,000 Pontian and Anatolian Asia Minor Greeks and another million Armenians and Assyrians. An equal number were forced to

flee their homeland in one of the most condemnable atrocities in the history of the world. These refugees were largely considered stateless and resettled worldwide. And depending on the source consulted, these numbers of those killed and resettled are considered conservative.

The Ottoman regime sought to consolidate its wartime position and to finance the Turkification of Anatolia by confiscating the assets of murdered or deported Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians. This illegal redistribution of property also provided incentive for large numbers of ordinary people to join in the assault of their neighbors.

Last, crimes against humanity must always be condemned because studies by genocide scholars demonstrate the single best predictor of genocide and future genocide is the denial of past genocide, coupled with impunity for its perpetrators. Genocide deniers are three times more likely to commit genocide again than other governments. Let us be forever vigilant. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: On the resolution, all in favor signify -- signify by saying aye. Opposed? The resolutions are passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 541, Ms. Rajkumar.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 28, 2025, as Nepali-American

Heritage Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed? Resolution adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 542, Ms. Lunsford.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 30, 2025, as Heat Awareness Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed? Resolution adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 543, Mr. Destefano.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim October 8, 2025, as Emergency Nurses Day and October 11 through the -- October 5-11, 2025, as Emergency Nurses Week in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: On the resolution, all those in favor signify -- signify by saying aye. Opposed? Resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 544, Ms. Buttenschon.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim October 28, 2025, as First Responders Day

in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: Ms. Buttenschon on the resolution.

MS. BUTTENSCHON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today with great pride and a deep sense of respect as I introduce this resolution designating October 28, 25 -- 2025, as First Responders Day in the State of New York. This is an opportunity for us to collectively honor those with courage, sacrifice and steadfast commitment to all of us as they are the first responders of our community. Every day across this State and this nation, they come to the call of so many of us in chaos, fear and uncertainty. They are the ones that run into danger while others run away. I ask you to acknowledge these individuals with this resolution and remind us that each one of these individuals could be a parent, a spouse, a neighbor or anyone that you run in contact with on a daily basis. And I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: Thank you.

Ms. Kay on the resolution.

MS. KAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the sponsor for introducing this very important resolution.

In the 100th district where I come from, we take immense pride in our first responders who stand ready at a moment's notice to offer compassionate aid to our neighbors in crisis. Whether they're battling wildfires or responding to emergencies on the road, as they just did in April when a driver's overturned car became stuck

over a ravine, they deserve our highest gratitude for selflessly protecting our communities day in and day -- and night. By recognizing the bravery and dedication of all first responders, we celebrate the backbone of our neighborhoods and affirm our commitment to safety in our home communities across this great State.

I respectfully urge all my colleagues to join us in passing this resolution and applauding these outstanding individuals for their courage and dedication. And, again, thank you to sponsor.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed? Resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 545, Mr. Eachus.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 2025, as Foster Care Month in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: Mr. Eachus on the resolution.

MR. EACHUS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Having had 13 foster brothers and sisters in my family, I can tell you that the foresting program literally gives tens of thousands of New York children an ability to live a fulfilling, natural life the way they should. It is my hope that everybody will vote for -- positively for this resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed? The resolution is adopted.

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: Mr. Speaker, do you have any further housekeeping or resolutions?

(Pause)

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: Yes, we do.

On behalf of Mr. Epstein, Assembly Bill recalled from the Senate.

The Clerk will read the title of the bill, A00056-A.

THE CLERK: An act to amend the Real Property Law and General Obligations Law.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: The motion to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed -- the House.

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 amendments are received and adopted.

(Pause)

We also have a privileged resolution -- a resolution by Mr. Cunningham.

The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 553, Mr. Cunningham.

Legislative Resolution commemorating the 100th birthday of Malcolm X, a revolutionary leader and champion for justice.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: Mr. Cunningham.

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Speaker, thank you so much to you and my colleagues on the floor. I rise today in solum honor of the centennial birthday of one of America and the global leaders of our time, a transformational leader who was born 100 years ago, yesterday, on May 19, 2025.

As we all know, Malcolm X's life was forged in the -- the fight for injustice and resistance from his early days and experience of racism, violence and systematic poverty, which was emerging as one of the leading voices, one of the Black voices for liberation and change. His legacy continues to challenge us, it continues to inspire us and it continues to instruct us.

As we all know, Malcolm X taught us that dignity is nonnegotiable. That freedom is something not to be begged for, but something to be demanded by any means necessary. His message was one of self-determination, one of love for our community and one of global solidarity with people oppressed everywhere. His voice is needed more now than ever at these challenging times.

As a Black man, a father, I carry the legacy of Malcolm X as I do this work every day. His pursuit of justice reminds

me that it requires more than just policies, but courage. It requires truth-telling, even when our voice shakes and it's uncomfortable. It requires that we never forget why we are fighting to make America a great place.

I want to thank you for celebrating his life, his legacy and hope that my colleagues would join me in voting affirmatively on this resolution.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: Thank you.

Mr. Gibbs on the resolution.

MR. GIBBS: Thank you, Brother Chair. Thank you, my Brother Speaker, for letting me rise to speak on this resolution and to celebrate the 100th birthday of civil rights and social justice icon, Malcolm X.

Malcolm stood in the face of fear, spoke truth to power and challenged America to live up to its promises. Malcolm X taught us the power -- taught us about the power of self-determination. He showed us that dignity starts with truth, even when it's uncomfortable. He believed in community control and the strength of the grassroots, and that many will always overcome a -- the few. Malcolm's spirit lives today. And I will push for police accountability, fair housing, restorative justice and economic empowerment. It lives in our refusal to let the system define our work or our future, to continue to shape our own futures and not have it written for us.

We honor Malcolm's legacy by building systems of care, not cages. By investing in education instead of incarceration.

By passing laws that lift people up instead of locking them out.

As the first formerly-incarcerated member of the New York State Legislature, I can proudly say that I have walked the streets Malcolm marched. I lived behind the walls Malcolm fought against and I now have the honor and the responsibility to write laws that break down these chains and walls.

This work is not symbolic, it's structural. And to me, it's personal. I carry with me not just my story, but the story of our people, of people like Malcolm X. I do this work because to me, justice isn't just a dream, it's a demand. From the first day of Malcolm's movement, to this very day, the fight continues. And I promise you, I won't stop until every system in this State serves all of us. And I repeat, all of us with dignity, fairness, and humanity. And with that, Brother, I vote yes on the resolution. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: Thank you.

Mr. Epstein on the resolution.

MR. EPSTEIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise in support of this resolution. There are very few transformative figures in U.S. history, and Malcolm X is just one of those.

I remember I went to law school to -- to -- to do social justice work and the dean of the law school who happened to be a gentleman named Haywood Burns. And Haywood had the honor of being Malcolm X's lawyer. And he talked about our role in this movement for social and economic justice and the struggle that we all

needed to play and our responsibilities to a larger world. And it comes directly from what Malcolm X did for our country and for people in our country. To acknowledge the history of racism and oppression that exists, to understand which role in our society and to actively work on doing something. On the 100th anniversary of his birthday, I want to honor the work that Malcolm X did to make our country a better place.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: Thank you.

Mr. De Los Santos on the resolution.

MR. DE LOS SANTOS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to thank the sponsor for introducing this important legislation, but today as we stand together to remember a 100 later -- a century later, the great memory of Malcolm X, his work, his commitment for justice.

I still remember the day. While I was in school -- not only high school, but college, it was his vision and his dedication to serve, to give back and be a voice for the voiceless, that kept me grounded at a time when it was difficult. And a hundred [sic] year later, we still hear the great Malcolm X, we still feel him and we still remember him but a 100 years later, we still need him today.

So, let's not forget who he is or what he did and what he continue [sic] to do for all of us. I think we can do more. We are better than what we are today. And he's one of the reason [sic] why we are where we are. But we have a lot of work to do. And I know as a collective, we can do more as long as we follow his vision, his

dedication and his work ethic and his commitment to make our community, our city, our State, our country, a better country to live. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: Thank you.

All those in favor signify by saying aye. Opposed?

The resolution is adopted.

We have a number of resolutions before the House.

Without objection, those resolutions will be taken up together.

On the resolutions, all those in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed? Resolution is adopted.

(Whereupon, Assembly Resolution Nos. 546-553 were unanimously approved.)

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: I now move that the Assembly stands adjourned and that we reconvene at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 1st, tomorrow being a Session day.

(Pause)

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

(Whereupon, at 4:59 p.m., the House stood adjourned until Wednesday, May 1st at 10:00 a.m., that being a Session day.)