

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2025

10:38 A.M.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The House will come to order.

Good morning, colleagues.

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

(Whereupon, a moment of silence was observed.)

Visitors are invited to join 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 Thursday, June 5th.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Madam Speaker, I move to dispense with the further reading of the Journal of June the 5th and that the same stand approved.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Without objection, so ordered.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Colleagues and guests that are in the Chambers, I'd like to share a quote with you today. This one comes from Aristotle. Everybody knows that he's a renowned Greek philosopher. His words for us today: *Quality is not an act, it's]sic]a habit.* Again, these words from the infamous Greek philosopher.

Madam Speaker, members have on their desk a main Calendar and also a debate list. Before any housekeeping and/or introductions we're gonna to be calling for the Rules Committee to meet in the Speaker's Conference Room. This Committee is going to produce an A-Calendar of which we are going to take up today. We will also be calling for a Ways and Means Committee at some point as well.

We will begin our floor work today, however, by taking up Calendar No. 160 by Mr. Weprin. Then we're gonna take up the following bills on debate: Rules Report No. 383 by Mr. Lasher, Calendar No. 59 by Ms. Romero, and Rules Report No. 262 by Mr. Taylor. There may be a need to announce further floor activity at some point, Madam Speaker. Should that happen I will be happy to apprise.

That's the general outline of where we're going. So if you could please call the Rules Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room. Thank you, ma'am.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Rules Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room. Rules Committee members to the Speaker's Conference Room.

We do have a piece of housekeeping.

On a motion by Mr. Rivera, page 10, Rules Report No. 292, Bill No. A01529, the amendments are received and adopted.

We have several introductions this morning. We'll start with Mr. Raga for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. RAGA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good morning.

I'm proud to help introduce today a delegation from the Philippines here to help celebrate our third annual Philippine Independence Day at the State Capitol. They're joined by community leaders and the Philippine Consul General. I'd like to just recognize Philippine Consul General Senen Mangalile, Maria Fay Mangalile, Vice Consul Aguilar, the Honorable Mayor Strike Revilla, and -- and the Consul Member delegation of Levi Tela, Roberto Ovenchula, Audria Lito Garawan, Reynaldo Fabienne, Miguel Batista, Alejandro Guittierrez, Noli Gavez, Ricardo Ugdalde, Reynaldo Pelegria, Simplico Dominguez, Regilio Nolasko, Karen Avaristo, and Edwin Ginto (all phonetic). Also accompanied by community leaders Dr. Deli Go, Angie Cruz, Dr. Amelio Quines, Ida Bartolamay and Nora

Gulieros (all phonetic).

Ms. [sic] Speaker, if you could give them all the cordialities of the floor in honor and in commemoration of Philippine Independence Day, and also with all the community work and contributions of the Filipino American community here in the great State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On behalf of Mr. Raga, the Speaker and all members, we welcome you, our distinguished guests, to the Assembly Chamber. Our Philippine Consul General, Mayor. We extend the privileges of the floor to you. Hope you enjoy our proceedings today. Thank you so very much for joining us.

(Applause)

Ms. Romero for the purposes of an introduction.

MS. ROMERO: Thank you, Ms. [sic] Speaker.

I'm here to introduce constituents of mine also from the Filipino delegation. They're members of the Kalayaan 1521 Council. Here are Sol Kapunan, Mary Ann Kapunan, Raffy Tragico, Cleo Rodgers, Cheryl Hoyer, and Albany's Sinulog.

(Pause)

I'm proud to introduce them, and -- and my -- they're here to honor the rich and wonderful Filipino culture.

Kalayaan 1521 is a non-profit devoted to preserving and promoting Filipino culture in the United States, and I ask that they receive the cordialities of the House and the richness and amazingness

of the floor today.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

On behalf of Ms. Romero, the Speaker and all members, we welcome you, our distinguished guests who are here celebrating Philippine Independence Day. We extend the privileges of the floor to you and hope you enjoy our proceedings today. Thank you so very much for joining us.

(Applause)

Mr. Maher for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. MAHER: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise today to introduce several individuals, none more important than my wife, Becky Maher, who joins us. A teacher at Monticello School District, Becky teaches English as a Second Language and is very passionate about her work. She also serves her community in an organization that's called Monticello Cares, which provides hundreds of students and families relief during the holidays. Prior to that, she was the co-founder of Hudson Valley Honor Flight, and she is joined here by Sandy Strauss, his wife Diane and his sister Claudia.

Now, what makes this very special is Sandy worked in the school districts that Becky and I both attended. He taught for over 30 years in the middle school and elementary school level. He was a coach. In 2018 he was inducted into the New York State High School Softball Hall of Fame. And in his years of retirement he unfortunately had some kidney issues and was in need of a transplant.

It was Becky who raised her hand to donate her kidney as part of a lifesaving transplant that was -- allowed Sandy and his wife Diane to now enjoy their years of retirement, their golden years. Sandy has been a tremendous leader in the community, but this entire process help bring us together in a way that has connected us as family. We truly appreciate having them in our lives.

And I would please ask you, Madam Speaker, to give them the cordialities of the floor.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On behalf of Mr. Maher, the Speaker and all members, we always love to have family members here. So welcome, Becky, to our Assembly Chamber, and our special guest Mr. Strauss and your family. We extend the privileges of the floor to you. What a special connection, lifelong, that you've had together and an important gift that you were able to give. So thank you so very much for joining us here today. We hope you enjoy the proceedings. Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Blumencranz for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. BLUMENCRANZ: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It is my distinct honor to rise today to welcome to the Chamber His Excellency Ambassador Ofir Akunis, Consul General of Israel in New York. A statesman of principle, a defender of democracy, and a lifelong advocate for innovation and international partnerships, Ambassador Akunis' distinguished career spans decades

of public service. From his time as Minister of Science and Technology to his leadership in the Knesset, he has consistently worked to advance Israel's role as a global leader in scientific discovery, regional diplomacy, and human progress.

As the Ranking Member of the Assembly's Science and Technology Committee, I have a deep appreciation for the Ambassador's efforts to harness innovation for public good, whether it's AI, clean energy, cyber security or bio -- biomedical research. These are the areas where the State of Israel and New York can and must collaborate more closely, and this visit lays the groundwork for that shared future.

But today is about more than science and diplomacy. It's about solidarity. As a young Jewish legislator, I cannot stand here without addressing the rise of anti-Semitic violence from college campuses to neighborhoods across our nation, including the horrific recent stabbing incident in Boulder. Moments like this demand clarity, courage and unity. And I am proud to say this is not a partisan moment. Across party lines and geography, members of this Body have come together to say with the Ambassador, hatred has no home here in New York. Not now, not ever. We are here to affirm our commitment to the Jewish neighbors who strengthen our bond and our democratic ally, and ensure that Israelis and Israeli New Yorkers have access to Consulate services and institutional support they need, from passports to protection to everything in between.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you extend

the privileges and cordialities of the floor to Ambassador Ofir Akunis, and we thank him for his lifetime of public service, and we welcome him to the People's House.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On behalf of Mr. Blumencranz, the Speaker and all members, we welcome you, Ambassador, to the Chamber, extend the privileges of the floor to you. We hope you enjoy our proceedings today. Thank you so very much for joining us.

(Applause)

On consent, page 25, Calendar No. 160, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A07321-A, Calendar No. 160, Weprin, Kay, Raga, Shimsky, Bichotte Hermelyn, Kassay, Berger, Yeger, Buttenschon, Hevesi, Santabarbara, McDonald, Zaccaro, Lucas, Jackson. An act to amend the Insurance Law, in relation to requiring health insurers to provide coverage for speech therapy for stuttering.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This bill [sic] shall take effect January 1st.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Mr. Weprin to explain his vote.

MR. WEPRIN: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This bill will help millions of Americans of all ages who have -- had suffered with stuttering and were not able to get the therapy training that they needed to prevent stuttering and to improve stuttering. We've had -- we had a special guest here for a number of weeks, Michael Kidd Gilchrist, who is a former NBA player, a Hall of Famer, and someone who has become a national spokesperson for stuttering and preventing stuttering.

This legislation has been long in the making. It's something that is -- is very needed, and no one should not get the help they need to deal with their stuttering issue because they can't afford co-payments and they can't afford therapy for this.

So this bill will go a long way. I just urge everyone to -- to vote for this and to speak out for issues like this for coverage.

Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Weprin in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Page 15, Rules Report No. 383, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A04040-A, Rules Report No. 383, Lasher, Wright, P. Carroll, Epstein, Glick, González-Rojas, Hevesi, Hooks, Kelles, Levenberg, O'Pharrow, Reyes, Shimsky, Tapia, Torres, Zaccaro, Zinerman, Gallagher, Schiavoni,

Lee, Ramos, Burroughs, Bores, Rosenthal. An act to amend the Executive Law, in relation to codifying the disparate impact standard in the Human Rights Law.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: An explanation has been requested.

Mr. Lasher.

We're on debate. Quiet in the Chamber, please.

MR. LASHER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I want to thank my colleague Assemblymember Wright, who has been my partner in this effort which began at the start of both of our terms in office.

This simple but important bill would ensure that New Yorkers continue to have strong legal protections from housing discrimination. It would incorporate the disparate impact standard, which has long been in effect for purposes of fair housing enforcement under Federal law, into State law, and specifically into Article 15 of the State's Executive Law, the Human Rights Law.

Both the Federal Fair Housing Act and the State Human Rights Law prohibit discrimination in the provision of housing and credit to New Yorkers, and have been critical tools in ensuring equal access to housing in our State. The Federal law, however, has long been a more powerful tool than the State Human Rights Law when it comes to housing discrimination because of what is known as the disparate impact or discriminatory effects standard. To make a fair housing claim under Federal law, a plaintiff, or in many cases the

State Attorney General, must show that a policy or practice has the effect or impact of discriminating without having to prove intent. This has been critical to fair housing enforcement because intent is hard to prove in many contexts, and because discriminatory acts are often disguised thinly or otherwise. The State law, however, does not come with the long line of bedrock jurisprudence reinforcing the disparate impact standard, nor do we have something equivalent to the Federal regulation first put on the books in 2013, codifying the disparate impact standard. But the weakness of the State law has historically been irrelevant because of the Federal jurisprudence and regulation.

This legislation is straightforward. It incorporates the Federal disparate impact standard into the State Human Rights Law for fair housing cases; nothing more, nothing less. It would mean that the State law is no longer weaker than the Federal law, and clarify any question now or in the future about whether claims brought under State law must meet some higher burden than the disparate impact standard. I should stress, anyone who has followed the law as it has stood for the last 50 years would continue to be in compliance under this legislation.

And I should note finally that the bill takes its language almost verbatim from the Federal regulation on disparate impact, and would merely preserve the legal status quo of the last half-century to ensure that New Yorkers continue to have protection and recourse to ensure fair and equal access to housing in our great State.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Ms. Walsh.

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

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MR. LASHER: Certainly.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MS. WALSH: Thank you very much. And I do appreciate the -- the thorough introduction to this -- to this issue. It's appreciated, and it -- it eliminated a few of my opening questions. So let's -- let's kind of get to it.

I -- when selecting a forum in a housing complaint or in a housing matter, doesn't the complainant or the claimant have an ability to elect between proceeding in a Federal direction or a State Human Rights direction?

MR. LASHER: Many, if not most, claims of housing discrimination involve both State and Federal claims and sometimes local claims as well.

MS. WALSH: I'm sorry, I missed that last part. I apologize.

MR. LASHER: Most housing discrimination cases, I -- I don't know if most -- many, if not most, housing discrimination cases brought in New York --

MS. WALSH: Yes.

MR. LASHER: -- make claims under both Federal

and State law.

MS. WALSH: Okay. So in that way, what I'm familiar with, early in my practice I did some employment discrimination work where you had the EEOC and then you had the Division of Human Rights, and very often you would -- you would -- you usually did better as a -- as a plaintiff under the EEOC, at that time anyway -- and this is millions of years ago; like 30 years ago -- because you could get better damages and you could get some attorney's fees paid if you went under the EEOC versus the Division of Human Rights. Would you say -- and I don't want to get too far afield from the bill and we'll circle back to it -- but would you say that a comparison in the realm of housing would be similar to that you would -- you would plead -- you would plead in both -- in both forums?

MR. LASHER: You know, I've looked at a lot of these complaints and they generally take the form of making a claim under Federal law, a claim under State law, and asserting the disparate impact standard, sort of generally speaking.

MS. WALSH: Okay.

MR. LASHER: So I -- I'm not quite sure the analogy is quite the same.

MS. WALSH: Okay. Are the remedies the same if you go through the Federal -- so Federal would be the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or HUD, and then there's the New York City Commission on Human Rights, and then

there's the New York State Division of Human Rights. I think that those would be like the three possible areas that you could pursue if you had a housing complaint, depending on where you live.

MR. LASHER: You know, the -- the Human Rights Law is enforceable both through the Division of Human Rights and through litigation.

MS. WALSH: Okay. All right.

So one question I had is, under New York's current law with the Division of Human Rights, if -- if we look at that, isn't -- isn't disparate impact already an available theory even if it's not got the standard spelled out as you do here in this bill?

MR. LASHER: I want to be circumspect about what I'll say on that question, and I would simply say that there is a 50-year line of Federal jurisprudence that makes it unquestionable that the disparate impact standard is applicable to the Fair Housing Act of 1964, and there's not a comparable line of State jurisprudence.

MS. WALSH: Okay. So it -- it may be an avail -- are -- would it be fair to say, then, that it -- disparate impact is already an available theory that could be brought before the New York State Division of Human Rights, but because of possible changes at the Federal level there was a feeling to file this bill at the end of January of this year, so right after the new Administration came in, and just to -- to really lock it down and make sure that that disparate impact standard was in our State law?

MR. LASHER: I think I should note that I was

working on this legislation prior to the incoming Administration.

MS. WALSH: Like around mid-November, maybe, of last year?

MR. LASHER: No, look, I think -- I think -- look, I -- you know, we live in a changing world.

MS. WALSH: Yes.

MR. LASHER: We had the *Loper Bright* decision in the -- at the Supreme Court last year that changes the landscape of deference to agency regulation. The last time the Supreme Court took this issue up was a decade ago. So we live in a changing world. This has been the status quo for 50 years. I think it has been an important tool to protect New Yorkers from housing discrimination, and this legislation would ensure that that tool continues to remain, regardless of what may come.

MS. WALSH: That's -- that -- okay.

So, as I was looking at kind of ideas of what a -- a disparate impact case could be, the -- I guess the first thing that immediately came to my mind was something that we've mentioned here before, which is redlining. Although that -- that might be something where there is a discrimin -- a discrimin -- I can't even say it, sorry -- discriminatory intent, but -- but perhaps that would be difficult to prove. So a disparate impact standard could be helpful in trying to establish any kind of modern-day redlining. Would that be fair to say?

MR. LASHER: That's -- that is exactly right.

MS. WALSH: Okay.

Another -- another thought that Google helped me think of was that let's say you have, for example, a -- a landlord that says, *You know, I'm gonna create a rule here that says that I don't want to see any individual tenant calling 911 more than twice every six months or -- or that's it*, and then that could disparately impact, for example, a survivor of domestic violence or family members in that family unit who might need to call three times or four times. And if that results in an eviction of that tenant, that could be possibly a claim saying that that rule that the landlord put out is -- is going to have a disparate impact on that tenant.

MR. LASHER: Well, you know, I'll give you --

MS. WALSH: That class of tenant.

MR. LASHER: I'll give you an example. Yeah, I'll give you an example. You know, there was a very fascinating case in 2014 in Buffalo --

MS. WALSH: Okay.

MR. LASHER: -- that the Attorney General brought against Evans Bank. And the case emerged from the fact that Evans Bank was intentionally excluding predominantly African-American neighborhoods from its lending area, it was developing mortgage lending products that it made unavailable to those neighborhoods. It refused to solicit customers in those neighborhoods. And lo and behold, when the Attorney General's Office looked at the mortgage applications, just four of 1,114 mortgage applications came from applicants of any race for the property in the East Side neighborhood

of Buffalo, and of those applications from the East Side neighborhoods, only one came from a Black applicant. And that was a kind of a classic case of a disparate impact pleading where the actions of the bank led to this extraordinarily disparate impact racially discriminatory effect.

MS. WALSH: That's a helpful example. I appreciate it.

I think that really you've answered the -- well, you know what? Let's just -- no, you kind of covered it, though, in your explanation as far as how this works and what the standard is going to be. And you mentioned, I just would underline, that the -- the actual standard is drawn heavily from the Federal definition of disparate impact. Are you -- it's lifted.

MR. LASHER: It -- it is almost verbatim --

MS. WALSH: Almost verbatim.

MR. LASHER: -- and where it is not verbatim it is only because the -- you know, we refer to a paragraph and they refer to a subdivision. You know, it -- it is -- it is substantively verbatim from the Federal regulation.

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

MR. LASHER: Thank you.

MS. WALSH: Madam Speaker, on the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On the bill.

MS. WALSH: So, there are really two ways to look

at this bill and this kind of bill. We spoke -- soon after the November election occurred, there was a lot of discussion about the need to -- to Trump-proof our laws here in reaction to what the campaign had indicated was a priority. And we've seen that through a flurry of Executive Orders that have been brought since taking office in January that the President has indicated, and I'll mention it specifically, there's an Executive Order, 14281 from April 23rd of 2025 that states that it is the policy of the United States to eliminate the use of disparate impact liability in all contexts to the maximum degree possible to avoid violating the Constitution's Federal Civil Rights Laws and basic American ideals. And it does go on. So, you know, I -- I used to have -- I'm not a really anxious person by nature, but I always had this sign on my desk and it always helped me. And it said, *You need to worry about the things that are actually happening, not the things that might possibly happen.* Right? So that helps me to be less anxious, because I try not to worry about all the things that might possibly happen down the line. But I understand the point of view that I believe that the sponsor holds, which is that if you have an Executive Order like this that came out in April -- although I know that he indicated that he had been working on this bill for some time -- but when you have that, even though that Executive Order doesn't actually roll back anything, it doesn't really do anything except for later in the Executive Order it talks about that there's going to be a review, that there's going to be a report. That's there's gonna be possible future agency action. All of that's possible right now under

our Federal law. That disparate impact statement or standard is still in there. But I can appreciate that some members may feel like, well, then what is the harm, then, just to be -- just to be on the safe side to take that disparate impact standard and put it into our own State Human Rights Law so that if, if something happens at the Federal level and if that is challenged and it withstands legal challenge, if, if, if down the road that something happens, then we're all set here in New York.

So I would expect that there -- there will be some members who will want to support this for that reason. There may be other people who say, *You know what? Disparate impact as a theory has been raised in State housing cases under the Human Rights Law for a very long time and it shows no immediate signs of going away and it can continue to be brought. So we don't need to take that action at this time.*

So I think that that kind of explains the bill for everybody. I think that there will be a divergence of opinions depending on where you fall on it.

So, Madam Speaker, I thank you for the time and I thank the sponsor for the -- the debate. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the sponsor yield for one -- one quick question?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor

yield?

MR. LASHER: Absolutely.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, sir.

I wonder if you could review the data that you mentioned regarding the East Side of Buffalo --

MR. LASHER: Certainly.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: -- and the impact of it in this legislation.

MR. LASHER: Sure. And I -- I should note that -- that Evans Bank settled with the Attorney General's Office on this case. This was in a case brought in 2014, and this was from the Attorney General's complaint in the case. I'll just read from the -- from the complaint. Of 1,114 mortgage applications, only four applications .36 percent, came from applicants reporting as African-American, and only eight applications .72 percent, came from applicants of any race with a property in the East Side neighborhoods. Of the mortgage applications from the East Side neighborhoods, only one .009 percent, was from an applicant reporting as African-American.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you. And -- and I want to suspect that your legislation will get us to the equality and justice that we mention every time we say our Pledge of Allegiance for people across the State of New York.

MR. LASHER: It -- it aims to be a step toward that

goal.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: A Party vote has been requested.

Ms. Walsh.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Republican Conference will generally be in the negative on this piece of legislation. But there may be some who wish to vote yes, and they may certainly do so now at their seats. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Majority Conference is generally gonna be in favor of this piece of consumer-friendly, equitable legislation; however, there may be a few of us that would desire to be an exception. If they do so they should do so at their seats. Thank you, ma'am.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Mr. Wright to explain his vote.

MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to offer a big thank you to Member Lasher for partnering on this

legislation with him. And housing is a human right and I'm excited that this piece of legislation is gonna go through, and if we continue to have that in our great State of New York and I proudly vote in the affirmative.

Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Wright in the affirmative.

Mr. Lavine to explain his vote.

MR. LAVINE: In his April 23rd Executive Order, our President said that 55 years of Supreme Court precedent as first declared in *Griggs v. Duke Power* in 1970 are going to be overturned. Disparate impact theory has to be gotten rid of, quote, "to the degree possible", unquote.

New York has a proud history of civil rights, and I want to commend the sponsor. And I'll commend, as well, everyone who will vote in favor of this very meaningful piece of legislation. Because we need to continue that history, and we really need to continue that history when we have an Executive, a Chief Executive in Washington who does not believe in civil rights.

And so I am going to be very proud and pleased to cast my vote in the affirmative. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Lavine in the affirmative.

Ms. Levenberg to explain her vote.

MS. LEVENBERG: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'd like to also commend the sponsor of this bill. I grew up in Teaneck, New Jersey, where -- where our community took on housing and redlining head-on, early on. And I couldn't be more proud to stand with the sponsor and my colleagues to make sure we codify this into law. Whatever we can do to continue to protect civil rights, which are human rights, we need to do. And certainly at this time when our Federal Government is doing anything but that, we need to stand strong together here in New York and stand for what we know is right.

Thank you again. I will vote in the affirmative.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Ms. Levenberg in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Page 20, Calendar No. 59, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A06332-A, Calendar No. 59, Romero, Cunningham, González-Rojas, Yeger, Woerner, Sayegh, Colton, Shimsky, McDonald, Levenberg, Schiavoni, Morinello, Wright. An act to amend the Criminal Procedure Law, in relation to notifying certain crime victims of the disposition of criminal trial.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: An explanation has been requested.

Ms. Romero.

MS. ROMERO: Thank you. I want to first start by commending my colleague across the aisle, the Ranker of Codes, Judge Morinello, for the incredible work that they did with me on creating this final legislation.

There's a fundamental need for crime victims to be kept informed concerning the criminal justice process in which they have become involved, and in some cases, crime victims can lose track of the state of their case. So this legislation would require the district attorney's office or their designee to mail the final disposition of the case, in a felony case, to the crime victim at the final end of the case, whether it's an acquittal at trial or sentencing at the end of the -- the criminal case.

So I'm happy to put this legislation forward and I'll take any questions.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Ms. Walsh.

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

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MS. ROMERO: Certainly.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MS. WALSH: Thank you very much.

So first of all, I guess, let's -- let's start with this. The -- the bill was amended to make a change. Could you just discuss

what that change was and why you made it?

MS. ROMERO: Sure. So in the original version of the bill it was a court clerk notification, and the bill was amended, frankly, with my colleague's suggestion to have the district attorney or their designee provide the mailing to the crime victim, and that's because the district attorney, frankly, would have the most up-to-date information of the crime victim as opposed to the court clerk.

MS. WALSH: Okay. So just quickly on that. So when it says designee, who is envisioned be a designee at the district attorney's office?

MS. ROMERO: The designee would probably be -- would definitely be, actually, the Crime Victims Unit within the district attorney's office.

MS. WALSH: Okay. Because I know that -- and again, my practice is more in family court so I might, you know, not have the right person. But I know that sometimes, particularly if it's a survivor -- the person is a survivor of domestic violence, for example, sometimes there's a specific advocate that works with the court to help that individual. Could they be a designee that would be -- could be tasked with the notification?

MS. ROMERO: Yes. So those -- those advocates are underneath the district attorney's office --

MS. WALSH: (Indiscernible/crosstalk)

MS. ROMERO: Exactly. We're -- we're thinking of the same office. Those people would have the most up-to-date

information of -- of the crime victim.

MS. WALSH: That's -- that's exactly right. I -- I hadn't -- I hadn't remembered that. That's how their -- that's how their position is funded. I remember that now. Okay.

So, now, it seemed to me from reading this that the notice was going -- the written notice was going to need to issue if -- if it's at the person -- the victim was not present at the time of sentencing or acquitted after trial?

MS. ROMERO: Correct.

MS. WALSH: Okay.

MS. ROMERO: So those are the two potential dispositions of a -- of a felony case. An acquittal after trial or sentencing, in which case there's many outcomes of sentencing; probation, you know, fined, incarceration or an acquittal which would be a trial and...

MS. WALSH: But it -- the need for the notice is judged upon whether that -- that person, that -- that crime victim, was present at either one of those things?

MS. ROMERO: Correct.

MS. WALSH: Okay. So, for example, there -- there may be some crime victims who just, for whatever reason, they are -- they're not present, but they're keeping in really close contact with the district attorney's office and they know the outcome. They would still need to get a written notice?

MS. ROMERO: Correct.

MS. WALSH: Okay. And how -- I mean, do they have to try -- like, they just have to mail it out, right? They just have to mail -- mail or e-mail or...

MS. ROMERO: Mail.

MS. WALSH: Mail. Okay, first-class mail to the last known address. Okay.

What -- is there -- is there something that led to the development of this bill? Like, do you think that this is a problem that needs to be fixed and why?

MS. ROMERO: So my -- in my work in the public defender's office for almost a decade before I was elected to the New York State Assembly, I saw that crime victims, through -- of no reason -- of no reason that I -- I'm aware of, maybe because their lives are busy or -- or for whatever reason, occasionally don't show up to court. But they should still have notice or explicit information of what's going on in their case. And I believe that that obligation is in the hands of the district attorney's office to let them know exactly what's happening on every step of the way. So if they for whatever reason do not appear for the last actual appearance in court, they should still know exactly what's happening on that last possible court date. That's extremely important. There's really important things that happen on that last court date. Orders of Protection are issued. There's intense levels of incarceration that are issued. Sometimes on the last day of court there's open times of sentencing. Sometimes sentences are so open that it could be probation or

incarceration. If they don't appear for court that day, they might not even know what the defendant is even being sentenced to. So it's important that this bill, when -- if and when passed, would allow for the crime victim to know exactly what's happening, irregardless of whether or not they're showing up to court.

MS. WALSH: Okay.

So it says in the bill that there needs to be a written summary of the disposition of such felony. What do you envision being in that written disposition? Is it just simply sentenced to X amount of time? Is it acquitted following trial? Or is it -- does it have to give -- does it have to give more than that, and if so -- I mean, the bill appears to be silent on that.

MS. ROMERO: A final disposition of a case would include sentencing, meaning in the plain language of what a sentence means. A sentence in a criminal case includes fines. It could include -- it includes the actual sentence, which is probation, prison, incarceration. It includes surcharges. It is -- when I say final disposition I mean the legal definition thereof, which is the aforementioned things that I just --

MS. WALSH: Okay. That's helpful. Yeah, because I was wondering if it would also include things like a summary of the proceedings. You're -- you're just talking about the outcome.

MS. ROMERO: Correct.

MS. WALSH: The actually outcome; fines, sentencing, et cetera, that that's what they're gonna be notified of.

MS. ROMERO: It would also include Orders of Protection.

MS. WALSH: Orders of Protection. Absolutely.

MS. ROMERO: Correct. It would include the actual final disposition. But to get directly to your point, it would not include a summary of the proceedings. It would include the outcome of the case that was imposed on the defendant and the effects it would have on the crime victim, i.e., the Order of Protection most notably.

MS. WALSH: What -- what would be your response to what I have heard a little bit about the bill which says, like I say to my kids all the time, *Hey, the phone works both ways*. You know? And I don't mean to be flip about it. But, you know, like if -- if there is a crime victim that wants to know what's going on with the case, they have only to call their -- their contact the district attorney's office and find out. And if they're not and if there's no contact going on then, you know, like, what do you -- I mean, what do you have to say to that argument?

MS. ROMERO: What I have to say to that is that I -- I want to protect victims no matter what's going on in their life, and I believe that to my core. And, you know, I've seen personally in my involvement in the criminal legal system that sometimes there's something going on in their life. They miss -- they miss the bus. They can't get child care that day. They are unable to -- there's something else going on in their life that they can't make that one single court date at that one specific time. And because that one

specific court date at 9 a.m. is -- is very, very impactful for the rest of their life, they miss that very important piece of information. And so -- and they want to be there for that. So this bill would give them all of that information in writing directly to them if they miss that court date. The -- I -- what I say to you in response to your question is I feel like the district attorney's office has an obligation to tell crime victims about the outcome of their case because they should.

MS. WALSH: Okay. And just -- I appreciate that. And so, just to figure out again just to clarify the scope of this. It's -- at -- after trial -- (indiscernible) acquittal after trial or the sentencing of any defendant for a felony. So if the sentencing ends up being for something less than a felony, do they still notify or not?

MS. ROMERO: No, this is just for felony cases.

MS. WALSH: Okay. A felony disposition.

MS. ROMERO: Yes.

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

Madam Speaker, on the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On the bill.

MS. WALSH: I do thank the sponsor for clarifying a few things about the bill. I think -- you know, I think that -- and, again, I -- I bring an Upstate perspective to this. Maybe things are different in other parts of the State and that's really what's led -- what's led to the bill. But the DA's offices that I am familiar with, their -- their ADAs are very, very much in -- in contact with the crime

victims. Their -- their whole purpose is to try to bring justice for these individuals. And so they're -- they're in very regular contact with crime victims, either by phone or -- I can absolutely appreciate the idea that if the -- if the crime victim can't actually be there at the time of acquittal following trial or sentencing or can't come in and do their victim impact statement or, you know, just life gets in the way and they can't be there. Or they can't just emotionally can't be there. I can really appreciate that. But we do have -- we do have other means of communication with the DA's office that I think can be as effective.

I do think that the amendment that was made by the sponsor is a -- is a good one. I think that before, it would have required the clerk of the court or their designee to mail the written summary, and then the amendment on third reading changed that to the district attorney or their designee, and I think that that's more appropriately the place where a notice should be coming from, and I do think that that was a good change.

I think that many of us will support this legislation. But I also would say that in -- in my experience and I think probably in the vast majority of situations, the DA's offices are very much on top of this and it is really their whole reason, is to try to make sure that there is justice brought to crime victims and they are keeping in touch. But I -- I do -- you know, I will probably support this legislation, especially with the amendment, because I do think that a letter and a stamp is probably not too much to ask for -- for our crime victims.

So, but I thank the sponsor very much for her

answers, and thank you, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Morinello.

MR. MORINELLO: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

On the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On the bill.

MR. MORINELLO: I would like to commend the sponsor. The -- the cooperation between both sides of the aisle on this particular issue exemplifies what this Body should be here for. The cooperation should be there to make bills better, and the willingness to be able to discuss the issues, to point out certain flaws or inconsistencies that might be there.

I was the assigned domestic violence judge for ten years, and it was a smaller court, unlike the sponsor's court that she had to deal with. And what happens is the -- the principle in domestic violence is power and control, and the abuser maintains power and control over the victim. The victim needs to be made feel -- feel like they are being listened to. That they have some rights. Because in order for an abuser to actually have to come to court or to be charged is very, very difficult emotionally for the victim. The victims, it may take four or five attempts for them to be able to go forward in the courts. Their fear is still there, and many times they have to be protected from their abuser's just stares, sneers. There -- there are just outbursts that may happen in a courtroom. So many times, a -- an abused victim may choose not to come to court if there -- the district

attorney's office feels there's other evidence on a particular matter.

Many times it's a witness that will report it and not the victim.

Unfortunately, many times in the budget in this State from when I was on the bench, I've seen funds cut for domestic violence advocates, and the district attorneys have had to work with less individuals. Therefore, sometimes they lose contact.

This Body, in its wisdom, has passed laws to protect the identity, location and phone numbers of victims. We have passed laws to allow them to get out of leases so they can escape dangerous situations. It is really important at the conclusion of a matter that that victim feels like they are worth something. A piece of paper is more important to them than we can ever imagine. And I feel that with the cooperation on this bill that it accomplishes the goal that we need, and that is to make a victim feel whole, feel listened to, and feel protected.

Thank you to the sponsor, and thank you again.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Molitor.

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

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MS. ROMERO: Certainly.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MR. MOLITOR: Thank you.

Is the definition of victim defined in the Criminal

Procedure Law or the Penal Law?

(Conferencing)

MS. ROMERO: I don't know.

MR. MOLITOR: Do you antici --

MS. ROMERO: But I -- but I think it takes the normal and commonsense definition of crime victim in the sense that they are the aggrieved person in the criminal action.

MR. MOLITOR: So this particular piece of legislation would require the DA's office to provide notice of disposition to any aggrieved party as a result of a criminal conviction or an acquittal?

MS. ROMERO: This would require the district attorney to mail the final disposition of the case to the named crime victim in a criminal action.

MR. MOLITOR: So the named victim in an indictment, for example.

MS. ROMERO: Yes.

MR. MOLITOR: All right. So if -- and thank you for clarifying that. So if a victim is not named in the indictment, the district attorney's office would not be required to mail a disposition to the victim?

(Conferencing)

MS. ROMERO: This is a great question, and I see where you're going with that. Because there can be a crime victim for an Order of Protection. There can be a crime victim for an

indictment. And I thank you for this question because I think -- and I -- I would clarify for the bill that there would be any crime victim for purposes of the -- the crime itself. So thank you for the question. And the victim itself for purposes of the crime is any crime victim for purposes of the crime itself. And the district attorney's office knows who the crime victims are in each crime and each case.

MR. MOLITOR: So what about those circumstances where, let's say, just as an example, a town clerk steals hundreds of thousands of dollars from a local municipality. All the victims in that case would be the taxpayers of that particular area. Would the district attorney's office have to provide written notice of a disposition to all of those people in that particular instance?

MS. ROMERO: Yes.

MR. MOLITOR: They would?

MS. ROMERO: According to the written version of the bill, yeah.

MR. MOLITOR: Okay. That -- that could impose a pretty massive burden on district -- district attorney's offices that don't have the capability to do that, wouldn't it?

MS. ROMERO: It can be their designees as well. So there can be a version of the district attorney that is not necessarily the district attorney's office.

MR. MOLITOR: What -- what do you mean? I don't -- I'm sorry, I don't understand.

(Conferencing)

MS. ROMERO: It can be a massive mailing. It doesn't have to be one person that sends it out, and it can be a massive mailer that goes out to the crime victims themselves. I also think that mail, as a concept, can also be electronic mail.

MR. MOLITOR: It can be electronic mail.

MS. ROMERO: It says mail, and mail, as generally defined, can be -- it doesn't have to necessarily be first-class mail, it can be electronic mail as well.

MR. MOLITOR: Okay. Now, what about those circumstances where there -- there isn't yet a final disposition on a case? And -- and I -- let me just give you an example here. Like, what about where the -- the defendant pleads guilty and enters into treatment court? Let's say judicial diversion. They might not have a -- a sentence for two or three years down the road. Would a DA's office still be required to wait until the -- the end of that procedure to provide notice to any crime victim?

MS. ROMERO: No. When someone enters treatment court the sentence is held in advance, and it's held in advance until they are finished with the treatment court, at which time they're finally sentenced when they're completed with the treatment court.

MR. MOLITOR: So the -- the district attorney's office would be required to provide a notice of the disposition upon the completion of treatment court?

MS. ROMERO: Upon the final disposition. So the

final disposition doesn't happen until they're sentenced and completed.

MR. MOLITOR: And that could be two or three years down the road, right?

MS. ROMERO: Correct.

MR. MOLITOR: What about those instances where somebody's sentenced to, let's say, felony probation and then a couple years go by, there's a violation of probation and then they're resentenced to maybe a period of incarceration? Would the district attorney's office have to provide a new notice of disposition upon resentencing?

(Conferencing)

MS. ROMERO: Not as written. It doesn't speak to that in the bill.

MR. MOLITOR: Okay. Thank you for answering my questions.

On the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On the bill.

MR. MOLITOR: So I -- I think the intent of this particular legislation is good -- is good intent. I think it is important that DA's offices notify crime victims. I will tell you, in my years of experience as a district attorney that we did -- we do this already. We all -- most DA's offices across the State, if not all of them, have a robust criminal victim, I guess, group of people that reach out to criminal victims and help them and notify them of every step of the -- you know, along the way. We're already required by statute to notify

victims of sentencing dates and to provide information to victims upon the completion of sentence. I don't know any DA, I can't think of anybody that I've met in my entire career, who wouldn't want to notify a crime victim of what happened in a case.

The problem I have with this particular legislation, you know, I -- I didn't come from a DA's office that had 400 attorneys. We had 12 attorneys. My caseload was between 100 and 150 cases. And, you know, sometimes it's just easier to pick up the phone because you've already had that relationship with the crime victim and say, *Hey, this is what's going on with the case.* And that's all, you know, a crime victim really wants, is they want to be notified what -- what has happened and they want to be notified soon.

I also think that this legislation does not take into consideration the incredibly massive burden it will be for DA's offices to have to notify every possible aggrieved party in a criminal case. And the example that I pointed out is not a far-fetched one. We've had -- in my county we've had a couple of those cases already. Financial crimes, in particular, are incredibly difficult to track down all the victims.

So while I agree with the intent and the purpose of this legislation, I would just ask everyone to take into consideration some real world practical issues with this bill and vote no on this bill. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Madam Speaker, would you please call the Ways and Means Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Ways and Means Committee members to the Speaker's Conference Room. Ways and Means to the Speaker's Conference Room.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 180th day.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Mr. Molitor to explain his vote.

MR. MOLITOR: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I -- I just wanted to point out one more major fundamental flaw with this bill. I'm sorry, I don't mean to do this. But the -- but this bill also doesn't contemplate other prosecuting agencies. I mean, if there's a conflict, then a special prosecutor needs to be assigned. This law doesn't apply to special prosecutors. It doesn't address the prosecuting agency in New York State, the Attorney General's Office. The Attorney General's Office is prosecuting a crime, they also do not have to follow this law. This is specific to local DA's offices, and I just wanted to point that out. It's another problem with this particular piece of legislation.

Thank you. I'll be voting in the negative.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Molitor in the negative.

Ms. Romero to explain her vote.

MS. ROMERO: Thank you.

So just a quick point, which is that the 18B Panel or a special prosecutor would be the designee of the district attorney's office, of course. An additional point is the thousands of people in a municipality for, you know, the hypothetical posed in a debate, it's kind of a null point in the sense that, you know, if a municipality was to be a crime victim in a financial crime, the treasurer would likely be the person to be appearing on behalf of the municipality, not the thousands of constituents in that type of hypothetical financial crime.

I'm so proud to put this bill forward. I worked so incredibly hard on it, and I -- I stand so strong on behalf of crime victims across New York State and I will be voting in the affirmative.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Ms. Romero in the affirmative.

Mr. Jensen to explain his vote.

MR. JENSEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker, to explain my vote.

I just want to commend the sponsor as well as my friend from Niagara Falls on the collaboration to take a -- a legislative idea, a public policy idea, and really work together to fine tune it and come to a -- a final bill that's before us that I think reinforces what many DA's offices across the State are already doing. Certainly, I -- I

know in the Monroe County District Attorney's Office that the District Attorney and her staff works tremendously hard to ensure that victims are continually informed about what's happening. And to ensure that victims across New York State will ensure that they have up-to-date information on the resolutions of their cases, I think it's important to ensure that victims not only have their -- their day in court, their voices heard, but continue to have the respect and dignity shown to them by our -- our district attorneys' offices in the State.

With that I vote in the affirmative.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Jensen in the affirmative.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes to explain her vote.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise to, one, to compliment the sponsor of this legislation, and understanding that while some may be already doing what's right by the victims in our State, some are not. And sometimes those who aren't, need to be asked to do that and are required to do it. It's important that victims are protected through the process and after the process. Information allows them to be protected.

So thank you very much to the sponsor and I'm pleased to be voting in the affirmative.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mrs. Peoples-Stokes in the affirmative.

Ms. Shimsky to explain her vote.

MS. SHIMSKY: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

For -- for years now we have seen a drop in resources, basically Federal resources, going to the protection of crime victims, especially domestic violence victims. Giving knowledge to those victims is giving them power to protect themselves. And it's something that has been coming in shorter and shorter supply.

So I, therefore, am very proud to stand with so many of my colleagues in favor of a bill that will require that our victims get the most basic resource they needed to protect themselves, and that's knowledge. Knowledge is power. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Ms. Shimsky in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Page 8, Rules Report No. 262, Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: S01356-A, Rules Report No. 262, Senator Skoufis (A03649-B, Taylor, Alvarez, McDonald, Romero, McDonough, K. Brown, Manktelow, Seawright, O'Pharrow, Tapia, Cruz, Santabarbara, DeStefano, Gandolfo, Bichotte Hermelyn, Shrestha, González-Rojas, Paulin, Levenberg, Ramos, Lemondes, Kassay, Gallagher, Simon, Chandler-Waterman, Jacobson, Wieder, Burroughs, Steck, Dinowitz). An act to amend the Election Law and the Vehicle and Traffic Law, in relation to joining multistate voter list maintenance organizations.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: An explanation has been requested.

Mr. Taylor.

MR. TAYLOR: Good morning. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the State Board of Elections to join a multistate voter list maintenance organization such as Electronic Registration Information Center, also known as ERIC.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Sempolinski.

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: Would the sponsor yield for a few questions?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MR. TAYLOR: Absolutely.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: I thank you, Mr. Taylor, for yielding. Thank you.

So I have a few questions, mostly about sort of how of this would operate. First of all, the bill contemplates that the State could join one or more organizations of this type; is that correct?

MR. TAYLOR: Could you repeat that question for --

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: I'm sorry. Yeah, we're all the way across the Chamber.

MR. TAYLOR: Okay.

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: The bill says we could -- we would join one or more organizations of this type of multistate voter list maintenance organization. Am -- am I correct? That's how it's phrased.

MR. TAYLOR: Slightly not. So, it's 25 -- 24 states and including D.C. would be 26 that ERIC which is ERIC, which would be -- New York State would be participating in that group. Not just the one, but a total of.

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: Well, you know, I understand there will be a lot of states. But I'm on line 13 of page 2. The State Board of Elections shall join the State as a member in one or more multistate voter list maintenance organizations including, but not limited to, the Electronic Registration Information Center, that would be ERIC, is the preferred vendor.

MR. TAYLOR: My apologies. You are correct, sir.

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: Okay. All right.

Now, so -- so am I correct that then ERIC, the Electronic Registration Information Center, is -- is contemplated as mentioned in the bill, but is sort of presented as an example of something we could join. We could, in theory, join that or something else or others.

MR. TAYLOR: Was that a statement or a question?

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: That's a question.

MR. TAYLOR: Okay. Yes, it could be others but it must be ERIC.

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: Okay.

Now, am I correct that ERIC is a bipartisan organization?

MR. TAYLOR: You are absolutely correct.

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: Okay. Is there a requirement in the bill that any other organizations that the State joins in addition to ERIC also be bipartisan?

MR. TAYLOR: No.

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: Okay. It is your intent that any organizations that we join other than ERIC be bipartisan?

MR. TAYLOR: I am hopeful that that will be the place and the space.

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: Okay.

Now, what mechanisms does ERIC or any of these other organizations, what do they use to maintain the list? What -- how do they actually perform the function of maintaining the list?

(Conferencing)

MR. TAYLOR: So, New York State Board of Elections will -- will provide their voter registration information to ERIC. And ERIC operates on other entities as well, so they would be utilizing the Social Security -- U.S. Social -- U.S. Post Office as well as the Social Security, their death-- death data.

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: So am I correct that they would be operating based on sort of other publicly-available information to -- to sort of clean the list? Is that sort of the function

they would -- the mechanism of by which they would function?

MR. TAYLOR: That is correct.

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: Okay.

If someone is removed from the list in error, how would they get back on the list?

(Conferencing)

MR. TAYLOR: ERIC does not remove anyone from the list. Again, this is New York State sharing information, but New York State, the State Department of Education maintains their responsibilities of sharing with the local municipalities their information as they receive it. So if someone is not registered and it comes back that person is ineligible for whatever reason, then they will receive notification that says, *You did not qualify* or, *You are qualified to vote*. And if you're not a citizen you do not get an opportunity to vote.

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: Right. So -- so ERIC would be providing information to the State to say John Doe or Jane Doe, we think they may have died, we think they may have moved, you should look into them. Is that (indiscernible)?

MR. TAYLOR: Absolutely. The State does not relinquish any of its authority. It maintains, and no one else outside of New York State Board of Elections will touch or interfere with their data.

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: Thank you. Okay. Thank you very much.

Regarding privacy. I just want to clarify for the record that -- and I'm on, once again, on page 2 and on line 46, and again, just clarifying for the record if I'm correct. The State Board of Elections shall not provide any information on any person in the confidential voter program. So we would be protecting anyone who was a victim of domestic violence or for any other reason is a confidential voter?

MR. TAYLOR: You are correct, sir.

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: Okay. For those particular folks, would then ERIC just not maintain that portion of the list because they wouldn't receive the information? Would that be how it would work?

MR. TAYLOR: Correct. If -- if the State does not provide that information, then ERIC does not have access to it.

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: Okay. And regarding other privacy concerns, am I correct -- and it's enumerated between lines 31 and 30 -- 40 on page 2, the information that is being transmitted to ERIC or any other organization similar, these are all publicly-available things that you could get if you pulled the voter list as any citizen. We're not submitting to ERIC or anyone else any information that is not already publicly-available?

MR. TAYLOR: That -- that's correct.

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: Okay. Thank you.

There is a reference in the bill to fees, dues and expenses. Do we have any anticipation how much cost that would be

to the State of New York?

MR. TAYLOR: The estimated cost the first year to -- to participate is \$150,000 and then there's an annual dues of \$25,000 per year.

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: So there will be a startup fee and then 25,000 -- and that's the -- for the whole State, that's the total cost.

MR. TAYLOR: Yes, sir.

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: And you -- you alluded to it earlier, but as we all know, noncitizens -- regardless of the legality of their status, noncitizens cannot vote. So am I correct, there's a couple of protections for that in the bill on page 3, line 7. There's a -- a -- a point where it says that any solicitations that go out would make it clear that noncitizens can't vote -- and I will read the section -- to avoid inadvertent or accidental registration, a person is ineligible to register to vote. Any mailing to any potentially eligible but unregistered person shall state the voter registration criteria, including, but not limited to, any citizenship requirements.

MR. TAYLOR: That's correct, sir.

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: Okay.

And further down on page 3 it -- it becomes statute, the Commissioner shall not knowingly provide any information pursuant to this section of persons who are not citizens.

MR. TAYLOR: That's correct, sir.

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: Okay.

So, those are the questions I had. I appreciate you clarifying some of my thoughts on it.

I'm gonna go on the bill.

MR. TAYLOR: Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On the bill.

MR. SEMPOLINSKI: So, the voter rolls in the State, they need a lot of work. And -- and I would say this is somebody who in my private life is very politically active and -- and active in my political party and spent -- I spend a lot of time every March talking to folks and getting them to sign designating petitions and what have you. And quite often, we have lists where somebody has moved, sadly somebody has passed away. Somebody has registered to vote at one particular address and then has -- has moved somewhere else. And I do hear from constituents where there is concern in the confidence of elections, and a lot of it has to do with the voter rolls. So as -- as -- I think if there are adequate protections, and it certainly seems to be the sponsor's intent to have those adequate protections for privacy, for bipartisanship, to make sure that those who have lawfully registered to vote are still registered, and those who are ineligible to vote don't slip in. With those types of protections I think this -- this moves us in a direction that's -- that's positive.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Molitor.

MR. MOLITOR: Thank you. Actually, all of my questions were asked and answered. Thank you.

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.)

Mr. Jacobson to explain his vote.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank the sponsor for this bill.

I have confidence in the roles that we have now with the Board of Elections. But what happens is people move out-of-State and then the boards in other states don't always follow up with our State. And this -- this bill and joining the organization that will help the Board even do a better job and help to restore confidence and fight the conspiracy theories about dead people voting, about people that -- and all that kind of stuff.

So I'm glad and proud to vote in the affirmative.
Thank you.

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

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Madam Speaker,

colleagues have on their desk an A-Calendar. I'd like to move to advance that A-Calendar.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On a motion by Mrs. Peoples-Stokes, the -- on a motion by Mrs. Peoples-Stokes, the A-Calendar is advanced.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you. So we can begin at page 3. Thank you so much, ma'am.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you. On consent, page 3, Rules Report No. 409, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00066-A, Rules Report No. 409, Hevesi, Epstein, Simon, Clark, Jackson, Raga, Gibbs, De Los Santos, Tapia, Mamdani, González-Rojas, Forrest, Shrestha, Romero, Buttenschon, Taylor, Meeks, Griffin, Gallagher, Woerner, Colton, Rosenthal. An act to amend the Social Services Law, in relation to the administration of the Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: This bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00173, Rules Report No. 410, Paulin, Otis, Jacobson, Shimsky, Alvarez. An act to amend the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law and the Public Authorities Law, in relation to the applicability of open meetings and Freedom of Information Laws to certain not-for-profit corporations.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On a motion by Ms.

Paulin, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced. This bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00584-C, Rules Report No. 411, Steck, Santabarbara, Paulin, Levenberg, Reyes, Shimsky, Davila, Bores, Jacobson, Lee. An act to amend the Labor Law, in relation to enacting the "Trapped at Work Act."

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: This bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00654-B, Rules Report No. 412, Rosenthal, De Los Santos, Seawright, Raga, Cunningham. An act to amend the Emergency Tenant Protection Act of 1974, and the Administrative Code of the City of New York, in relation to increasing penalties for owners of rent-regulated property who overcharge tenants.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: This bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00697, Rules Report No. 413, González-Rojas, Meeks, Epstein, Davila, Lucas, Lunsford, Simon, Reyes, Bores, Clark, Taylor, Rosenthal, Gallagher, Burdick, Shimsky, Mamdani, Cunningham, Kelles, Seawright, Simone. An act to amend the Public Health Law, the County Law, the Executive Law and the State Finance Law, in relation to prohibiting the use of the term "excited delirium" as a diagnosis, label, or cause of death.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On a motion by Ms. González-Rojas, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill

is advanced. This bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01067, Rules Report No. 414, Rivera, Benedetto, Bronson, Clark, Colton, Conrad, De Los Santos, Dinowitz, Glick, González-Rojas, Hevesi, Jackson, Jacobson, Lunsford, McDonough, Meeks, Peoples-Stokes, Reyes, Rosenthal, Seawright, Septimo, Simon, Steck, Taylor, Stirpe, Stern, Walker, Kelles, Burdick, Santabarbara, Shimsky, Cunningham, Zinerman, Otis. An act to amend the Insurance Law, in relation to prohibiting the exclusion of coverage for losses or damages caused by exposure to lead-based paint.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: This bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01417-B, Rules Report No. 415, Rosenthal, Burdick, Lasher. An act to amend the General Business Law, in relation to the use of algorithmic pricing by a landlord for the purpose of determining the amount of rent to charge a residential tenant.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: This bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01515, Rules Report 416, Weprin, Simon, Raga, Seawright, De Los Santos, Taylor. An act to amend the Banking Law, in relation to requiring licensed cashers of checks to file suspicious activity reports.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01698, Rules Report No. 417, Weprin, Buttenschon, Schiavoni. An act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law, in relation to the recovery of a deceased dog or cat on public roads.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: This bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01985-C, Rules Report No. 418, Paulin, De Los Santos, Beephan, Bores, Epstein, Sayegh. An act to amend the Public Health Law, in relation to establishing a State Frontotemporal Degeneration Registry.

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

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 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 results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A02177-A, Rules

Report No. 419, Lupardo, Angelino, Shimsky, Lunsford, Barrett, Buttenschon, Jacobson, Steck, Davila, Seawright, Otis, Maher, Bendett, Gallahan, DeStefano, Brabenec, Woerner, McDonald. An act to amend the General Municipal Law, in relation to removing emergency medical services from the limit on real property tax levies by local governments.

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. Lupardo to explain her vote.

MS. LUPARDO: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to say a few words about this important bill.

I just want to remind colleagues that a couple of years ago we had a package of bills that we put together to support our emergency medical services. We used the hashtag "RescueMs for our social media campaign, and it was intended to be ironic that we were coming together to rescue EMS when we're so used to them, in fact,

rescuing us in -- in our times of need. We've been chipping away at this, allowing them to get paid directly for certain services, allowing them to be paid for treating in place or for transporting someone to another -- another location other than a hospital. We are still struggling to finalize language so that they would be recognized as an essential service in State law, and this measure right here which will be a very important tool in the local government toolbox that will help us stabilize our EMS that have been struggling with staffing issues, the ability to pay for vital equipment, infrastructure improvements, training their staff and the like.

I want to thank all of my colleagues for their support for EMS over these last couple of years. I especially want to give a shout out to my neighboring colleague, who I'm sure is gonna have a -- to say a few words. We have worked extremely closely together after a tragic incident in our community brought us together to raise these important issues.

I also want to recognize the Association of Counties and the Conference of Mayors for their steadfast support in helping us improve our EMS services.

Thank you very much.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Ms. Lupardo in the affirmative.

Mr. Angelino to explain his vote.

MR. ANGELINO: To explain my vote on 2177-A.

For the second time today, my colleague to the right,

the judge, and myself, both had situations where across the aisle cooperation and knowledge on specific things is coming to fruition through a passage of a bill, and it looks like unanimously.

My colleague from the 123rd District and I met with rural ambulance providers, and this is a huge issue. I still have volunteer, fully volunteer ambulances that are struggling, and it's dominoes when it comes to these ambulances. I have certain towns that have no coverage. They don't have a ambulance service, they're not in a Certificate of Need, and they rely solely on mutual aid. And this, if this is signed into law, will give these municipalities a little bit of -- of breathing room. They're not going to fund an entire agency out of this. Some places just need to sign a contract that might be 50 cents on the dollar over the 2 percent tax cap.

I'll be voting yes on this very important piece of legislation. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Angelino in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A02328-A, Rules Report No. 420, Angelino, Lemondes, Morinello. An act to amend the Tax Law, in relation to authorizing the Town of Dickinson to establish hotel and motel taxes; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section -- oh, Home Rule Message is at the desk.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A02657, Rules Report No. 421, Otis, Rosenthal, Simon, Lunsford, Shimsky, Simone, McDonald, Griffin, Colton, Seawright, Epstein, Levenberg, Reyes, Bronson, Burdick, Gallagher, Cunningham, McMahon, Schiavoni, Paulin, Shrestha, Clark, Braunstein, Kassay, Glick, Woerner. An act to amend the Public Authorities Law, in relation to establishing the Electric Landscaping Equipment Rebate program; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03273, Rules Report No. 422, McDonald. An act to amend the Executive Law, in relation to enacting the New York State Resident Experience Act of 2025.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last

section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03295, Rules Report No. 423, Pheffer Amato, Tapia, Steck. An act to amend the Civil Service Law, in relation to authorizing the removal of police officer candidates from an eligible list when such candidate does not meet psychological fitness requirements or lacks good moral character standards.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03644, Rules Report No. 424, Gallahan, Palmesano. An act to amend the Tax Law, in relation to extending the expiration of the authorization for the County of Seneca to impose an additional 1 percent sales and compensating use tax.

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

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act --

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Home Rule

Message is at the desk.

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 bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03665-A, Rules Report No. 425, Simone, Weprin, González-Rojas, Dinowitz, Epstein, Glick, Tapia, Reyes. An act to repeal paragraphs (e), (f) and (g) of subdivision 5 of Section 36 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, relating to limitations on the submitting of a question to the qualified electors of a city when there is a question submitted by a charter commission.

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. Walsh.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Would

you please lay this bill aside?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The roll is withdrawn. This bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03698-A, Rules Report No. 426, Weprin, Williams, Alvarez, Pheffer Amato, Burroughs. An act to amend the Real Property Tax Law, in relation to providing an additional real property tax exemption for certain senior citizens.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03919-A, Rules Report No. 427, Weprin, Hevesi, Taylor, Paulin, Brook-Krasny. An act to amend the Insurance Law, in relation to establishing a requirement for information related to specialized dental benefit plans.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will

record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03949-A, Rules Report No. 428, Hunter. An act in relation to authorizing the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District to discontinue the use of School District-owned parklands and to lease such parklands to the Town of Onondaga.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Home Rule
Message is at the desk.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A03987-A, Rules Report No. 429, Shimsky. An act to amend the Criminal Procedure Law, in relation to designating security officers for the Village Court of the Village of Pleasantville as peace officers.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last

section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A04014, Rules Report No. 430, McDonald. An act to amend the County Law, in relation to mandatory continuing education requirements for coroners and coroner's deputies.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 180th day.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A04025, Rules Report No. 431, Simpson. An act to amend the Public Officers Law, in relation to waiving the residency requirement for certain county

attorney positions within Warren County.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A04276, Rules Report No. 432, Cunningham, De Los Santos. An act to direct the Commissioner of Mental Health to conduct a study of child-and-youth-targeted mobile crisis outreach teams.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A04834, Rules Report No. 433, Santabarbara, Shimsky. An act relating to assessing the

staffing and other issues causing the continued displacement of individuals with dis -- developmental disabilities from various State-operated institutions under the jurisdiction of the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A05031-A, Rules Report No. 434, Jacobson, Lucas, Hyndman, Taylor, Santabarbara, Glick, Dilan, Sayegh, Septimo, Davila, Steck, Reyes, Burdick, Seawright. An act to amend the Banking Law, in relation to establishing criteria for the closure of banking accounts in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: This bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A05341-A, Rules Report No. 435, Zaccaro, Cruz, Torres, Rozic, Conrad, Steck, Berger, Epstein, DeStefano, Chang, Beephan, Yeger, Seawright, Hevesi, Colton, Schiavoni, Hooks, McDonough, Novakhov, Norber,

Sempolinski, Giglio, Lemondes, Reyes, Williams, K. Brown, Chludzinski, Dilan, Gallahan, Buttenschon, McDonald, Lee, Tapia, Davila, Smullen, Brabenec, Fitzpatrick, Blankenbush, Bores, Levenberg, Glick, Gandolfo, Palmesano, Hyndman, Brook-Krasny, Kassay. An act to amend the Cannabis Law, in relation to further restricting cannabis storefronts from being located within 500 feet of a school and 200 feet of a house of worship if they are located in a mixed-use building.

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. Zaccaro to explain his vote.

MR. ZACCARO: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Since my arrival to the Assembly, I've consistently strived to address the public safety and public health crisis that arose in the wake of the legalization of the cannabis market, from empowering law enforcement to shut down illicit smoke shops to advocating for the revocation of State licenses from those who don't play by the rules. I've worked to ensure that our communities are protected and the legal cannabis industry is given the opportunity that it needs to succeed, and today we're taking an important first step forward. We are passing a bipartisan piece of legislation that reflects

a collective effort, particularly in the community of Jackson Heights, Queens, where I stood with my colleagues. I stood with families and school advocates against the operation of illegal smoke shops located dangerously close to a school; an establishment that was selling illicit cannabis and putting our youth at risk. And through this fight we uncovered a significant loophole in our existing laws, and today we're closing that loophole. And I'm proud to be part of a Body that has led the way in refining and improving the law to strike a responsible balance between opportunity and safety.

I was concerned to learn that current regulations did not account for schools and houses of worship located within mixed-use buildings when determining the permissible placement of cannabis storefronts. And this oversight was not unique to my district, it was an issue across our State. And so today we're passing a bill that corrects that. Once enacted it will prohibit cannabis storefronts from operating within 500 feet of a school, and 200 feet from a house of worship in mixed-use buildings. And this targeted change will make a real difference for public safety, especially in communities like mine.

And let me be clear. This legislation is not intended to place undue burden on licensed dispensaries. We remain committed to promoting a thriving legal cannabis industry, but the success must go hand-in-hand with smart, community-centered regulation and this bill achieves that balance.

And I proudly vote in the affirmative. Thank you,
Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Zaccaro in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

This bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A05364, Rules Report No. 436, P. Carroll. An act to amend the Real Property Tax Law, in relation to limiting the shift between classes of taxable property in the Town of Haverstraw, County of Rockland.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A05524, Rules Report No. 437, Jackson. An act to amend the State Finance Law, in relation to the debriefing of certain contracts.

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

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 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 results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A05685-A, Rules Report No. 438, Hyndman, Sayegh, Simon. An act to amend the Education Law, in relation to the New York State Masters-in-Education Teacher Incentive Scholarship program.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A05898, Rules Report No. 439, Tapia, Gray, DeStefano, Bores, Burdick, Cruz, Palmesano, Levenberg, Morinello, Alvarez, De Los Santos, Reyes, Hyndman, Lunsford, Dais, Davila, Kassay, K. Brown, Santabarbara. An act to

amend the Retirement and Social Security Law, in relation to death benefits for the beneficiaries of certain members of the retirement system.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: This bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A06274, Rules Report No. 440, Bronson. An act to authorize the County of Monroe to offer an optional 20-year retirement plan to Gregory M. Prokop, a deputy sheriff employed by such county.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Home Rule
Message is at the desk.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A06279, Rules Report No. 441, Bronson. An act to authorize the granting of retirement service credit in the optional 20-year retirement plan to Duane A. Palma for service as a correction officer.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Home Rule
Message is at the desk.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A06609-A, Rules Report No. 442, Lunsford. An act in relation to authorizing Karol Hughes to take the competitive Civil Service examination for the position of police officer and be placed on the eligible list for employment as a full-time police officer for the Town/Village of East Rochester.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Home Rule Message is at the desk.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A06639, Rules Report

No. 443, Kim, Davila, Shimsky, Tapia, Glick, Lunsford. An act to amend the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law, in relation to requiring sawyer training for employees engaged in tree maintenance.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A06721-A, Rules Report No. 444, Griffin, Solages, Stern, Berger, Pheffer Amato, McDonald, Steck, Schiavoni, Kay, McMahon, Buttenschon, Braunstein, O'Pharrow, Sayegh, Rajkumar, Rozic, Conrad, Shimsky, Lunsford, Ramos, Clark, Kassay, Yeger, Williams, Hevesi, Lavine, Barrett, Tapia, Simon, Colton, Hooks, Wieder, Dilan, Woerner. An act to amend the Executive Law, in relation to providing confidentiality for communications arising out of law enforcement peer support counseling.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: 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.)

Ms. Griffin to explain her vote.

MS. GRIFFIN: Police officers put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities, yet too often they do not receive the essential mental health support they need by nature of their profession. This can exact a toll, both professionally and personally. Tommy Shevlin, President of Nassau County PBA, and police organizations Statewide have discussed this major issue with me, sharing how the repetitive trauma that police officers endure from responding to violent crimes, domestic violence incidents, car accidents and other life-threatening situations can have a serious impact on their well-being.

I was honored when they asked me to sponsor this legislation to establish a formal peer-to-peer mental health program for our police. This is about supporting the men and women who protect us every day by ensuring that they have the mental health resources they need to serve communities across the State effectively.

Sadly, suicide rates for police officers are much higher than for residents across the State. In fact, statistics show law enforcement officers are 54 percent more likely to commit suicide than the general population. I am proud that we have passed this legislation in memory of Lieutenant Joseph Banish, a State Trooper

who died by suicide.

It takes a team to bring legislation to the floor. So I want to thank the Speaker for his support, as well as Jen Best and her team at Program and Counsel; Assemblymember Lavine and the Judiciary team; Assemblymembers Solages, Ramos and O'Pharrow for strongly advocating to bring this bill to the floor. I am greatly appreciative of the many cosponsors who signed on. A huge thank you to my Legislative Director Jen Slagen, and Legislative Associate Marie Curley for their efforts in getting this bill to the floor.

Some of our bills take a few years to pass, and this certainly was one of them. I want to recognize my former colleague, Assemblywoman Gina Sillitti, for her dedication to this bill over the past two years. This bill was passed off to me, and I'm grateful to Gina for all of her ded -- dedicated efforts.

Thank you very much.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Ms. Griffin in the affirmative.

Mr. Durso to explain his vote.

MR. DURSO: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

First, I want to thank the sponsor for finally getting this bill across the finish line. Again, our friend Tommy Shevlin has been working on this piece of legislation for a long time. And obviously, the suicide rates for first responders, especially our police officers, has been going up exponentially. And being able to put a piece of legislation like this together to not only protect them, their

families, but giving them that peer-to-peer support that they need so that they could do their jobs, keep us protected while we do our jobs here, and help protect them is so vital.

So again, I want to thank the sponsor, thank my friend Tommy Shevlin for all their hard work on this legislation, and obviously I'll be in the affirmative.

Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Durso in the affirmative.

Mr. Ra to explain his vote.

MR. RA: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'm very proud to have had the opportunity to support this piece of legislation. As my colleague just mentioned, our -- our PBA President on Long Island in Nassau, Tommy Shevlin, has been pushing this for -- for the last several years. I'm glad to see it coming out on the floor today.

We need to do more with regard to this issue. Unfortunately, we've seen it far too many times that a law enforcement officer has -- has made the tragic decision to take -- to take their own life because of what they have dealt with, the things they've seen in -- in service to the public in -- in their job protecting the public.

So I hope this has an impact on allowing those to get help, get treatment, but also that it is a step that we continue to do the things we need to do to provide resources for all of our first

responders so that we can stop what has been an epidemic of law enforcement suicides.

So I'm very proud to cast my vote in the affirmative.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Ra in the affirmative.

Mr. Lavine to explain his vote.

MR. LAVINE: Thank you. Very briefly, I want to thank the sponsor.

This was anything but an easy lift. And I want to thank the staff as well and the Speaker as well for their involvement. I also want to thank law enforcement, not just in Nassau County, but law enforcement with whom I interacted with respect to this bill from Suffolk County and from New York City as well.

This is a highly significant piece of legislation, and I think it's only fitting that law enforcement knows that we in the Assembly are here to protect them and to protect everyone else.

And finally, this was our colleague Gina Sillitti's bill. And Gina worked very hard on this bill as well, and I think it's only fair that the record reflect the efforts of the present sponsor and of the prior sponsor as well.

I am very pleased to have the chance to vote in the affirmative. Thank you so much.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Lavine in the affirmative.

Ms. Giglio to explain her vote.

MS. GIGLIO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would also like to thank the sponsor for bringing this bill forward.

If you've ever spoken to a law enforcement officer about the challenges of their day-to-day lives, from witnessing a fatal car accident to holding a baby that may have just passed away, and then being expected to just pick up your life, go home, go to your kid's softball game, go about your daily life. And it's really very challenging for all law enforcement and emergency services. So this peer support bill is really a very good step in the direction to help law enforcement and anybody that's facing these challenging jobs on a day-to-day basis.

So I'd also like to thank Tommy Shevlin, because if you haven't heard his story you probably should. And it's a shame that it took this long to get this bill to the floor for a vote, but I'm happy that it did. And we pray for our law enforcement and for our emergency services every day, and thank them for the job that they do, which is one that we may not choose to do so, but they do it and -- and they still manage to survive and go home to their families at night.

So thank you again to the sponsor. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Ms. Giglio in the affirmative.

Ms. Shimsky to explain her vote.

MS. SHIMSKY: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

We talk a lot about mental health issues and how many we have at this point. It's a problem across the board, but

especially with certain specialized groups, one of which is our first responders. And one way to fill the gaps is with peer-to-peer counselors. But with the way the law was written, it compromised the ability of peer-to-peer counselors to be as helpful to their base of clients as they should be.

So I am very proud to support this bill. I -- I thank our colleagues on Long Island for working so hard to get this across the finish line, including our former colleague Gina Sillitti, and including our once and current colleague Ms. Griffin. And I -- I'm glad to see that the support is so widespread. That is why I'm voting in the affirmative.

Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Ms. Shimsky in the affirmative.

Mr. Stern to explain his vote.

MR. STERN: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I, too, have many times heard the story from President Tom Shevlin from Nassau County, speaking about personal experiences as well of those of his membership that applies obviously not just to the outstanding men and women of the Nassau County law enforcement agencies, but to all of so many of our local heroes that serve all of us throughout New York State.

This is an important day. And it is, as my colleagues have pointed out, a long time coming with an awful lot of members and supporters having worked so hard to make this a -- a reality.

We know that a Dwyer-like peer-to-peer support program is a quantifiable model that has been proven to have a tremendous impact on saving lives, and our law enforcement community deserves no less. These are services that are gonna make a real difference. A real difference in the lives of those that have served us and there are families and communities that support them.

I also very quickly want to point out so many of the advocates in the law enforcement agencies all throughout New York State, so many of them who we know, who we are close with, who we are friendly with who serve an important role up here in Albany on a daily basis. This has been one of their very top priorities for years. And so again, it is an important day to see it finally becoming a reality.

To our colleague Judy Griffin, congratulations. A long time coming, an awful lot of hard work. But this is a good day for our friends in law enforcement. An important message that we all send not just to those that serve us in law enforcement, but to so many who deal with mental health challenges and -- and thoughts of suicide; rates which are way too high, which should be unacceptable to all of us. That this is a program that works and one that will -- we can all be very proud of going forward.

Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Stern in the affirmative.

Mr. O'Pharrow to explain his vote.

MR. O'PHARROW: I'm very proud of this bill, and thank you to the sponsor, Judy, for bringing this bill to the floor. You and I had several conversations behind closed doors, and I, for one, who stood 25 years wearing the shield know how important it is for this bill to come forth.

I had a few, quite a few, and too many colleagues in law enforcement that took their lives. And this bill gives them the opportunity to train in peer-to-peer counseling so that this doesn't happen again.

Mind you, this bill is not just for law enforcement. This bill is for everybody. This is the people that protect us. We need to do our due diligence to protect them. We need to protect those that protect us.

And Judy, thank you so very much for bringing this bill forward. I -- I know it was very challenging for you. But I was right by your side to guide you and making those phone calls to those people of New York State that need to hear that this needs to be done. So, thank you so very much. Congratulations.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. O'Pharrow in the affirmative.

Ms. Buttenschon to explain her vote.

MS. BUTTENSCHON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And to our sponsor, I sincerely appreciate your hard work as well as so many colleagues that brought support.

Everyone has spoken today of the importance of what

law enforcement does for all of us, and clearly, this is an opportunity for us to reflect and remember that there are days that they need us and we want to ensure that we do provide that.

So again, I echo the thoughts of everyone that has spoken today, and I thank our colleagues for their hard work to bring this forward.

Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Ms. Buttenschon in the affirmative.

Mr. Gandolfo to explain his vote.

MR. GANDOLFO: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

First, thank you to the sponsor for getting this bill over the finish line. We've seen how successful the Joseph P. Dwyer peer-to-peer support program has been for our veterans, and to now expand this type of peer-to-peer support to our police officers is just such a great step forward.

Our police officers and our first responders, they face immense pressures every single day. If you've ever been in a situation where you had to call a police officer, that relief you felt at the darkest -- one of the darkest moments in your life, they are responding to situations like that all of the time and carrying that with them. And unfortunately, those pressures can get to them and too many have suffered in silence, as we've seen with police officers taking their own lives.

With what we're doing here is going to save lives. I

am so proud to vote for this bill. I would like to thank the Nassau PBA President, Tommy Shelvin -- Shevlin, sorry, for his work advocating (indicating) for this bill, and all of the law enforcement advocates we see walking the hallways up here every week that we're up here, to advocate for their needs.

So, again, congratulations to the sponsor. This bill is going to save lives.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Gandolfo in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mr. Gandolfo for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. GANDOLFO: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

On behalf of our colleague Robert Smullen, I have the pleasure of introducing Mrs. Allen's class, 5th grade Social Studies, from the West Canada Valley School. They are here with us in the Chamber today, observing our proceedings and learning a little bit about how our State government works here. Hopefully they are enjoying what they see with some of the thoughtful discussions and comments being made here.

And I would ask that you welcome them and offer them all of the cordialities of the House.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On behalf of Mr. Gandolfo, Mr. Smullen, the Speaker and all members, welcome,

young people, to the Assembly Chamber. We extend the privileges of the floor to you. Hope you enjoy our proceedings today. This is a great learning experience for all of you, something that you will remember for the rest of your life. I hope you take a good listening today while you're here. Lots of fun, exciting things are happening here for you today. So thank you so very much for joining us today.

(Applause)

The Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly A06750, Rules Report No. 445, Morinello. An act to amend the Tax Law, in relation to authorizing the County of Niagara to continue to impose an additional rate of sales and compensating use taxes.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On a motion by Mr. Morinello, the Senate bill before the House. The Senate bill is advanced. Home Rule Message is at the -- Home Rule Message is at the desk.

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 bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A06815, Rules Report No. 446, Beephan. An act to amend the Tax Law, in relation to

authorizing the Town of Fishkill to adopt a local law to impose a hotel/motel occupancy tax for hotels not located in the Village of Fishkill; authorizing the Village of Fishkill to adopt local laws to impose a hotel/motel occupancy tax in such village; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Home Rule

Message is at the desk.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A06824-B, Rules Report No. 447, Woerner, Walsh, Levenberg, Steck, Buttenschon, Shimsky, Zaccaro. An act to amend the County Law, in relation to eye and tissue donation.

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. Woerner to explain her vote.

MS. WOERNER: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to interrupt our proceedings to explain my vote.

This bill provides that when a death occurs outside of a hospital, that the coroner or medical examiner who is responsible for processing that -- that death, reach out to organ procurement organizations -- have a protocol to reach out to organ procurement organizations to alert them if they have a -- a donor that is -- that is interested -- they have somebody who's interested in being an organ donor. Because they can do a tissue and -- donation up -- an eye and tissue donation up to 24 hours after someone has passed away.

And just to give you a sense of context, one tissue donor can save or heal 75 people. So being able to take advantage of someone's willingness to be an organ donor and to donate in this way when they don't die in a hospital is such -- is just an important step forward in New York.

So I am so pleased to bring this bill to you, to have you all support this. Because I think this is going to be just a -- a way that -- that New York can -- can move forward and save more lives through organ donation.

So thank you very much to the Speaker and to the cosponsors for helping me bring this to the floor, and to all of you for voting in the affirmative. And with that, I vote in the affirmative.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Ms. Woerner in the affirmative.

Ms. Walsh to explain her vote.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I really am so happy to see this bill getting done.

I was approached a few years ago by the Saratoga County Coroner, Susan Hayes-Masa, who said something that I didn't know, which is that -- and -- and the previous speaker just referred to it -- that the viability of eye and tissue is longer than for other organs. So there's a missed opportunity unless we can somehow create a protocol where we're at least allowing the chance for people who wanted to be donors to have that donation actually take place. And Susan knew this because of her long -- many years of work with the -- with the Lions Club, and of course, their mission has a lot to do with eyes. And I think that it's -- it's wonderful because this bill really closes a loophole, because Federal law, since 1998, requires hospitals to refer deaths to organ procurement organizations. But no such Federal or New York State requirement exists for coroners or medical examiners, which creates a referral loophole. This loophole limits donation potential when deaths fall under the jurisdiction of coroners or medical examiners. And so this bill will help to close that loophole. I think that it really will assist in healing and helping so many people, potentially, and I'm so glad to support it. And I'd really like to thank the sponsor for her work over the years with me to get this done.

Thank you so much. I'll be in the affirmative.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Ms. Walsh in the affirmative.

Mr. Palmesano to explain his vote.

MR. PALMESANO: Yes. Madam Speaker and my colleagues.

This is another bill in a series of bills that we've seen come to the floor of the Assembly dealing with organ donation and eye and tissue donation. You know, I know a lot of times on the floor when we get up we have our disagreements, our frustrations with each other on bills and policy. This issue of organ donation and tissue and eye donation, I have to say how proud I am to be part of this Body and what we're doing together in a bipartisan fashion. Because this is about saving lives. And the actions this Chamber has taken, working together with the Senate and the Governor, we are, indeed, saving lives.

So continue to take more steps like this; making it easier for people to sign up to be an organ donor, taking some of the regulations and -- and red tape out of the way so we can impact others. And just think about this bill. Think about how many people -- my colleague mentioned 75 people. One statistic I always use is one person who donates at the time of their death can save up to eight lives and impact the lives of 75 others. That's through eye and tissue donations and other things. Burn victims. So many people we're helping with what we're doing in this Chamber on this issue. Obviously, we'd like to see us do it on more of these issues, but this issue, we are leading. And I just want to see us keep heading down

that direction because the more we get that question in front of people, *Do you want to be an organ donor* -- donor, the more people are gonna say yes and the more lives that we are gonna save.

So I just wanted to say -- commend the -- the sponsor for doing this legislation and commend all my colleagues for their -- for the continued leadership working together on this very important issue that's all about saving lives.

I vote yes. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Palmesano in the affirmative.

Ms. Levenberg to explain her vote.

MS. LEVENBERG: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I just also would like to thank the sponsor. I'm proud to cosponsor this bill, which we know is helping to get organs to the people who need them most. We have to continue to do better and better and better in this State to make sure organ donation is moved up to the top of the list of priorities. As we know how, again, as -- as many of the prior speakers have mentioned, how many lives can be saved. This is one more way to help make sure that we save lives, save other people's abilities to see and to move and to exist in a -- in a more productive way because of those who have been willing to pay it forward.

So thank you and I vote aye.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Ms. Levenberg in the affirmative.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes to explain her vote.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to explain my vote.

I want to commend the sponsor of this piece of legislation because, clearly, this is some of the things that bring me a lot of gratitude. When we can bring science to the life of our bodies to have them extend the life of someone else, it is just amazing. And I think we have only just touched the tip of the iceberg in what can happen into the future. And so bills like this says that there's progress and that we're going forward.

So I am honored to be voting for this bill, and again, I thank the sponsor for introducing it.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A06870, Rules Report No. 448, Hunter, Hevesi. An act to amend Chapter 591 of the Laws of 2001, amending the Banking Law relating to limiting the check cashing exemption for national banks and other regulated entities, in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: This bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A06943-B, Rules

Report No. 449, Hunter. An act to amend the General Business Law, in relation to establishing standards for glass repair and calibration of advanced driver assistance systems.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A07235, Rules Report No. 450, Bichotte Hermelyn, Lunsford, DeStefano. An act to amend the Executive Law, the State Finance Law and the Public Authorities Law, in relation to establishing expanded construction mentorship opportunities for small and minority and women-owned business enterprises.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A07345-A, Rules

Report No. 451, Bronson, Hevesi, Clark. An act to amend the Criminal Procedure Law, in relation to granting peace officer status to certain security officers employed by Highland Hospital.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A07360, Rules Report No. 452, Pheffer Amato, Griffin, Alvarez, Hevesi, Burroughs, Rozic. An act to amend the Retirement and Social Security Law, in relation to authorizing a 30-year retirement benefit for certain members in Nassau County.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Home Rule Message is at the desk.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will

record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A07447, Rules Report No. 453, Smullen. An act to amend the Tax Law, in relation to extending authorization for the County of Fulton to impose an additional 1 percent of sales and compensating use taxes.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On a motion by Mr. Smullen, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced. Home Rule Message is at the desk.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A07802-A, Rules Report No. 454, Sayegh. An act to amend the Racing, Pari-Mutuel Wagering and Breeding Law, in relation to requiring harness racetrack locations awarded a gamily facility license maintain live racing activity.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: 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 results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A07845, Rules Report No. 455, Stern, Seawright, Shimsky, Epstein, Sayegh, Lasher. An act to amend the Public Health Law, in relation to establishing a State Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and Motor Neuron Disease (MND) Registry.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: 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 results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A07856-A, Rules Report No. 456, Lavine, Jackson, Sayegh, Shimsky, McMahon. An act to amend the Estates, Powers and Trusts Law and the State Technology Law, in relation to electronic wills.

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

This bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A07934, Rules Report No. 457, Magnarelli, Hunter, Stirpe, Lemondes. An act in relation to authorizing the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department, in the County of Onondaga, to offer the optional 20-year retirement plan to Deputy Sheriffs Brittany E. Dorn, Noah C. Hunt, Daniel D. Lorenzini, Gordon J. Lopez, Tre C. Fesinger, Christopher L. Van Dusen.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Home Rule Message is at the desk.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A07964-A, Rules

Report No. 458, Kelles, Rosenthal, Schiavoni, Woerner. An act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law, in relation to establishing a New York native plants designation.

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

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08011, Rules Report No. 459, Jones. An act to amend the Tax Law, in relation to increasing the hotel or motel tax in the County of Clinton.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Home Rule Message is at the desk.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08028, Rules Report

No. 460, Hevesi, Lasher. An act to amend the Real Property Tax Law, in relation to increasing the amount of the childcare center tax abatement for certain properties in a city having a population of one million or more.

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

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08070, Rules Report No. 461, Kassay. An act in relation to authorizing certain -- the lease of certain lands for the purpose of building undergraduate student, graduate student, faculty and staff housing.

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

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08146, Rules Report No. 462, Shrestha. An act authorizing the Town of Hurley to alienate certain parklands for use as a highway garage for the Town and to dedicate other lands as replacement parklands.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Home Rule Message is at the desk.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08160-A, Rules Report No. 463, Epstein, Rosenthal, Colton, Shimsky, Seawright, Reyes, Levenberg, Burdick. An act to amend the Environmental

Conservation Law, in relation to directing State agencies to adopt a waste diversion plan.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: This bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08210, Rules Report No. 464, Kelles. An act to amend Chapter 443 of the Laws of 20 -- 2007 amending the Tax Law relating to authorizing the County of Cortland to impose an additional mortgage recording tax, in relation to extending the effectiveness of such provisions.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Home Rule Message is at the desk.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08275, Rules Report No. 465, Jones, Jacobson, Levenberg. An act to amend Chapter 668 of the Laws of 1977, amending the Volunteer Firefighters' Benefit Law relating to disability due to disease or malfunction of the heart or coronary arteries, in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last

section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08276, Rules Report No. 466, Levenberg, Jacobson. An act to amend Chapter 606 of the Laws of 2006 amending the Volunteer Firefighters' Benefit Law relating to creating a presumption relating to certain lung disabilities incurred by volunteer firefighters, in relation to the effectiveness of such chapter.

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. Levenberg to explain her vote.

MS. LEVENBERG: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise today to explain my vote for this bill, which I sponsor, and I thank all those who cosponsor and support it, which extends vital protections for our volunteer firefighters suffering from

lung disease incurred in the line of duty. These brave individuals serve our communities selflessly, often at great personal risk, and they deserve the security of knowing that their volunteer sacrifices will be recognized and their health needs covered. This legislation ensures that the presumption linking their service to disabling lung conditions remains in effect through 2030, allowing them to have access to benefits and, therefore, enjoy greater peace of mind. It's the least that we can do for those who give so much.

I vote in the affirmative.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Ms. Levenberg in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08332, Rules Report No. 467, Lasher, De Los Santos, Stern, Romero, Hevesi. An act to amend the Real Property Tax Law, in relation to the assessment of solar or wind energy systems.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: This bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08418, Rules Report No. 468, Bichotte Hermelyn. An act to amend the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law, in relation to a license to sell liquor at retail for consumption on certain premises.

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.)

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08420, Rules Report No. 469, Ramos, Schiavoni. An act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law, in relation to the suspension of collection of the Product Security Fund.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

The Clerk will announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08475, Rules Report No. 470, Berger. An act to amend the Elder Law, the Mental Hygiene Law and the State Finance Law, in relation to making technical

corrections relating to the title of the Commissioner of Veterans' Services.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Member Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: Mr. Speaker, can we go to page 3 for Calendar resolutions?

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: Absolutely.

The Clerk will read. Resolutions, page 3.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 687, Ms. Bichotte Hermelyn.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 27-31, 2025, as Postpartum Depression Awareness Week in the State of New York.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 688, Ms.

Solages.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 31, 2025, as Save Your Hearing Day in the State of New York.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 689, Ms. Solages.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim July 2025, as Plastic-Free Month in the State of New York.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 690, Mr. Rivera.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim August 11-17, 2025, as Puerto Rican Heritage Week in the State of New York.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 691, Mr. Brabenec.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim August 21, 2025, as Onion Appreciation Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: All those in favor of the resolution signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 692, Mr. P. Carroll.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim June 12, 2025, as Philippine Independence Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: All those in favor of -- on this resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 693, Mr. Sayegh.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim August 24, 2025, as Ukrainian Heritage -- American Heritage Day in the State of New York.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 694, Ms. Paulin.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor

Kathy Hochul to proclaim August 2025, as Ambulatory Surgery Center Month in the State of New York.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 695, Mr. Durso.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 14-20, 2025, as Truck Driver Appreciation Week in the State of New York.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 696, Mr. Lavine.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 2025, as Urological Health Awareness -- Urological Health Awareness Week in the Month -- Month in the State of New York.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 697, DeStefano.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor

Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 2025, as Dystonia Awareness Month in the State of New York.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 698, Mr. Ra.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim October 9, 2025, as Sight Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: Mr. Ra on the resolution.

MR. RA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to have the opportunity to bring this resolution forward today, and I thank my colleagues for their support.

In addition to Sight Day being proclaimed in October, which is -- is done nationally, one of the other things that this resolution talks about is a condition called coloboma, and many municipalities recognize October as Coloboma Awareness Month. And here's why it's personal to me. I have a nephew named Antonio who has this condition. It's something he's had from birth. It's a condition where the normal tissue in or around the eye is missing at birth. And it can be as simple as just having small vision problems, or in many instances the person can be totally blind or -- or at least legally blind. So this is a condition that was discovered when he was

very young, under a year old, and he's -- he's doing great. He's going to school, and -- and -- but it's -- it's been an interesting thing to learn about.

And then one thing that brought this full circle is if anybody got into the Olympics last summer, one of the stars that became, like, a -- a cult hero was Stephen Nedoroscik, the gymnast that they called "Pummel Horse Guy", who would take off his glasses and go on the pummel horse. He has this condition as well.

So I thought this was a great opportunity to bring this resolution forward and increase awareness of -- of this condition, and I thank all of my colleagues for supporting it.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 699, Mr. Lemondes.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim October 25, 2025, as Hug a Sheep Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: Mr. -- Mr. Lemondes on the bill -- resolution.

MR. LEMONDES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues, for sticking around and listening.

National Hug a Sheep Day is -- is a unique celebration bringing people closer to these fluffy, lovable farm

animals. This special day has grown into an international event with farms opening their gates for people to come and hug a sheep, promoting kindness and compassion towards these gentle creatures.

Celebrated since the mid-1990s, the day aims to appreciate the significant role sheep play in our lives, from providing wool for our clothing to contributing food and even solar grazing some of our fields. It's a chance to learn more about sheep, their intelligence, their ability to remember faces and voices for years; engage in activity such as farm visits, petting zoos and knitting classes, often on -- often take place on this day. And there's something for everyone, the bottom line. Whether it's learning about their rectangular pupils or simply enjoying the warmth of a sheep hug.

National Hug a Sheep Day not only celebrates the bond between humans and sheep, but also highlights the importance of animal welfare and -- and ethical treatment. It's a gentle reminder of these animals' joy and comfort in our lives, and the need to treat them with love and respect.

Embark on a farm adventure by finding a local farm that's open to visitors. This is your chance to get up close and personal with sheep and give them a gentle hug. Gather your friends for a cozy get-together, knitting or crocheting with sheep's wool while exchanging interesting sheep -- sheep facts. It's both a creative and informative way for a family and/or singles and children to spend the day.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 700, Rules -- Ms. Rosenthal.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim November 8, 2025, as Lung Cancer Screening Awareness Day in the State of New York.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 701, Mr. Eachus.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim December 3, 2025, at International Day of Persons with Disabilities in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: Mr. Eachus on the resolution.

MR. EACHUS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
I only have one thing to say. Persons with disabilities are people, too.

Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: Mr. Santabarbara on the resolution.

MR. SANTABARBARA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to thank the sponsor for bringing this resolution forward. I rise in support of this resolution that recognizing the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. I see this as an important opportunity to highlight the contributions of people with disabilities and to reflect on the work that we're doing and still need to do to make our communities more inclusive and accessible. As Chair of the Assembly's Committee on People with Disabilities and as a father of a son with autism, I've seen both the challenges and the progress firsthand.

So again, I want to thank the sponsor for bringing this resolution forward. Recognizing this day here in New York helps us keep the focus on inclusion, accessibility and respect for all individuals, regardless of what abilities they have.

Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: Thank you.

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

Ms. Solages.

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

ACTING SPEAKER TAYLOR: On a motion by Mr. Weprin, page 4 on the A-Calendar, Rules No. 417, A01698, the amendments are received and adopted.

On a motion by Mr. -- Ms. Paulin, page 20, Calendar No. 68, Bill No. A06773-A, the amendments are received and

adopted.

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

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

(Whereupon, Assembly Resolution Nos. 702-718 were unanimously adopted.)

Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: I now move that the Assembly stand adjourned until Saturday, June 7th, tomorrow being a legislative day, and that we reconvene at the call of the Speaker on June 9th, Monday being a Session day.

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

(Whereupon at 2:46 p.m., the House stood adjourned until Saturday, June 7th, that being a legislative day, and to reconvene on Monday, June 9th at the call of the Speaker, that being a Session day.)