

STATE OF ILLINOIS
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Speaker Manley: "The House will be in order. Members will be in their chairs. That's much better. Thank you. We shall be led in prayer today by Pastor Keith Mosby, Sr. Pastor Mosby is the pastor of Gethsemane Church in East St. Louis, Illinois. Pastor Mosby is the guest of Representative Schmidt. Members and guests are asked to refrain from starting their laptops, turn off all cell phones, and rise for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Keith Mosby."

Pastor Mosby: "Amen. Can I have everyone to please bow their heads just for a moment? Father God, in the name of Jesus, we thank you on this day, a day that we never seen before. We come to you now asking for guidance. We come to you now asking for instructions. And we pray right now for everyone that's under the sound of my voice that you would do just that. We've been coming out giving you a proactive thanks, and we thank you in advance for doing it. We pray right now, Father, that you would even give us the right ingredients as we bake and put this cake together, as we would put the ingredients together where we all can eat and sup off of. We thank you right now in your precious name. Bless each and everyone. Bless every leader, every Representative. And we thank you right now for this great State of Illinois, for this great Capitol, and we give you all the glory, and all the glory shall and it will be given unto you. And we thank you in your most holy name, in your master's name, and everyone said amen."

Speaker Manley: "We will be led in the Pledge of Allegiance today by Representative Jacobs."

Jacobs - et al: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands,

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one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Speaker Manley: "Roll Call for Attendance. Leader Gabel is recognized to report any excused absences on the Democratic side of the aisle."

Gabel: "Speaker, let the record show the Representatives Guerrero-Cuellar, Vella, and Johnson are excused today."

Speaker Manley: "Leader Keicher is recognized to report any excused absences on the Republican side of the aisle."

Keicher: "Madam Speaker, so good to see you standing up there today. Please let the record reflect that Representative Randy Frese is excused today."

Speaker Manley: "Have all recorded themselves who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. There being 106 Members answering a roll call, a quorum is present. Mr. Clerk, Committee Reports."

Clerk Hollman: "Committee Reports. Representative Walsh, Chairperson from the Committee on Public Utilities reports the following committee action on March 5, 2024: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 4661, House Bill 4751; do pass as amended Short Debate is House Bill 4090. Representative Harper, Chairperson from the Committee on Agriculture & Conservation reports the following committee action on March 5, 2024: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 4782, House Bill 5017, and House Bill 5522. Representative Moylan, Chairperson from the Committee on Transportation: Regulations, Roads & Bridges reports the following committee action on March 5, 2024: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 4171; recommends be adopted is House Joint Resolution 39, House Joint Resolution 41, House Joint Resolution 47, House Joint Resolution 50, and Senate

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Joint Resolution 29. Representative Costa Howard, Chairperson from the Committee on Adoption & Child Welfare reports the following committee action on March 5, 2024: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 4758, House Bill 5224, House Bill 5269; and do pass as amended Short Debate is House Bill 4897. Representative Jones, Chairperson from the Committee on Insurance reports the following committee action on March 5, 2024: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 4588, House Bill 4786; do pass as amended Short Debate is House Bill 4112. Representative Ann Williams, Chairperson from the Committee on Energy & Environment reports the following committee action on March 5, 2024: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 4627, House Bill 4651, House Bill 4804, House Bill 5048, House Bill 5241, House Bill 5397, House Bill 5539. Representative DeLuca, Chairperson from the Committee on Cities & Villages reports the following committee action on March 5, 2024: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 4971. Representative Yednock, Chairperson with the Committee on Veterans' Affairs reports the following committee action on March 5, 2024: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 4757, House Bill 4934, House Bill 5640, House Bill 5653. Representative Croke, Chairperson from the Committee on Financial Institutions & Licensing reports the following committee action on March 5, 2024: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 5031, and House Bill 5303. The Chairperson from the Committee on Health Care Availability & Accessibility reports the following committee action on March 5, 2024: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 5087. Representative Mussman, Chairperson from the Committee on Elementary & Secondary Education: School Curriculum &

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Policies reports the following committee action on March 6, 2024: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 4520, House Bill 4653, and House Bill 4902. Representative Moeller, Chairperson from the Committee on Human Services reports the following committee action on March 6, 2024: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 5549. Representative Gong-Gershowitz, Chairperson from the Committee on Judiciary - Civil reports the following committee action on March 6, 2024: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 4660, House Bill 4884, House Bill 5086; and do pass as amended Short Debate is House Bill 4264. Representative Andrade, Chairperson from the Committee on Transportation: Vehicles & Safety reports the following committee action taken on March 6, 2024: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 4925, House Bill 5189, and House Bill 5370. Representative Guzzardi, Chairperson from the Committee on Housing reports the following committee action on March 6, 2024: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 4467, House Bill 4796, and House Bill 5238. Representative Morgan, Chairperson from the Committee on Health Care Licenses reports the following committee action on March 6, 2024: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 4750; and do pass as amended Short Debate is House Bill 5218. Introduction of Resolutions. House Resolution 643, offered by Representative La Ha, is referred to the Rules Committee."

Speaker Manley: "Chair recognized Representative Wilhour. For what reason do you seek recognition?"

Wilhour: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Manley: "Please proceed."

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Wilhour: "Thank you. I would like to direct the Body's attention to the Abraham Lincoln side of the Speaker's Gallery where we have the Salem Wildcat bowling team. The Salem Wildcat bowling team is the state champions in bowling this year, and they are actually back-to-back state champions in bowling. They're led by Coach Ludwig. And the players up there, one senior on the team, Dominic Winkler. And we also have the Deering brothers... or the Detering brothers, Ryan and Rhett, Silas Moats... let's see here. Evan Gelsinger, Keaton Gullion, Jarret Rushing. That's the Salem bowling team up there, and they had an interesting last day in the tournament. They came down... they came in down 160 on the final day. They were able to roar back and defeat Harrisburg. Sorry for your loss, Representative Windhorst. But you guys are awesome. We appreciate you. Bowling is a... is one of the great traditional American sports. Thank you for doing your part to keep bowling great in... in America. You make us proud. And with the one senior on the team, we're expecting a three-peat, which would be the first time in the State of Illinois that any bowling team has three-peated. So, the bar is set high, guys. Congratulations. We appreciate what you do."

Speaker Manley: "Congratulations. Chair recognizes Representative Scherer. For what reason do you seek recognition?"

Scherer: "Thank you, Madam Chair. A point of personal privilege."

Speaker Manley: "Please proceed."

Scherer: "Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen. It's my pleasure and honor to welcome the 2024 Miss Land of Lincoln, Breana Bagley, to her State Capitol today. She's up to my left in the Speaker's Gallery. Breana is a native of Decatur, where

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she also attended Millikin University. After graduating, she earned her law degree from Southern Illinois University. She's a first-generation law school graduate and practicing attorney. Breana currently works as national council for several corporations and large businesses. Her work, which is centered on... on representing health-focused businesses, reflects her specialization in health policy and her passion for helping those who are suffering from rare diseases. Outside of her legal career, Breana is a fierce advocate for those suffering from chronic health conditions. She leads the organization The Spirit of Norma Rae - Defying Pancreatic and Rare Diseases to help fund research that could cure rare diseases and chronic health conditions. Breana is also a nine-year partner with the National Pancreas Foundation and board member of the Camp Hope Committee, where she helped to create the first and only summer camp for children with pancreatitis. Through her work with this and other organizations, such as the American Heart Association and Mission: Cure, Breana has raised over \$1 million to further pancreatic disease research. By the way, my own grandpa passed away of pancreatitis, and I always said, and so did my family, that this could've been avoided with more research. In 2019, she successfully advocated for the National Orphan Drug Act Resolution, which has helped to incentivize further research into rare pediatric diseases."

Speaker Manley: "Representative, just a moment. Members, can you take your conversations to the back of the chamber? Please continue."

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Scherer: "She is currently advocating for the Safe Step Act, which would reduce barriers to a patient receiving the best care possible. In June, Breana will travel to return to Marion, Illinois to compete for the title of Miss Illinois. Breana, thank you for serving our community and being a shining example of all that a young woman can do. I'm honored to welcome you here today. Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in giving Breana a round of applause for all she has accomplished and will accomplish in the future. Thank you."

Speaker Manley: "Chair recognizes Representative Davis. For what reason do you seek recognition?"

Davis, W.: "Madam Speaker, may I have a point of personal privilege?"

Speaker Manley: "Please proceed."

Davis, W.: "Thank you very much, Madam Chair, Members of the General Assembly in the House. We've seen a lot of people walking around Springfield today, which is great. You know, and the public engaging us is always extremely important, advocating for those things that they think that are important, from a substantive standpoint as well as a appropriations standpoint. Many of you know that I am from the City of Harvey, which is a small town in the South Suburbs of Chicago. Today, I am pleased... thank you. Today, I am pleased and honored to acknowledge today some folks that are in the gallery, and I would respectfully ask them to stand. All of them. These... these young men and women are from the CEDA Uplift program in Harvey, Illinois. We are working hard to engage our young people, to encourage them to participate in activities in the city in which they live, to become a

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part of the civics process. So, today, Machel Anderson... and she is probably waving... brought down a group of young people from the City of Harvey from Thornridge High School, which is where I graduated from, as well as Thornton High School in the City of Harvey as well to engage, to watch, and to observe exactly what we do here in Springfield. When we talk about our future leaders, Ladies and Gentlemen, these young people, as well as others throughout the entire gallery in here, they are those future leaders. And while we argue and debate and yell at each other sometimes, this is what we are asking them to engage in. Not that the yelling is bad, it just means we're passionate about the things that are important to us and those things that affect our communities. So, again, if you would just join me in welcoming the students and chaperones from the CEDA Uplift program in Harvey, Illinois. Thank you very much."

Speaker Manley: "Welcome to your Capitol. Chair recognizes Representative Mason. For what reason do you seek recognition?"

Mason: "Thank you so much, Madam Chair. A point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Manley: "Please proceed."

Mason: "Thank you. We have so many amazing guests today. It's great to see everyone so energized, but I would like to welcome a very special guest. And if he would stand. In the back, it is my mayor from my home, Mayor Tom Hood. Mayor Hood is a true hometown mayor. He grew up in Gurnee, Illinois, married his beautiful wife, Pam, in 1982. Spent 20 years on the Zoning Board of Appeals, became a village trustee in 2013,

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and finally became mayor in 2021. He takes great care of us in that town. And on behalf of myself, Representative Mayfield, Representative Didech, and Representative Faver Dias, we welcome him to Springfield. Please help us welcome him."

Speaker Manley: "Welcome to the Capitol, mayor. Chair recognizes Representative Blair-Sherlock. For what reason do you seek recognition?"

Blair-Sherlock: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Manley: "Please proceed."

Blair-Sherlock: "Thank you. I filed a Resolution, but for circumstances beyond my control, I don't think it's going to come out this month. But I would like to recognize that March is Crochet Month. And the reason I'm doing this is because I put together a group of ladies to... in the spring to make hats and scarfs and gloves for those less fortunate. This became a movement that spread into other counties... oh, sorry, that spread into other counties. Sorry about that. Okay. So, anyhow, so, I put together a group of ladies who were called Unraveled. And we've been making hats and scarves and gloves for the less fortunate. I found that crocheters and knitters are extremely passionate about what they do, and that's why we came up with this idea. As a result of this group, we've given away over 600 hats and gloves and scarves to the less fortunate. This is also spreading to other counties. Okay, sorry. Okay, I'll start again just real quick. So, anyhow, I'm calling for recognition of March as National Crochet Month. As I was saying, a group of ladies that I put together, we meet three times a month, and we've been able to produce

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and donate over 600 pieces of hats and scarves and gloves to the less fortunate. This has also spread to other counties, and I'm receiving shipments from Lake County, from Lee County, and it's really become a movement. And so, I just would like to recognize March as Crochet Month to encourage others around the state to use your skills to maybe give something forward and pay something back. So, I appreciate all the folks that have donated, and I'm glad that we can make people warm one piece at a time. Thank you."

Speaker Manley: "Thank you, Representative. Chair recognizes Representative Didech. For what reason do you seek recognition?"

Didech: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. A point of personal privilege."

Speaker Manley: "Please proceed."

Didech: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. We have a very exciting group of guests in the gallery today. I'm going to ask the students and teachers from Waukegan High School, North Chicago High School, and Stevenson High School, some are in the Speaker's Gallery, some are above the Democratic side, to please stand up so I can introduce the great delegation from the Lake County Mikva Challenge. The Mikva Challenge, their mission is to develop youth to be empowered, informed, and active citizens who will promote a just and equitable society. And we thank you for joining us today and advancing that important mission. I also want to give a very special recognition to one of their teacher sponsors, Mr. Andrew Conneen, who some of you know, some of you may not, 20 years ago was my AP Government teacher at Stevenson High School. And I walked into his AP Government class as a, I would say, a replacement

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level student. And I walked out someone who was inspired to participate in this process and who understood that democracy is a verb and that government is not a spectator sport. So, I thank you, Mr. Conneen, for everything you did to inspire my career in public service. And to his students in Stevenson High School, I think I was about a B, B-plus student in his class and I was able to get here today. So, think about how amazing you guys could do is you could get that up to an A. So, thank you so much to our Mikva Challenge students and teachers. Thank you for joining us in Springfield, and please give them a warm round of applause to welcome here today. Thank you."

Speaker Manley: "Welcome to Springfield. Chair recognizes Representative Halbrook. For what reason do you seek recognition?"

Halbrook: "Thank you, Madam Chair. A point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Manley: "Please proceed."

Halbrook: "Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I'd like to introduce you to my Page for the day, former resident of 107th District, but now resides in the 101. A constituent of Representative Miller, but actually we have some family ties as his grandmother is a cousin of mine. This is Konnor Kersey from Arcola. He's active in track, football, student council, and is a class representative, a member of Walnut Christian... Walnut Grove Christian Church, and has volunteered at the Arcola food bank. High honors during junior high and at the top of his freshman class. Again, Arcola, Illinois. Let's

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welcome Konnor and his grandfather, Kris, here today. Let's give them a great Springfield welcome. Thank you."

Speaker Manley: "Welcome to Springfield. Chair recognizes Representative Fritts. For what reason do you seek recognition?"

Fritts: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. A point of personal privilege."

Speaker Manley: "Please proceed."

Fritts: "Thank you. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I'd like to welcome my Page for the day, Easton Rosen. Easton is from Highland, Illinois, down in the great Leader Charlie Meier's district. He is a junior at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and my home college of agriculture. He is studying ag leadership, education, and communication. He's here learning what we do here in the General Assembly to write about in the *Morrow Magazine* to encourage more young people to get involved in the college of agriculture. He plans to follow in the footsteps of my predecessor as he would like to go into economic development for municipalities. So, if we could give him a warm Springfield welcome. Thanks, Easton."

Speaker Manley: "Welcome to the Capitol. Chair recognizes Representative Morgan. For what reason do you seek recognition?"

Morgan: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Manley: "Please proceed."

Morgan: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today, I just wanted to introduce and give recognition to the treasurers that are here today for Illinois Treasurers' Association Day. In particular, I want to recognize the amazing Lake County

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Treasurer, Holly Kim, who's here. So, Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome our Lake County and other state treasurers."

Speaker Manley: "Welcome to the Capitol. Chair recognizes Representative Swanson. For what reason do you seek recognition?"

Swanson: "Thank you, Madam Chair. Point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Manley: "Please proceed."

Swanson: "Thank you. It's my distinct honor to be able to introduce my Page for a day. This is Haley Gierach, and she's from Alpha, Illinois. She's a senior at AlWood High School. And her parents are Luke and Nikki, and Luke is here with her today. He's the one with the camera taking pictures of us. Her activities in school are very... very active in school. She's in band, choir, theater, scholastic bowl, serves on the yearbook club, art club, and she's also the treasurer for National Honor Society. She also serves on the Gray Matters Collective group, which is a mental health awareness group, and she serves as a member on there. Some of her community activities, she's a dancer at All That Dance. It's a studio in Galesburg. And she also is a volunteer for the summer vacation bible school in our community. She's a three-time dancer of the year at All That Dance in Galesburg. And last year, she competed at Miss Henry County Fair Pageant and looks forward to competing again this year at the pageant. Her plans will take her to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. And yes, we've had that discussion. We've got great colleges here in Illinois. But she's going to take communication classes and has settled on the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater

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because I believe she has family up there too. But let's give a warm welcome to Haley as she visits us here at the Capitol. Thank you."

Speaker Manley: "Thanks for being with us, Haley. Chair recognizes Representative Schmidt. For what reason do you seek recognition?"

Schmidt: "Thank you, Madam Chair. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Manley: "Please proceed."

Schmidt: "I would like to ask the House to observe a moment of silence for two four-year-old children who tragically lost their lives in a house fire in Cahokia Heights recently. I was house broke... heartbroken to hear about this tragedy, and I can't imagine what their family is going through. These poor children lost their lives before they got to experience the fullness of life, and no parent should ever have to bury their children. The family is grieving and facing an unimaginable loss. Let's us come together to offer our thoughts and prayers to this grieving family and support them in this difficult time. Thank you, and I ask for a moment of silence."

Speaker Manley: "The Members will observe a moment of silence. Thank you. Chair recognizes Representative Mayfield. For what reason do you seek recognition?"

Mayfield: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Manley: "Please proceed."

Mayfield: "I would like to... everyone to join me in welcoming my Page for the day, Victor Hinojosa, who is a junior at Waukegan public schools. He is also the student board member for the Waukegan Board of Education, and one day he will be a

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Legislator here in this chamber. So, please join me in welcoming Victor to the House Floor."

Speaker Manley: "Welcome to Springfield, Victor. Chair recognizes Representative Meier. For what reason do you seek recognition?"

Meier: "Two brief points of personal privilege."

Speaker Manley: "Please proceed."

Meier: "First, today, earlier, we had Sparc here from Springfield with a bunch of their clients. I believe they maybe had to leave by now, but we were... it was great to welcome them to the Capitol. And secondly, a little bit of pride I want to talk about. My home county, this past weekend, the Okawville Girls Lady Rockets won the state championship for the second time in two years, beating Illini Bluffs 48-36. That's my... my alma mater and my dad's alma mater. My mom's alma mater, the other high school in our county, came in second to Peoria Notre Dame, losing 48 to 46 in quite the nail biter. But both wonderful teams, and I wish them nothing but the best and a bright future. Thank you."

Speaker Manley: "Thank you, Representative. Chair recognizes Leader Lilly. For what reason do you seek recognition?"

Lilly: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Manley: "Please proceed."

Lilly: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. I, too, as many of our colleagues, have a Page in the building on today. I'd like to introduce you to Graham Shabino, and he is a junior at Oak Park River Forest High School. My alumni, go Huskies. He has joined us today 'cause he has an interest in what we do. One day soon, because high school comes and go very quickly, he

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seeks to be a policy maker like ourselves. But in the meantime, he's a leader of the ethic bowl team at Oak Park. He is in government and policy club. He plays on the tennis team. And he's on the math team, who went to state. He has extracurricular activities after school, where he is a volunteer at the neighborhood café Wise Cup. And he also volunteers at the non-for-profit Beyond Hunger, and he's been doing that for the past three years. He did have some time to come to Springfield to be a Page of the day, but this young man has been to Washington, D.C. and has been paging for Senator Tammy Duckworth as well. With that, as his interests pursues, he wants to make sure that he gets an education in understanding politics through law or journalism. Let's say... let's give Graham a warm welcome to our future policy maker, Mr. Graham. Please give him a round of applause."

Speaker Manley: "Welcome to Springfield. Chair recognizes Representative Cassidy. For what reason do you seek recognition?"

Cassidy: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Manley: "Please proceed."

Cassidy: "This is your annual notification from the quasi chair of the... of the Sullivan Caucus to save the date for the upcoming Sullivan Caucus celebration. This year's party will be on Wednesday, March 20, at the Gin Mill. There will be bagpipes. There will be corned beef sandwiches. There will be lots of fun people. It's from 6 to 10 at the Gin Mill."

Speaker Manley: "In our calendars. Thank you. The Clerk is in receipt of a Motion in Writing to waive the posting requirements for a Bill. Leader Gabel on the Motion."

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Gabel: "Speaker, I move that the posting requirements be waived so that Senate Bill 15 can be heard in the Executive Committee."

Speaker Manley: "Leader Gabel has moved to waive the posting requirements. All those in favor say 'aye'; opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the posting requirements are waived. Chair recognizes Representative Elik. For what reason do you seek recognition?"

Elik: "Point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Manley: "Please proceed."

Elik: "Thank you. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a trailblazer in Illinois agriculture. Farming is a family business. Farms are handed down from one generation to the next, and everyone does their part. Moms and dads, sons and daughters, everyone has to pitch in. So, it isn't surprising that one of the first state agencies in Illinois to be led by a woman was the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Which brings me to the woman we honor today, Director Rebecca Doyle. Becky Doyle was appointed to lead the Department of Agriculture in 1991 by Governor Jim Edgar. She took the helm of the agency, which oversaw our state's leading industry. The department, at that time, had 6 divisions with 600 employees and a budget of \$53.5 million, on top of running 2 State Fairs. She once said, 'You don't have to be a farmer to hold this job, but it helps to have a knowledge of agriculture.' And that was certainly knowledge that she had. She grew up in a farm in Western Illinois in Hancock County showing horses, pigs, and cattle. She got her bachelor's

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degree in agricultural communications, and her master's in agricultural extension education, both from the University of Illinois. By 1991, she was chair of the Macoupin County Farm Bureau. At the time she was appointed director, Becky Doyle and her husband, Ken, were the managing partners of a swine farm just south of Springfield which shipped 12 thousand hogs to market every year. But Director Doyle was mindful of the fact that being the first woman to run the agency was not the most important thing. She said, 'The fact that I'm a woman draws attention to the department, but that doesn't mean anything if I don't do a good job and follow through with credibility and service.' She did that job with credibility and service for eight years. After her time as director, Becky Doyle went on to work for 10 years with the United Nations World Food Program, helping to feed the world. In 2022, she was honored with the Order of Lincoln, Illinois' highest honor for professional achievement and public service. Thank you so much to Becky Doyle, a giant of Illinois agriculture and a trailblazer in Illinois State Government."

Speaker Manley: "Thank you, Representative. Chair recognizes Representative Mussman. For what reason do you seek recognition?"

Mussman: "Is it... oh, there we go. Point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Manley: "Please proceed."

Mussman: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today, I am honored to highlight Myra Bradwell, a trailblazer in the legal field who shattered gender barriers and paved the way for generations of women to come. Born in 1831 as the child of active

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abolitionists, Myra moved to Schaumburg Township at the age of 12. She would grow into a visionary woman who followed in her family's footsteps and defied social norms, fighting for equality and justice. Myra had a passion for law, which was ignited at a young age, fueled by a deep sense of justice and a desire to make a difference. After settling in Chicago as the young married woman, Myra founded the *Chicago Legal News*, a legal discourse and advocacy platform in 1868. Bradwell was determined to improve women's status in society and regularly contributed to the column *Law Relating to Women* as both the editor and business manager of the paper. Myra used her platform to advocate for women's rights, challenging laws restricting women's opportunity and freedom. Despite facing immense opposition and discrimination throughout her career, Myra set her sights on becoming the first woman admitted to the Illinois bar. Her journey was one of resilience, perseverance, and unwavering determination. In 1869, Myra applied, challenging the legal systems bias against women. Her application was denied because she was a married woman, but Myra refused to be deterred. She continued to fight, taking her case to the Illinois Supreme Court, arguing that denying her admission to the bar violated the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause. Her grit paid off, and in 1872, the Supreme Court ruled in her favor, making her the first woman to be admitted to the Illinois State Bar. Myra Bradwell's historic achievement not only opened doors for women in legal profession, but also catalyzed gender equality in society. She even played a significant role in drafting the first anti-sex discrimination law in the United States, passed by the

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Illinois Legislature on March 22, 1872. Throughout her career, Myra Bradwell was a beacon of inspiration and empowerment for women aspiring to enter the legal profession and to other male-dominated fields at large. Her legacy is a testament to the power of determination, resilience, and the relentless pursuit of justice. Myra's story serves as a reminder that with courage and conviction, one individual can spark a movement and change the course of history. Happy Women's History Month. Thank you, everyone."

Speaker Manley: "Thank you, Representative. Chair recognizes Representative Ammons."

Ammons: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is my privilege to join my colleagues in recognizing another woman of significance in our history. As Becky Doyle was highlighted by Representative Elik around agriculture, I'd like to highlight Shirley Sherrod. Shirley Sherrod was born in 1948 in a former Georgia State... and is the former Georgia State Director of Rural Development for the United States Department of Agriculture. Shirley Sherrod was born in 1948 in Baker County Georgia to Grace and Hosie... Hosie Miller. In 1965, when she was 17 years old, her father, a deacon of the local Baptist church, was shot dead by a white farmer, reportedly over a dispute about livestock. No charges were returned against the shooter by the all-white grand jury. This was a turning point in her life and led her to feel that she should stay in the south to bring about change. Several months after Miller's murder, a cross was burned at night in front of Miller's home. Her four daughters and her mother, including Sherrod and her infant son, born after her husband's killing, were inside. That same

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year, Sherrod was among the first black students to enroll in the previously all-white high school in Baker County. Eleven years later, Grace Miller, her mother, became the first woman elected to a county office. Sherrod attended Fort Valley State College and later studied sociology at Albany State University in Georgia while working with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee during the Civil Rights Movement, where she met her future husband, minister Charles Sherrod. She went on to study at Antioch University in Yellow Springs, Ohio, where she earned her master's degree in community development. She returned to Georgia to work in the Department of Agriculture in Georgia to 'help negro farmers keep their land.' In 1969, Sherrod and her husband were among the U.S. civil rights and land collective activists, co-founding New Communities, a collective farm in Southwest Georgia. According to a scholarship that she received, she applied that scholarship by land trust activists Susan Witt and Robert Swann to New Communities' founding in 1969 to help local farmers protect their land. The Community Land Trusts throughout the United States was established as a result of her work in that laboratory. The... the perseverance and foresight of that team in Georgia motivated the right of African American farmers to farm land securely and affordably, initiated by the CLT movements in that country... in this country. Located in Lee County, Georgia, the 5,700-acre project was one of the largest tracks of black-owned land in the United States. The project soon encountered difficulties in opposition to some of the local farmers who were accused of participating in communist activities at the

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time. After Sherrod and her husband fought for those projects and to protect them, unfortunately, many of the farmers lost their land in 1985. Sherrod and her husband also lost their land when they were unable to secure a U.S. Department of Agriculture loan. They became class action plaintiffs in the civil suit of *Pigford v. Glickman*. The department agreed to settle that particular lawsuit out of court. A Federal Law passed in 2008 would protect others from this kind of activity from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Then Senator Barack Obama of Illinois sponsored a piece of legislation to allow up to 70 thousand more claimants to qualify, which included the New Communities, for the communal farm in which Sherrod and her husband had partnered. In 2009, chief arbitrator Michael Lewis ruled that the USDA had discriminated against New Communities' black farmers by denying a loan to the operations and extending more favorable terms to other local farmers. New Communities received a 12.8 million settlement that included 8.2 million in compensation for the loss of farmland, the 4.2 million loss of income, and 330 thousand to Sherrod and her husband for their mental anguish. Ultimately, Sherrod, who had continued to fight, was hired by the USDA in August of 2009 as the Georgia Director of Rural Development, the first black person to hold such a position. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

Speaker Manley: "Thank you, Representative. Mr. Clerk, Committee Reports. Committee announcements, pardon me."

Clerk Hollman: "The following committees will be meeting this afternoon: Meeting at 2:00 is Elementary & Secondary Education: Administration, Licensing & Charter Schools in

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Room 115, Labor & Commerce in Room 114, State Government Administration in Room C-1. Meeting at 3:00 is the Executive Committee in Room 118. Meeting at 4:00 is Higher Education in Room 118, Appropriations-Public Safety in Room C-1, and Appropriations-General Services in D-1."

Speaker Manley: "Mr. Clerk, Agreed Resolutions."

Clerk Hollman: "Agreed Resolutions. House Resolution 642, offered by Representative Jed Davis."

Speaker Manley: "Leader Gabel moves for adoption of Agreed Resolutions. All those in favor say 'aye'; opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Agreed Resolutions are adopted. And now, allowing perfunctory time for the Clerk, Leader Gabel moves that the House stand adjourned until March 7, at the hour of 12 p.m. All those in favor say 'aye'; opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the House stands adjourned."

Clerk Hollman: "House Perfunctory Session will come to order. Introduction and First Reading of House Bills. House Bill 5763, offered by Representative Wilhour, a Bill for an Act concerning health. House Bill 5764, offered by Representative Lilly, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. House Bill 5765, offered by Representative Lilly, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. First Reading of these House Bills. First Reading in full of House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment #19, offered by Representative Spain.

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there shall be submitted to the

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electors of the State for adoption or rejection at the general election next occurring at least 6 months after the adoption of this resolution a proposition to amend Section 3 of Article XIV of the Illinois Constitution as follows:

ARTICLE XIV

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

SECTION 3. CONSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVE FOR LEGISLATIVE ARTICLE AND STATEMENTS OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS

Amendments to Article IV or Section 2 of Article XIII of this Constitution may be proposed by a petition signed by a number of electors equal in number to at least eight percent of the total votes cast for candidates for Governor in the preceding gubernatorial election. Amendments to Article IV shall be limited to structural and procedural subjects contained in Article IV. Amendments to Section 2 of Article XIII shall be limited to establishing and enforcing stronger ethical standards for candidates for or office holders of: (i) State office; (ii) offices in units of local government and school districts; and (iii) a position on a commission or board created by this Constitution. A petition shall contain the text of the proposed amendment and the date of the general election at which the proposed amendment is to be submitted, shall have been signed by the petitioning electors not more than twenty-four months preceding that general election and shall be filed with the Secretary of State at least six months before that general election. The procedure for determining the validity and sufficiency of a petition shall be provided by law. If the petition is valid and sufficient, the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors at that general

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election and shall become effective if approved by either three-fifths of those voting on the amendment or a majority of those voting in the election.

(Source: Illinois Constitution.)

SCHEDULE

This Constitutional Amendment takes effect upon being declared adopted in accordance with Section 7 of the Illinois Constitutional Amendment Act. This was the First Reading in full of House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment #19. Committee Reports. Representative Rita, Chairperson from the Committee on the Executive reports the following committee action taken on March 6, 2024: do pass Short Debate is Senate Bill 15. Second Reading of Senate Bills. Senate Bill 15, a Bill for an Act concerning education. Second Reading of this Senate Bill. This will be held on the Order of Second Reading. There being no further business, the House Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."