

STATE OF ILLINOIS
100th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE

153rd Legislative Day

1/8/2019

Speaker Turner: "Members are asked to be at their seats. Members are asked to be at their seats. We shall be led in prayer today by Wayne Padget, the Assistant Doorkeeper. Members and guests are asked to refrain from starting their laptops, turn off all cellphones, and rise for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance."

Wayne Padget: "Most eternal and Almighty God, we thank You for this occasion to gather as Your people, to contemplate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for this great state. In the midst of diversity, God, give us the gift of unity, make us worthy of the mission in which You have called us as citizens of the great State of Illinois. God, grant us to live in harmony with one another in mutual respect and love. May You bless and grant to our Governor and all of its leaders, the spirit of courage, the spirit of justice, prudence and discernment. Keep them in safety and health, may they lead Your people to victories over injustice, poverty, and everything that is harmful to the dignity and sanctity of all human life. May Your sovereign hand be upon this state and may it prosper in abundance from North to South. This we pray in your Son's name, Amen."

Speaker Turner: "We'll be led in the Pledge of Allegiance today by Representative Sente."

Sente - et al: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Speaker Turner: "Roll Call for Attendance. Representative Feigenholtz is recognized to report any excused absences."

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Feigenholtz: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representatives Rita Mayfield and Sam Yingling are the Democrats excused absences today."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Wheeler is recognized."

Wheeler, K.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please let the record reflect that Representatives Long, Parkhurst, Phillips, and Barbara Wheeler are excused today."

Speaker Turner: "With 109 Members present, a quorum is established. Representative Slaughter, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Slaughter: "Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Turner: "Please proceed, Sir."

Slaughter: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Many of you know... many of you know that I just laid my dad to rest this past Saturday. Wanted to take a moment just to say thank you. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your support... all the many calls, text messages, letters... some of you were at my dad's visitation. Some of you were at my dad's home-going services. The support from this Body has been absolutely tremendous. I'm proud to call you my General Assembly family. With that said, this is never easy. Actually, it's very difficult, but my family's grateful for my dad's life. Thankful and honored to be a part of his legacy. And God is always going to give us the strength to... to move on. So, from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of my family, thank you. We love you, and may God continue to bless each and every one of you. Thank you."

Speaker Turner: "The Body will take a moment of silence for Representative Slaughter. Thank you, Members. And thank you,

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Representative Slaughter. Members, on page 2 of the Calendar, we have Senate Bill 1298, offered by Representative Mitchell. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 1298, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. This Bill was read a second time on a previous day. Amendment 1 was adopted in committee. Floor Amendment #2, offered by Representative Currie, has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Mitchell on the Floor Amendment #2."

Mitchell, C.: "Thank you, Members. The... I believe the Amendment becomes the Bill, so I would move that we adopt the Amendment to debate it on Third Reading."

Speaker Turner: "Gentleman moves for the adoption of Floor Amendment #2 to Senate Bill 1298. All in favor say 'aye'; all opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Turner: "Third Reading. Mr. Clerk, Senate Bill 1298."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 1298, a Bill for an Act concerning transportation. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Mitchell."

Mitchell, C.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Members of this Body for being willing to consider this measure. The problems at the Illinois Toll Highway Authority are well document... well documented. It has become a haven for graft and a place where taxpayers cannot account for how their dollars are being spent and that they are being spent at the best interest of the people. So, what this Bill will

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do is give us a... a fresh start and a clean slate. It would reconstitute the board, ending the direct... the terms of the current Directors with the exception of the Secretary of Transportation and the Governor, and requiring that they be reappointed by February 28 of 2019. Mr. Speaker, can we just get a little quiet in the chamber, if you don't mind? So, would end the terms of all the Members other than the Governor and Secretary of Transportation and require reappointment February 28, 2019, would also enshrine into law some ethics reforms that we think are important. They would require that the tollway have a process of approval or disapproval of Resolutions, as well as a procedure for overriding the chairman's veto in the Bill set forth in the authority's bylaws, and would prohibit the tollway from passing bylaws that are contrary to the Act, as well reinstating language that would require the avoidance of potential conflicts of interest and that those laws... these bylaws be posted on the website. Members, this is important because we have seen sort of an unprecedented wave of issues at this agency. Thousands of dollars were spent for executives to speak at engagements, about nine thousand over just two years, as compared to four thousand over six. We also saw contracts being awarded in no-bid fashions in questionable manners. This is not simply about getting new kids on the block. This is about making sure that this agency operates with the integrity, the transparency, and in the best interest of the public that all taxpayers should expect. I would be grateful for an 'aye' vote and I welcome questions from Members."

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Speaker Turner: "Before we get into questions from Members and further discussion... Members, excuse me. Members, shhh. Members, can we please bring the noise level down in the chamber or take the discussions to the rear of the chamber? Thank you very much. Representative Skillicorn is recognized."

Skillicorn: "Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Turner: "Sponsor indicates that he will yield."

Skillicorn: "Representative, I was under the impression the tollways, once they are paid off, the tolls were supposed to go away. What is the date that the tolls will go away?"

Mitchell, C.: "Representative, I have no idea what you're talking about."

Skillicorn: "So, you know, rumor has it that in a promise back in the 50's and 60's, that once the roads are paid for, the tolls would come down."

Mitchell, C.: "No. Representative, I can't speak to your age. I can say that I was not around at that time. So, I can't... I would be conjecturing. I can't speak to that."

Skillicorn: "Okay. Well, to the Bill. I think we owe the taxpayers and the motorists of Illinois a promise on this one. You know, rumor has it that the tolls were supposed to go away when the road were paid off. We've refinanced the bonds, extended the bonds, raised tolls, and now we have some of the most excessive tolls in the State of Illinois. Personally, I spent \$533 on tolls last year and I try to avoid the tollway when I can. I would love... and you know what, I have a Bill sitting in Rules Committee right now that would require payments from the bonds to be paid in a priority and that once the bonds

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are paid off, the tolls would go away. So, if you want my vote on this Resolution, let's actually fix the tollway, let's remove this burdensome tax on motorists in Northern Illinois and... and move forward with a plan to actually get rid of the tolls. So, if you want my support on this, let's amend it and take down the tolls."

Speaker Turner: "Chair recognizes Representative Davis."

Davis: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Turner: "Sponsor indicates that he will yield."

Davis: "Representative, in your effort to create the transparency and to eliminate conflicts of interest with the tollway, are you able to speak to what the vetting process will be for those individuals who desire to be on the Tollway Board?"

Mitchell, C.: "Sorry. The vetting... you mean the vetting process in government or versus how the incoming administration's going to look to..."

Davis: "How they're going to... to deal with conflicts of interest and things of that nature. And then also, the second part to that will be if they determine that there is a conflict of interest, then what may happen at that point?"

Mitchell, C.: "So, let me try to take this in two parts. In terms of how the incoming administration or somebody who's going into it are looking at these things, we're putting people basically through a presidential level vet. We've got a professional team that is looking at every member of every board, every commission and saying what are possible conflicts based on their current employment, et cetera. So hopefully, that will prevent those sort of things on the front end. On the backend, there's already things written into the

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statute dealing with conflicts of interest. But what we want to make sure of and what we saw is that there was language in the bylaws, Representative, that said that even potential conflicts of interest ought to be avoided by members of the board. That language was taken out of the bylaws by this current board. And we think that by enshrining into statute that that has to be part of the bylaws, we are raising the level of ethic... the ethical standards for the tollway in a way that will hopefully make folks more cognizant of those things and avoid them and also make sure that we have more transparency so taxpayers and Legislators can hold them accountable."

Davis: "Thank you very much. Very briefly to the Bill, Mr. Speaker. The reason that I asked the nature of that question is that my experiences in working with other boards and commissions, particularly as it relates to conflicts of interest, is that sometimes the... the people who are being appointed don't know that they have conflicts of interest. It could be something very deep in their past that they may skip or what have you. So, the vetting process on the front end is extremely important. But then once a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest is determined, even if they are already seated on the board, how the administration moves forward is extremely important. So, we just want to make sure that they take all of that into consideration. Thank you."

Speaker Turner: "The Chair recognizes Representative Mazzochi."

Mazzochi: "Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Turner: "The Sponsor indicates that he will yield."

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Mazzochi: "First, I would like to know, what actually is the conflict of interest that's been alleged that necessitates the legislation today?"

Mitchell, C.: "Well, thank you for your question. Oh, there you are. I found you, Representative. So, I would say there are a couple. So, there was an award.. and this has been documented by the Daily Herald, by Crain's Chicago Business and others... of a... awarding of about \$150 million, 10-year contract to firms that have links to three members of the board. There have been a million dollars in contracts to three outside PR firms, two of which have political connections, despite them having a very large communications department already. There have been a series of no-bid contracts, as well, Representative. I could sort of run down continued examples, but those are sort of three off the top of my head."

Mazzochi: "Right. But I'm just trying to understand who... who exactly on the board has the conflicts of interest?"

Mitchell, C.: "So again, Representative, this has been well documented in the press. I don't want to sort of, you know, get into name calling and litigating this here."

Mazzochi: "Well, it... and let me explain the reason why it's important to me, is the reason why it's important to me is because my understanding is that the Governor has yet... Governor-Elect has yet to ask any of the members of the Tollway Board for their resignations. My understanding is that some have even offered to give the Governor their resignations. So, I'm questioning why we need to actually pass new legislation, if in fact, the very people who are the

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source of the conflict of interest are willing to give their resignations?"

Mitchell, C.: "Representative, I'm not aware of those offers, so I can't speak to that."

Mazzochi: "Right. But don't we need to know whether that's true or not before we vote on it?"

Mitchell, C.: "I don't think we do, Representative. This Bill has the force of law and I think that... we've got bipartisan support for it. As you know, your Leader on that side has announced his support for the measure because people understand that we need to make sure we send a message that we are going to be ethical and that this agency is going to live up to high standards. That's what we're doing here today."

Mazzochi: "Well, if we're going to be asking agencies to live up to high standards, and this is a methodology by doing that, why aren't we applying it to all of the other agencies?"

Mitchell, C.: "Because... Representative, a couple things. First of all, this is an agency that is unique. It lets billions of dollars in roadway contracts every single year. When those contract are, for any reason, not potentially being led in the best interest of the people, this is a different agency in terms of the level of... basically, the stakes that are at issue here. And so, that's why we believe this agency, especially given how well documented it's been, is a place to send a message that this is not how the new Governor-Elect's government is going to operate."

Mazzochi: "Alright. Well for... I would actually disagree with that, in that there's lots of agencies that distribute a bunch of

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money. But since you did bring up the road construction work, one of the concerns that I have is that because you're calling for this to happen immediately, you're also calling for an appointment not to occur until perhaps February... and who knows when we actually manage to actually approve those appointments. What you're now doing is you're going to cost the State of Illinois a considerable amount of money because the road contracts that are ready for bid to go out for this spring and summer season are now going to have to be inevitably delayed until March, April, May, June, which means that our construction bidders are not going to be able to give us optimal pricing. We're going to have to pay for rushed pricing. It's going to cost more. So, have you even done the budget analysis of what this is going to do?"

Mitchell, C.: "Representative, there's... We haven't done the analysis because the way you have presented it simply isn't true. The Governor can appoint acting directors immediately, including a chairperson who can sign for the authority. I believe that's going to be the intention of the Governor-Elect to do this expeditiously. There will still be staff in place that are going to be making sure that projects are continuing at pace. So, respectfully, that's just not a true characterization of what would happen here."

Mazzochi: "Well, no. My understanding is, in fact, is that there are bids that are ready to go and the board is ready to approve them, but because of all of this going on with the legislation, they actually are not sending them out to finalize..."

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Mitchell, C.: "Based on... so again, Representative, this speaks to the problem. Approve them based on what? Based on the best interest of the public? Based on the best pricing? We don't know that. And based on the directly revealed behavior of this board, we can't be sure that's true. Which is why we need to take this step, get a new acting board in place, and make sure that going forward there are higher ethical standards for this board."

Mazzochi: "Right."

Mitchell, C.: "That's what this legislation does."

Mazzochi: "Now, it is the competitive process and that's the whole point, is that if what you're suggesting is that you're going to restart the competitive process, practical realities being what they are, you will run out of time in order to get these contracts out in a timely manner. Which means that we're to potentially have a whole summer's worth of construction that will be more expensive or..."

Mitchell, C.: "Represent... Representative, I'm... I... this is our first time having a debate, so I... I'm sorry. What you're saying is just not true. There is no need to restart anything, right? There is going to be an acting board in place rather soon. There is staff to continue the day to day operations of the Toll Board. The talking points are good, but they're just not accurate."

Mazzochi: "No... I'm sorry, your response is not accurate because that's just not how our procurement process works. Thank you very much."

Speaker Turner: "Chair recognizes Representative Ives"

Ives: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will Sponsor yield for questions?"

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Speaker Turner: "The Sponsor indicates he will yield."

Ives: "Representative Mitchell, you delineated a few of expenses that you thought were not justified. Can you go through those numbers again? Was it \$6 thousand and \$9 thousand? Can you tell me exactly what you used in your opening statement?"

Mitchell, C.: "Sure, Representative. So, many places, for example, the Illinois Department of Transportation, sends folks to places like the City Club of Chicago. And they go and they take tickets that are offered, generally, pro bono to those agencies to hear about, from great Executives, et cetera. Most agencies don't pay for those. The Toll Highway Authority, however, does. So, in the last, I want to say year, they spent about \$9 thousand on these tickets as opposed to the 6 years prior, where only a thousand were spent. Since there was a new board put in place they just sort of had all of these issues."

Ives: "Okay."

Mitchell, C.: "I also noted, for example, a 10 year contract with links to three members of the board worth \$157 million, as well as over a million dollars in contracts, over 9 months, to outside PR firms with connections to the board. So, those were the three examples I used, Representative."

Ives: "Okay, so do you know how much those outside contracts potentially cost the taxpayers?"

Mitchell, C.: "I... so, I think I just listed them, Representative."

Ives: "Oh, okay. Alright. Well, we don't have exact figures there. Well, you have \$157 million, but we don't know if... if that overlay or that additional... there was additional costs just because those contracts went to..."

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Mitchell, C.: "There could be."

Ives: "...what you are saying, are conflicts of interest."

Mitchell, C.: "Yeah. There Representative, there.. I would be speculating to answer that question. I would say that you could be right. I just don't know."

Ives: "Okay. Thank you. Next question is, did you... did any of the Democrat Members of the board, 'cause it is a bipartisan board, did they approach you to get this legislation passed?"

Mitchell, C.: "No."

Ives: "Okay. Are you aware that James Banks is one of the Democrats and he's the longest serving member since 1993? Do you know whether or not he approved or voted for these contracts that you say were in a conflict of interest?"

Mitchell, C.: "I don't know that off the top of my head, Representative. I would also just note in the reconsti..."

Ives: "No, I'm just asking. Do you know whether or not he voted for those contracts or were these contracts unanimous among the board that you're saying went forward?"

Mitchell, C.: "I don't have that information, Representative."

Ives: "I didn't think you did. How about the other longest... there's two... the two longest serving members of the board. The other one is a Democrat. His name is David Gonzales. He's been on the board since 2011. Do you know whether or not he voted for these contracts that are obviously in conflict... or what you're saying is a conflict of interest?"

Mitchell, C.: "Same answer, Representative."

Ives: "Okay, you don't know whether or not they voted for it? Okay. Mr. Speaker, to the Bill. Look, I have been very outspoken about the Tollway. You can check my... my comments in

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the *Daily Herald*. Marty Pike, who covers the Tollway for the *Daily Herald*, texts me all the time to comment on tollway issues, and I freely text her back all the time. I'm just as disgusted about nepotism. I'm just disgusted about hiring communications teams that are outside of the agency. I've commented on this in public. It makes me mad, but what you're talking about doing here with this Bill is nothing than a craven, political agenda being put in place. That's what it is and here's why. There's actually 11 members on the board. One is the Governor, the other one is the Department of Transportation Secretary. Those two members go away within a week. There are five other members whose actual term ends May 1 of this year. So, the entire board, seven members, a majority of the board, will actually turn over by May 1. Nothing is going to get done between now and May 1 on the tollway that is going to be that impactful to taxpayers that can't be handled with new members. And as the Sponsor of this Bill just told you, he can't even tell you whether or not the Democrat members voted for or against these same contracts that he says are in conflict. So, you've got... you know what I'm sorry, this is only being done for political purposes. There's no need for this legislation. The new administration, I'm sure, can handle this. He can put all his new appointments in. He can own the majority of the board and then that'll be done. But for the record, I've been very outspoken about the tollway. I... this is just a political statement. It's a political Bill. Vote 'no'."

Speaker Turner: "Chair recognizes Representative DeLuca."

DeLuca: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sponsor yield?"

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Speaker Turner: "The Sponsor indicates that he will yield."

DeLuca: "Representative Mitchell, in your presenting of the Bill, you were pretty critical about some of the going on's at the tollway. Now in this Bill, it allows the current members to reapply."

Mitchell, C.: "Correct, Sir."

DeLuca: "Is that correct?"

Mitchell, C.: "Yes."

DeLuca: "Okay, and what do you think the likelihood is? Because there's some very qualified members that...

Mitchell, C.: Yeah."

DeLuca: "...currently are on the board and for them to reapply... been very critical of some of the actions that they've taken. What's the likelihood that they would have an opportunity to be reappointed?"

Mitchell, C.: "I think... I think the opportunity, Representative, is that we're going to view these folks on a case by case basis. We're going to look at their records. And if somebody is meritorious and deserves reappointment, then I'd think we'd have no problem doing that. So, I think there's a good chance for the members who've behaved ethically. You will see in some of the news reports that there are members who have spoken up against some of the graft and corruption we've seen at the tollway. I think those are indications that folks are potentially good actors. I don't want to, you know, speak entirely for the incoming administration. I would just say that we're going to look at this... look at everyone with fresh eyes."

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DeLuca: "Okay, well that's good, and one other question. We have a Tollway Oversight Committee here in the House, and some of these going on's... some of these activities that were taking place and the explanation as to why they were never brought before the committee for a hearing or review?"

Mitchell, C.: "Representative, I'd be speculating. I'm not a Member of that committee. I just don't know."

DeLuca: "Okay. Thank you very much."

Mitchell, C.: "Thank you, Representative."

Speaker Turner: "Chair recognizes Representative Batinick."

Batinick: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Turner: "Sponsor indicates that he will yield."

Batinick: "Representative, I intend on voting for your Bill. I have one question for you. Is the administration going to be as eager to wipe out boards in the future if corruption waste is exposed via the press or any other sort of way? Or is he going to focus on this tollway?"

Mitchell, C.: "Representative, I can't... I'd be... again, I'd be speculating. I would say that this is a particular example that's gotten particularly out of hand. And when something gets this bad, I would imagine that all of us, whether it's General Assembly or the Executive Branch, would want to look at it with fresh eyes. That's speculation but that's what I would say."

Batinick: "So, would... I guess I want to ask you another question, I apologize. With all due respect, you're going to be part of the administration?"

Mitchell, C.: "Sure."

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Batinick: "As Deputy Governor, would you like to see boards that have examples of corruption and waste in the press, that aren't covered, be expunged as quickly as we... are you guys going to be as eager about that as you are with this particular board?"

Mitchell, C.: "Again, Representative, it's going to be a case by case basis. I would say, again, this is a particular example that's gotten particularly bad that, by the way, to respond just slightly to the previous question, deals with rolling contracts let over the beginning of a construction season. Which is why what happens between January and May is actually incredibly important. When we have something that is this serious with billions of dollars in implications for toll payers that would be something we would have to consider. So, I can't speak to a specific example, Representative, unless you have one. But I just don't... I can't speak to that."

Batinick: "Okay. Well, to the Bill. Like I said, I'm going to support the Bill. I'm a little disappointed that we're not taking this as an opportunity as a new beginning that, yes, we are clearly... when there's waste, fraud, abuse, corruption, when something is clearly done wrong, that we aren't going to be comforted that we have an administration that's... going to want to do this on an ongoing basis. Thank you."

Speaker Turner: "Chair recognizes Representative Ammons."

Ammons: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Turner: "Sponsor indicates that he will yield."

Ammons: "Thank you. Representative, I just want to clarify. I was listening to the debate on this topic and wanted to clarify a couple of things. I've seen a lot in the news on the tollway

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and I have real issues with the tollway as an idea. But the question is, has there been any investigation, whatsoever, on some of the claims that have been put forward? Has the Attorney General been involved or any kind of complaints in that way?"

Mitchell, C.: "So, Representative, I can't answer that... I don't quite know. What I would say is the tollway... Toll Highway Authority has an Inspector General. They may very well be conducting an investigation. We wouldn't be privy to that at this point. I don't know."

Ammons: "And... in line with the same kind of question... and thank you for saying they had an Inspector General 'cause I didn't know that. Has there been any complaints, or have you looked at the complaint structure at all, from either people who use the tollway, meaning just regular citizens, or from those who served on the Board of the Tollway?"

Mitchell, C.: "Representative, I... that's beyond my expertise. I just... I don't know the answer to that question."

Ammons: "Okay. Thank you so much. To the Bill. Although this action does not, in my opinion, provide enough information as to why, I understand the logic that's been put forward by the Representative on this change. I would hope that this change also brings about real transparency for the Tollway, in general. I believe that the people of Illinois are being, literally, raked over the coals when it comes to the tollway and the tollway costs. Because we already pay for highway in our tax dollars that we submit to the State of Illinois, we should not have to pay, not only addition tolls, but the costs of missing a toll is outrageous and really should be taken up

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by the Illinois Tollway. And I hope that with this action, the Illinois Tollway, as it's reconstituted under the new Governor, will take seriously the costs that is being levied against the people of Illinois and people that travel generally in the of Illinois. And it should be re-evaluated and reduced as the cost are exorbitant along this line. So, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Mitchell to close."

Mitchell, C.: "Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for.. everyone for the debate. I will just say, again, this is not about just new kids on the block. This is not political. We are not changing the partisan make up of this board. It will remain as is. What we are saying is we want to make sure that this Toll Highway Authority, which affects billions of dollars every single year, and hundreds of thousands of folks who are driving through it, that it operate with integrity and transparency and in the best interest of the public. This Bill moves us in that direction by changing the board and replacing some of the ethics changes that they've taken away. It's a good Bill that deserves an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Turner: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 1298 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On a count of 100 voting in 'favor', 6 voting 'opposed', and 1 voting 'present', Senate Bill 1298, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. On page 3 of the Calendar, we have Senate Bill 3531. Please hold the

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Bill. Representative Severin, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Severin: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Turner: "Please proceed, Sir."

Severin: "This last Saturday, we also laid to rest the Mayor of Johnson City. He passed away on January 1. Mayor Jim Mitchell, he was a veteran of the United States Army, he was a Boy Scout Eagle, he was a great advocate of Southern Illinois, and served his... his town with great passion, and I just wanted to share those thoughts. And Southern Illinois loved the man, he loved Southern Illinois. And again, with Representative Slaughter putting to rest his father on Saturday, it was another day in Southern Illinois that we mourned the passing of Mayor Mitchell. So, at this time, I'd like to ask for a moment of silence please. Thank you."

Speaker Turner: "Body will take a moment of silence. Thank you. Thank you, Representative. Members on page 3 of the Calendar, we have Senate Bill 3531, offered by Representative Mitchell. Mr. Clerk, please read the Bill."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 3531, a Bill for an Act concerning State Government. This Bill was read a second time on a previous day. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendments #2 and #3 have been approved for consideration. Floor Amendment #2 is offered by Representative Greg Harris."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Mitchell."

Mitchell, C.: "I'd like to withdraw Floor Amendment #2 and move Floor Amendment #3."

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Speaker Turner: "Mr. Clerk, please withdraw Floor Amendment #2.
Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "Floor Amendment #3 is offered by Representative
Christian Mitchell and has been approved for consideration."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Mitchell on Floor Amendment #3."

Mitchell, C.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Amendment becomes the
Bill. I'd like to adopt it and debate it on Third Reading."

Speaker Turner: "Gentleman moves for the adoption of Floor
Amendment #3 to Senate Bill 3531. All in favor say 'aye'; all
opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes'
have it. And the Amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "No further Amendments. No Motions are filed."

Speaker Turner: "Third Reading. Mr. Clerk, please read Senate
Bill 3531."

Clerk Hollman: "Senate Bill 3531, a Bill for an Act concerning
State Government. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Mitchell."

Mitchell, C.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members of the Body. We
have had a difficult four years and we could argue, frankly,
we've actually had a difficult eight years. This isn't about
casting blame or aspersions, it's a shame that we find
ourselves in a very difficult place. A place where we have
much of Illinois government and much of Illinois to rebuild,
including the trust that we have with taxpayers. All of us in
this General Assembly pass a lot of legislation every single
year. We do it with the best of intentions and we do it
because we believe it's going to move the state forward. But
what so many of us also know, is that good policy fails on
its face for a lack of good implementation. And the only way

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you implement and faithfully execute the laws in the Executive Branch well, is by making sure that we have a talented team that can execute upon these laws. So, I'm just going to give a couple of examples of why we believe this is necessary. So, this Bill would be a 15 percent pay raise for delineated agency directors. It's about 27 agencies, about 49 folks for directors, for secretaries, and assistant directors or secretaries. And what this would do, would allow us to be competitive with other states and allow us to attract the talent we need to turn this state around. This is talent that we've struggled to get in previous administrations, Republican and Democrat. But if, for example, we care deeply about the bipartisan work we've done on criminal justice reform, we need to make sure that we have a Department of Corrections' Director who can help make sure that on a day to day basis we are doing the right things to make sure that those who don't need to be in prison are not there and those who need to stay are secure. If we believe in the integrity of our elections, in the integrity of our roads and our bridges and our dams and any just smart piece of equipment that uses a computer, then we recognize the cyber security threats of this new world are real and that we need someone in the Department of Innovation and Technology who is going to be able to protect those threats. We can't pay them the three or four hundred thousand dollars that Amazon or Google or Apple might, but what we can do is be competitive enough with surrounding states that someone can say, I want to take a chance on Illinois. If we are going to rebuild our roads and our bridges with the Capital Program, we need a Director

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of the Department of Transportation who is smart and talented and can help sell it and have innovative ideas. And to be competitive with places like New York and Connecticut and Maryland, we need to do this. So, that's what the Bill does. That's why we need the Bill. That's why the Governor-Elect and his administration want it. I am happy to answer any questions. I'm sure on which there will be many. And I would ask for an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Turner: "Leader Durkin is recognized."

Durkin: "Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Turner: "Sponsor indicates that he will yield."

Durkin: "Repre... Representative, there was a lot of chatter. We're talking how many agencies would be affected or the agency directors that would be affected by this?"

Mitchell, C.: "Thank... Thank you for your question, Leader. There are about 49 individuals, 27 departments."

Durkin: "This would apply also to assistant directors as well?"

Mitchell, C.: "Yes, Sir."

Durkin: "Do we have anything... anybody referred to as a deputy director in these agencies?"

Mitchell, C.: "So..."

Durkin: "I think they're used interchangeably but I just... for purposes of..."

Mitchell, C.: "So, I think... I think, for example, when I think of an assistant director, I could also think of it as a first deputy director, depending on the department. So, yes."

Durkin: "All right. And when was the last time... when was this... this 150 thousand, or this cap, in placed into law that we currently... that currently exist with these directors?"

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Mitchell, C.: "So, Representative, there has been... there has been no cost of living adjustment for these agency directors since 2009, and for many of them their... their pay was set at a state statute. I don't know the exact year."

Durkin: "My... I think I knew the answer. I think it's been about 10 years..."

Mitchell, C.: "I think that's right."

Durkin: "...since these salaries have been adjusted. Question. For new directors or assistant directors that will be brought in with this new administration, would they qualify under Tier I or Tier II for purposes of pension benefits?"

Mitchell, C.: "I believe the answer is Tier II, Leader."

Durkin: "If there is a director that will be employed by this Governor and is currently in the Tier I system, will they continue to participate as a Tier I beneficiary?"

Mitchell, C.: "If they... Representative, if they've previously been in Tier I, the answer is yes."

Durkin: "If there is an individual who previously has served in the General Assembly prior to 1994, would their pension... their retirement be based upon the... their last day salary or would be a combination of... or an average out of four years, I think that currently is under Tier I?"

Mitchell, C.: "Representative, I hate to make you do this. Could you... could you repeat that question? Just want to make sure we get it all?"

Durkin: "Certainly. If there is an individual who is a Tier I director, as I just asked, if they were... if a director... if they were currently in Tier I, and if that individual had served in the General Assembly prior to 1995, would their

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pension benefit be based on the average of the last four years or it would be based on their last day of salary... your last salary... last day of their salary?"

Mitchell, C.: "Give us one second, Leader."

Durkin: "Thank you."

Mitchell, C.: "The answer, Representative, is if they're Tier I, it would be four of the last eight years."

Durkin: "Okay. I think the question... maybe I'll be more specific. I think that some individuals might come in and they will receive their Tier I pension benefit... would be their based on their final salary. I'm not sure if I'm making it clear."

Mitchell, C.: "Yeah, Representative, I'm struggling a bit with what you're getting at. I think I might know. I'm not sure."

Durkin: "All right. Okay. Well, all right, I just wanted to make that clear for individuals here. To the Bill. Ten years is a long time, and I know that under the previous administration, I've heard that it is very difficult to find qualified and good talent to serve in these important positions within State Government. I've had a conversation with the Governor-Elect. I want the state to succeed. I want our agencies to succeed. And I believe we will have a new day in Springfield, and I told them that I would support this initiative. Most importantly, is that this is a sign of good faith that I am offering to this new administration, to work with them, him and also agency directors, to get off on a good foot. So, with that being said, I plan to support this Bill and I would ask my colleagues to support this as well. And as I said earlier, starting tomorrow, it will a new day in Springfield where I hope that we can continue cooperative measures working

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with the Minority Party on major issues. And as we are... as we wrap up today, you'll see that our support for the previous Bill, and also support we're going to be giving on this current Bill, is the first sign of good faith that we're prepared to work with the Democrat Majority and also this new administration coming in. Thank you."

Speaker Turner: "Members, we have many people seeking recognition on this... on this measure. Can we please take the private conversations to the rear of the chamber so that the debate can continue? Thank you very much. Representative Breen is recognized."

Breen: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Turner: "Sponsor indicates that he will yield."

Breen: "Representative, I just had a few questions about the way this particular measure was drafted. As I read it, the current salaries of all agency directors will immediately be bumped up 15 percent under your Bill. Is that correct?"

Mitchell, C.: "To be clear, Representative, it is for new terms. So, for terms beginning next year, after the effective date of the Bill."

Breen: "But then the... but the actual salary gets increased from wherever it is today, for every... and I'm assuming you're going to replace everybody or most of everybody, maybe a few. Hopefully, you'll keep Director Bellock, but I don't know. For those folks, they will increase 15 percent on day one. So, that's just an immediate 15 percent increase across the board, right?"

Mitchell, C.: "For the... for the agencies delineated, yes. The answer's correct."

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Breen: "Right, for all the 49 or so offices?"

Mitchell, C.: "Forty-nine people, twenty-seven departments."

Breen: "Now... help me out here now. Does the Governor... in your reading of your Bill, does the Governor still have the ability to adjust the salary down or up if they are still below the 85 percent threshold?"

Speaker Turner: "No, Representative. It's set by statute."

Breen: "Really? So, all of these salaries are, no matter whether we need the money to get the new person or not, everything's just going up 15 percent and we... the Governor doesn't have the ability to set a salary?"

Mitchell, C.: "It's 15 percent above the salary it was in 2018, which is Leader... as the Leader just pointed out, has been the same for 10 years."

Breen: "Okay, I just... I had seen the line before your Amendments in Section 5-300 said that if set by the Governor, these annual salaries may not exceed 85 percent of the Governor's annual salary."

Mitchell, C.: "That's historical, Representative. They used to be set by the Governor. We changed that and set them by statute."

Breen: "Fair enough. So, there's... there's not really then, with this... I just wanted, again, get that amendment there. Now, presuming... I mean this is likely going to pass today, then will it go to Governor Rauner to sign or to veto?"

Mitchell, C.: "Representative, I... I don't know the answer to that question. I'm trying to get the Bill passed. That's going to be a determination of the Legislature."

Breen: "Fair enough, but wouldn't you... wouldn't you agree that the Legislature ends tomorrow at noon. So, if the Bill doesn't

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get passed to the Governor, then it would die with the Legislature?"

Mitchell, C.: "Well I... look, Representative, it's a... it's first of all... we're getting a little bit ahead of ourselves. It's a Senate Bill. The Senate's going to determine, ultimately, what happens to it. We got to... our job is to pass it out of this chamber. Hopefully."

Breen: "I... I know that. I'm a little worried. We're passing a lot of Bills that apparently are not being intended for this Governor but maybe for the next one who doesn't actually take office until well after this General Assembly concludes and the officers of this General Assembly conclude their terms. So, I'm wondering what you are planning here? Is this intended to go to Governor Rauner or intended to go to Governor Pritzker?"

Mitchell, C.: "So again, this has to go to the Senate. It's a Senate Bill. What I would also say is with every Bill we pass, as you well know, Representative, being the Floor Leader, we have 30 days to transmit it. And that's up to the will of the General Assembly."

Breen: "We have 30 days to trans... well, we're required to transmit within 30 but the General Assembly concludes. And so, I... I'm also, I guess I... the reason I ask is I'm a little worried that you may be passing a Bill whose legality may come under question down the road. And so, we've passed a bunch of Bills whose legality may come under question down the road, and so I'm a little concerned about it. I'd imagine the current Governor would probably sign this Bill since I know there was some issues with salaries that were brought up under the

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current administration. So, I think other colleagues wanted to speak about it. I would just use that, maybe, as a word of... I don't know... caution, or I'd raise that for consideration by the administration. Thank you."

Speaker Turner: "With the number of Members seeking recognition, we will be moving to a two minute timer for debate going forward. Representative Fortner is recognized for two minutes."

Fortner: "Thank you, Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Turner: "Sponsor indicates that he will yield."

Fortner: "Representative, a couple more questions, a follow up to help clarify for everybody what's actually going on here. Up through 2009, these salaries were governed by increases set by the Compensation Review Board. Is that correct?"

Mitchell, C.: "Yes, Representative."

Fortner: "And in 2009, we froze that. We stopped that practice, which is why they have the same salary's that they did 10 years ago, correct?"

Mitchell, C.: "Correct, Representative."

Fortner: "I took the liberty of going through the inflation calculator and saying suppose they had continued to apply the CPI over the last 10 years. It turns out that that would be a 17.5 percent higher salary than what they've been getting. So, the 15 percent, from that perspective, is actually lower than what it would have been had we simply followed the inflationary adjustments that the Compensation Review Board would perhaps have taken. Is that reasonable?"

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Mitchell, C.: "I haven't done the math, Representative, but I generally find your math to be right. So, I'm going to assume that's probably correct."

Fortner: "And you've already mentioned that this only applies for those terms that begin after this year. There is another provision that provides for an increase on July 1, 2019 and years going forward and that would be governed by, again, the Federal Cost of Living that was established back in, I think, the 86th General Assembly."

Mitchell, C.: "Yes, Representative, that's correct."

Fortner: "So, there would be, potentially, another bump but, again, it would be governed by, essentially, the rules that were in place prior to 2009."

Mitchell, C.: "So, the answer to that question is yes, Representative. I would just note, for purposes... for information of this Body, every single year when we as Legislature reject our COLA increases, we're also rejecting them for agency directors. So, that same process remains an open option for this Body if..."

Turner: "Representative Fortner, please make your final remarks."

Fortner: "Yeah, I just wanted to make sure... one last point then along that line. And that is... it is potentially possible... so, this just effects those 49 positions. The 85 percent, as you pointed out, is historic and would no longer apply to these positions. So, if the Governor's salary were increased by a future General Assembly, these positions are actually still governed by the language in this Amendment and it would not be affected, should the Governor's salary be increased by a future General Assembly. Is that correct?"

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Mitchell, C.: "That's correct, Representative."

Fortner: "Thank you very much. I will be supporting your legislation."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Skillicorn is recognized for two minutes."

Skillicorn: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Turner: "Sponsor indicates that he will yield."

Skillicorn: "Great. Does this address any employees other than these 49 directors, Representative?"

Mitchell, C.: "No, it does not."

Skillicorn: "So, even though their director has... or these directors, their salaries will go up if this passes but other employees, other people, will not receive an increase. Is that correct?"

Mitchell, C.: "That's correct, Representative, because as you may well know, and this is a rough number, but like 92/95 percent of folks are covered by our ASCFME contract, so that can't be modified by statute."

Skillicorn: "Okay but, you know, 94/95 percent isn't everyone, right?"

Mitchell, C.: "Yes, Representative, I suppose that's correct."

Skillicorn: "Okay. What is your thoughts of income inequality?"

Mitchell, C.: "Excuse me?"

Skillicorn: "What is your opinion on income inequality?"

Mitchell, C.: "Objection? Relevance?"

Skillicorn: "I think it's very relevant because we're raising the salaries for department heads but... it sounds like people below that aren't getting the same consideration."

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Mitchell, C.: "Well, Representative, I appreciate your new found attention to income inequality. What I would say is this is about making sure that we have the proper leadership for the department to make sure that they can execute upon the mission. As we've seen over the last eight years, leadership matters. That's what this Bill speaks to, is our ability to be competitive in finding the right leaders for departments. The rest of... of folks, we'll consider on down the line, I would say."

Skillicorn: "To the Bill. You know, I think that there are some concerns here. You know, we... I look at... we might be able to agree on the quality of representation matters. We might be able to agree that value in position matters. But we do need to look at hard working state employees that matter too. But there's a bigger picture to this. Currently, COGFA revenue estimates are significantly lower than the budget that was passed. My own office... and I know people are chattering, can't hear this... my own legislative office has its phone turned off because the Comptroller can't pay the damn..."

Speaker Turner: "Members, please bring the noise level down in the chamber. Representative Skillicorn, please make your final remark."

Skillicorn: "Yes, it's... it's a consideration that Illinois cannot pay its bills. It's behind many, many months of bills, yet we're going to dole out raises for appointees. Thank you."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Ives is recognized for two minutes."

Ives: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Bill. When I showed up six years ago, I came down here to protect taxpayers. I came down

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here to work on good legislation. When I showed up, we had a \$100 billion in unfunded pension liability. Now, we have a \$134 billion in pension liability. Just last year, this Legislative Body, the majority of you, not me, passed the eighteenth unbalanced budget in a row. We have lied to everybody about everything in this chamber. We have lied about revenue streams. What are you going to do this year? Are you once again going to say that you're going to sell the Thompson Center for \$300 million and count that as revenue? We have a spending problem here. And as much as I want to work on good Legislation, and I came here to work on good legislation with you on a bipartisan way, and in some cases we were able to do something, I will tell you that just simply getting more money for your directors is not going to change a damn thing in this building. Not a darn thing. Nothing's going to change because you give them a 15 percent pay raise. You don't need directors being paid more. You need this Legislative Body passing legislation that makes a difference; on our pension debt; on our spending. So what if you spend more for Director of Education when we still have school districts that have their student population with under five percent, working and... doing work at grade level, and yet then saying that those same students are graduating. Over 70 percent of the students, passing them on. Just paying those folks 15 percent more will do nothing for childhood education. Nothing. What a farce. The highest paid... the one who really runs the Springfield... Springfield and the State of Illinois hasn't had a pay raise since 2009 either and he doesn't seem to be asking for one. Why? 'Cause everybody knows that the power rests..."

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Speaker Turner: "Representative Ives, please make your final remarks."

Ives: "So, if you think this is a cure-all for the State of Illinois, you're wrong. The cure-all sits right here and it rests in this Body. This Body needs to change its policy and the direction of this state, and you can do it. And it's not by just simply passing on higher salaries that taxpayers cannot afford."

Speaker Turner: "Chair recognizes Representative Butler for two minutes."

Butler: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question of the Sponsor."

Speaker Turner: "Sponsor will yield."

Butler: "Thank you. Representative, I just want to follow up on a couple of things we talked about earlier. But first of all, I'd like to ask... I'm looking at the current statute for the budget for this year and can you tell me why some directors salaries, and I hate to use the term are offshored into the Comptroller's Office instead of under the agency that they actually represent? So, by statute, they... their salaries are actually in the Comptroller's Office?"

Mitchell, C.: "Representative, I can speak to the offshoring issue generally, but I'm not quite sure I understand your exact question."

Butler: "This is like reverse offshoring, it looks like. Well... we can talk about that later."

Mitchell, C.: "Sorry, it's just... forgive me."

Butler: "It's certainly something that's unique, I think. The other thing is, where's... what is the pot of money that will pay for this in the Comptroller's Office?"

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Mitchell, C.: "Thank you for asking this question, Representative.

I should have this in my opening. So, the Comptroller has a line for the shortfalls in State Officer salaries. We have about \$1.6 million in it right now. So, this will not require a new appropriation."

Butler: "So, this is money that has been appropriated already?"

Mitchell, C.: "This has already been appropriated, Representative, and it would be, at tops, \$700 thousand and probably less than that."

Butler: "Okay, I just... I just want to follow up to get this on the record for the floor, things that I talked about yesterday. We have merit comp employees in the State of Illinois that have, basically, had a salary freeze since the Ryan administration, except with the... except with some... few exceptions, that have had a salary freeze since the Ryan administration. And I think these are the mid-level managers that do the day in and day out work a lot of times. We have it very hard, due to a lot of the rules and regulation we have in place through union contracts and some of the other things, for people to come in from the outside and get a job with the State of Illinois. If you're a mid-level person that wants to get into the State of Illinois at a mid-level similar position, it's very difficult to come in. I think we need to take a good, hard look at our hiring practices in the State of Illinois as our workforce ages and as we're going to continue to have problems moving forward. We need to really dive into this and find out. And I hope that the new administration will be committed to helping us look at this to find some of the answers on this when... when they get into

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office come later this month. This is a big issue for the state 'cause we're going to run into some real problems down the road hiring talent. I appreciate what you're trying to do. I understand we want talented people to come in. I'm going to begrudgingly support this Bill due to Leader Durkin's asking of us to support it, but I would hope we get assurance from the new administration that they're going to look this to make sure that we're having new people come in the door, talented people at a lower levels as well."

Mitchell, C.: "Well, thank... Representative, you raised this in Executive Committee yesterday and as I said there, I will take that feedback back. I think you've raised a legitimate issue. We want to do it the right way but I've think you've raised an issue that deserves consideration. We'd love to have your ideas."

Butler: "Thank you."

Speaker Turner: "Chair recognizes Representative Ammons for two minutes."

Ammons: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Turner: "Sponsor indicates that he will yield."

Ammons: "Thank you. Representative, have you received, from staff or from the Governor-Elects Office, an analysis of the salaries and where they all fall within the national ranges?"

Mitchell, C.: "So, not... not all of them, Representative. I can give you a couple examples if that would illustrative. So, right now, let's take Corrections, for example. We're at \$150 thousand. In California, that number is \$265 thousand. In Connecticut, its 167. Maryland, 159. Texas, 266. And in New York, about 190 thousand."

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Ammons: "In what percentile would we be on the national average, even if you looked at... California that's a huge, huge state."

Mitchell, C.: "Yeah, that would skew it. I don't know the answer to that question, Representative. We are... we are below average, especially sort of for our surrounding midwest states of comparable size but I couldn't speak to that national average."

Ammons: "I think... I think I have it, it's kind of small. And I think at their percentile, we're about 88.7 percent of the national average on salaries for the Department of Corrections. Would that sound about right to you?"

Mitchell, C.: "Given, for example as you pointed out, the outlier that are places like California, that's probably right. And if your sort of took them out, I'd imagine that disparity gets bigger. You're going to see that as well for Transportation, State Police, and General Services."

Ammons: "I think the only one that I actually found on the Council of State Governments' analysis for 2018... this is 2018's data. The only one I found that was significantly below the 80/90 percent was higher education. That was the only one that I actually found. Would higher education be included in this?"

Mitchell, C.: "That's a... no, that's a... Representative, that's a board so, no."

Ammons: "I'm sorry, I didn't hear that?"

Mitchell, C.: "Sorry, it's a Board of Higher Education, so that is not included in this Bill."

Ammons: "That's not included in this. Thank you so much. To the Bill. I just want to say that I will not be voting for this Bill and want to clarify why. At the end of this year, the

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last seconds of this 100th General Assembly, I would have liked to have seen us really work for those people who have less.."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Ammons, please make your final remarks."

Ammons: "Sure.. who don't make a living wage in the State of Illinois, currently. We are going to take an action that could be studied more deeply if we moved it into the 101st General Assembly. And so with that, I will not support this initiative. I wish you well with the incoming Governor, but we said to the people of Illinois that we would raise the minimum wage and I think that should be our number one objective, not salaries at 100 percent or 97 percent or even 87 percent of the national average on salary ranges. Thank you."

Speaker Turner: "Chair recognizes Representative Mazzochi for two minutes."

Mazzochi: "Thank you. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Turner: "Sponsor indicates that he will yield."

Mazzochi: "All right. What was the median income in Illinois in 2008 compared to today?"

Mitchell, C.: "I don't have it, Representative. I'm betting you do based on the question."

Mazzochi: "It's gone down. So, when our median household income has been decreasing, I really don't see a justification to start saying we're going to take our government employees and start giving them increases. Certainly not along the lines of 15 percent and certainly not when we've already passed legislation, more recently, that has frozen all of our other

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state and local government employees to 3 percent or less. Now, do we also know how many people the Governor-Elect has identified who have applied for those jobs who he hasn't been able to hire because of salary?"

Mitchell, C.: "So, let me just have one piece of pushback on your previous point and then I'll get to this, which is I'm betting we probably didn't adjust that for the fact that we had a rather large recession in 2008. So, everyone was sort of down from 2008 numbers. I'm not sure it's a fair comparison. To your second point. Representative, I'm involved on the personnel side, I don't want to sort of get into specifics. I'll give you examples though and I've highlighted them up front. When you look at places like Department of Corrections, large departments that require a specialized expertise, or Transportation, or Innovation and Technology, these are places where it's difficult to get people in for the salaries we currently offer when they can make more money in a New York, in a Pennsylvania, et cetera."

Mazzochi: "All right. Well... but the fact of the matter is is that... well, actually, let me ask you this. Did any of our public employees take salary decreases during the recession? No, they did not. Right?"

Mitchell, C.: "I... other than the Legislature, Representative, I don't know the answer to that question."

Mazzochi: "Right. So, here's another question. If, in fact, you're trying to attract particular people to particular positions, maybe you don't need to actually give them an additional salary increase. Why not simply ask for a particular pool of money that the Governor can use as a hiring bonus? And then

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that way that's not baked into their salary, it's not baked into a pension formula, so that the million dollars plus that you're asking for isn't going to get magnified exponentially over time as these people start moving into pension positions?"

Mitchell, C.: "Well, Representative, the..."

Speaker Turner: "Your two minutes has expired. Please make your final remark."

Mazzochi: "Thank you. I just want to say I took a pay cut to take this position, and it was certainly more than 15 percent. And we should be looking for people who are going to come to these jobs, who are actually going to be willing to do the work of the people of Illinois. I really don't think that... until the Governor can actually establish that there's particular positions he can't hire to from qualified applicants, we shouldn't be increasing government salaries."

Speaker Turner: "Members. Chair recognizes Representative David Harris for two minutes."

Harris, D.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. While I may have an opinion on this Bill, I anticipate having a conflict of interest and will not be voting on the measure. Thank you."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Mitchell to close."

Mitchell, C.: "Thank you for the lively debate, Members. I want to respond to a couple of specific points and then make one final closing comment. So, to the pool of money question that the previous Representative asked about before the general, the reason that we can't do it is because it would illegal in state statute. We literally can't do that, it would be

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contravening State Law. To the point that my esteemed colleague made about living wages, minimum wages, you're looking at an incoming administration and the Governor-Elect, J.B Pritzker and Julianna Stratton, Lieutenant Governor-Elect who have pledged that they are going to raise the standard of living for working families in the State of Illinois. That is going to be a priority on day one. But we also know this, good policy dies for lack of good implementation. And to have the proper implementation, we need the right directors to carry out the vision that this General Assembly sets, that the Governor-Elect sets, that the Lieutenant Governor-Elect is going to set for this state. We have a chance here. We have all the right things in the State of Illinois, from the best hospitals and universities, to some of the best small towns, to the jewel that is the City of Chicago, our rivers and our roads. We have everything we need to be competitive but what we also need is the right people implementing the right vision. This... this Bill will help us get the talent we need to rebuild Illinois. And this is not a partisan issue. We all... all of us want to see this win, which is why I want to especially thank Leader Durkin for his support and the support of some Members of his caucus. We are grateful that we are all not putting on our red and blue jerseys, but going out to fight for the team that is the State of Illinois. I would ask for you all to vote 'aye'."

Speaker Turner: "The question is, 'Shall Senate Bill 3531 pass?' All those in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the

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record. On account of 62... 68 voting in 'favor', 37 voting 'opposed', 2 voting 'present', Senate Bill 3531, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Members, on page 4 of the Calendar, under the Order of Concurrence, we have House Bill 2505. Representative Kelly Burke."

Burke, K.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. House Bill 2525 is concurring in the Senate Floor Amendment #2. It's a clean-up Bill from the AIM HIGH Scholarship Program that we passed this year and that the universities are implementing for the coming... the coming school year and it's a request of the universities and ISAC. As they work through the implementation of this program, they wanted a provision... that would account for monies that might be unclaimed for this current year just because they... it's a new program. They're not quite sure what the take up rate. It would allow the monies to be held by the universities for the exact same purpose in following years. It's... I know of no opposition and I'd appreciate an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Turner: "Chair recognizes Representative Breen for further discussion."

Breen: "Inquiry of the Chair. Mr. Speaker, I had my light on for a point of personal privilege to thank my legislative aide of 34 years..."

Speaker Turner: "We weren't going to take up points of personal privilege right now because we have other legislation that we're addressing."

Breen: "Will... will I be able to afterward?"

Speaker Turner: "Representative, we'll get to you."

Breen: "Thank you."

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Speaker Turner: "Representative Brady is recognized."

Brady: "Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Turner: "Sponsor indicates that she will yield."

Brady: "Representative, yesterday in committee I asked this question and I just want to put it on the record again and follow up with it. In particular, is the legislation... directs the excess funds, if you will, and the AIM HIGH Program, which many of us and yourself have worked on, solely for the purpose of carry over for grants to students? Is that correct?"

Burke, K.: "That's correct. That's all it can be used for."

Brady: "Okay. And so, there is no potential for a university to transfer funds from there, no possibility for a university down the road that we hear about, that these funds were switched and used for some type of operational expense or some other areas not intended for. Correct?"

Burke, K.: "That's correct. It's explicitly laid out in page seven of the legislation."

Brady: "Thank you very much."

Speaker Turner: "Chair recognizes Representative Ives."

Ives: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Bill and really to the issue. We need to do more in higher education about getting Illinoisans into Illinois schools. I've had a number of conversations, as I also have a high school senior at this point. And a number of his classmates, very high ACT scores, great GPAs, great overall record, did not get into our flagship school, University of Illinois. And it goes on and on. Many of those parents purchased College Illinois programs, hoping that they would have the money available for their kid to go and attend an Illinois school for which they

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have... were born and raised in Illinois and have to spent a lot of money in taxes here. Illinois continues to disappoint many of the residents in my district by not accepting them, by still having 20-50 percent higher tuition costs than its conference peers, by not allowing those same parents the ability to use College Illinois to its fullest extent. It's a problem and I think that it's something that this Legislative Body should take up and investigate fully. It's a land grant based institution. Its mission is to educate Illinois citizens. Its mission is not to take out an insurance policy in case its Chinese population, foreign Chinese population, drops. It's lost its way. It is rejecting very well qualified Illinoisans from the school. And this merit based scholarship... it's not all merit based by the way. It's not. And it's doing little to nothing to then educate Illinoisans when that is their mission as a land grant institution. So, I suggest that this Body take a very serious look at higher education, its overall costs, which are the problems. Just throwing more money at the system is not the answer. It's reducing the spending level so all Illinoisans can afford to attend college there. Thank you."

Speaker Turner: "Chair recognizes Representative David Harris."

Harris, D.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Question of the Sponsor."

Speaker Turner: "The Sponsor will yield."

Harris, D.: "Representative, I don't have the Bill front of me but just to double check. I look at the board, it talks about a debt limit exception. There's nothing in this Bill dealing with debt limit exceptions to the states debt load. Is that correct?"

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Burke, K.: "No, none at all."

Harris, D.: "Thank you very much."

Speaker Turner: "Chair recognizes Representative Hammond."

Hammond: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And to the Bill. This Bill is a perfect example of what we can achieve when we work collaboratively, not just on both sides of the aisle in this chamber, but both chambers. And we have heard from our universities, who are very excited about this program. But we have also heard from them that they would like to be able to take some precautionary measures and they have brought this to us as a suggestion that this, indeed, is a precautionary measure, so that we are able to fulfill the promise to our Illinois students that we have given to them. So, thank you, Representative Burke, and I look forward to supporting it."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Burke to close."

Burke, K.: "I ask for your 'aye' vote."

Speaker Turner: "The question is, 'Shall the House concur in Senate Amendment #2 to House Bill 2505?' This is final action. All those in favor signify by voting 'aye'; all opposed vote 'nay'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, please take the record. On this question, there are 104 voting 'aye', 2 voting 'nay', and 1 voting 'present'. And the House does concur with Senate Amendment #2 to House Bill 2505. And this Bill, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Mr. Clerk, House Resolution 1360, offered by Representative Greenwood."

Clerk Hollman: "House Resolution 1360. Be it

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RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we extend to State Senator James F. Clayborne Jr. our sincere appreciation for his dedicated service to the State of Illinois; and that we congratulate him on his well-earned retirement and extend best wishes to him and his family for continued success and happiness in the years to come."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Greenwood."

Greenwood: "I would just like to take a moment to recognize and acknowledge the service of Senator James F. Clayborne Jr., who has retired after 23 years of outstanding service to the State of Illinois and the 57th Senate District. On a personal note, I would like to express my gratitude and my support for his mentorship and his leadership over the years that I've known him. I wish him much success and happiness in his retirement. Thank you."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Davis is recognized."

Davis: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Resolution. I, too, want to extend my congratulations to Senator Clayborne on all of his efforts and his work. His work... particularly his work relative to supplier diversity. It's an issue that I have taken up here in the House as well a couple other Members here. But he has truly been the gold standard in trying to move the issues of supplier diversity for here in the State of Illinois. And I know sometimes this conversation makes some Members a little uncomfortable and I think the reality is that if we were all doing the right thing and really working to try to make sure that diverse businesses really had opportunities here in the state, then there would be no

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need for the legislation. But as long as we still have those challenges moving forward, you will always see me, in particular, trying to move those issues forward. I don't know if the new Senator, Senator Belt, is going to take up the supplier diversity issues in the Senate. But whoever that is, I'm looking forward to working with them to continue the legacy of Senator Clayborne, who ironically enough just also happens to be a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated, which I am a member of. So, that's always a good thing when we can acknowledge a fellow Nube. So, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for this time."

Speaker Turner: "Thank you, Representative, and thank you, Representative Greenwood. House Resolution 1360 was adopted on a previous day. Chair recognizes Representative Fortner. For what reason do you seek recognition?"

Fortner: "Thank you, Speaker. I want to speak to one of the Agreed Resolutions which is House Resolution 1367, which recognizes the passing of former State Representative Tom Johnson early in December. Thank you, Speaker. Back on December 3rd, Tom Johnson, who served 10 years as State Representative here in this Body, as well as 2 years later as a State Senator, lost his battle with cancer. And though I know Ginger Johnson, his wonderful wife, couldn't be here, so I expect the... another formal Resolution will come up in the 101st General Assembly. However, for myself and others who will not be in that General Assembly, who knew Tom Johnson, I wanted to make sure we had a chance to remember him. Tom Johnson was a tireless public servant. He had served in Vietnam, worked as a State Prosecutor and used his knowledge of the criminal process to

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really start many of the types of criminal reforms underway, even the 1990s, through a long service on the Prisoner Review Board. And even up until this last year, continued working on things to continue to improve our criminal justice system. But I also want to speak to Tom as a very close personal friend. Tom was my State Representative when I was first getting involved in local politics, and he had an amazing, ironic wit. He could always look at whatever was going on and had a way of putting it a way to bring a smile to ones face to say, yup, I get what you see and I get what's going on. And I was able to take that advice through all my years in local government as Alderman and as Mayor of West Chicago. And his guidance on many issues was very important to me and it is with great loss that I see his passing. I would ask for a moment of silence at the conclusion of remarks in memory of Tom Johnson."

Speaker Turner: "The Body will take a moment of silence. Thank you, Representative. Representative David Harris is recognized. For what reason do you seek recognition?"

Harris, D.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege, if I may?"

Speaker Turner: "Please proceed, Sir."

Harris, D.: "Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I know that we are getting ready to adjourn but if I can ask for your indulgence for just a moment. This will probably be my last opportunity to make remarks on this House Floor as a Member of the House and I'd like to do so as my colleague from Downers Grove did yesterday. I certainly want to thank all of the... all of the staff members, both in the House on the

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Democrat side, on the Republican side. It's been absolutely great to... to work with you. But let me leave you, if I can, with two thoughts. First of all, government is an honorable profession. It is an honorable profession and for the past number of years, we have been subjected to complaints that this process is corrupt or that we are corrupt. Ladies and Gentlemen, we are not corrupt and the process is not corrupt. Now, some folks may not like the fact that there are more people on that side of the aisle than are on this side of the aisle, and some might say, well that's due to gerrymandering. Well, you know, if gerrymandering were a disease, my Republican brethren in Wisconsin and Michigan and North Carolina and Texas would be afflicted with the same disease and they're not corrupt. We are not corrupt. Secondly, it's been said that Illinois is a failed state. My friends, Illinois is not a failed state. We have problems just like every state have problems and our problems may be bigger, perhaps, than other states for a number of reasons. But that doesn't make it any... us any different and it doesn't make us a failed state. Look, there is no magic wand, there is no silver bullet, there is no change of administration that is going to solve all of our problems in one fell swoop. But I am convinced... I am convinced that all of you in this chamber with our distinguished colleagues across the rotunda, working together in conjunction with the Governor, will take action to move Illinois forward in a positive way. There will be differences of opinion on many policy issues. However, finding reasonable compromise without sacrificing ones' principles, will serve our 12 million residents well. As I

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said at the start, government is a noble profession. I compliment each and every one of you. Your constituents have entrusted you with your vote in the General Assembly on their behalf. I simply want to close by saying it has been my genuine honor and privilege to serve with each and every one of you. Thank you very much. And by the way, don't forget to file your income taxes."

Speaker Turner: "Thank you, Representative Harris. Representative Davis, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Davis: "Mr. Speaker, couple of things. Let me start by saying with regard to Senate Bill 1298, had I been at my desk, I would've voted 'yes'. I'd let the record reflect that."

Speaker Turner: "Journal will reflect your request."

Davis: "Secondly, I want to thank Representative Harris for his comments and I think he echoes a sentiment that I often say when people talk about the way this state is, you know, the status of the state... that it... that that's just political rhetoric and that... that we are not what people characterize us to be, even though some Members of this Body even characterize us in that way as well. So, I appreciate his comments as well. And then lastly, if I may just take this brief liberty, as we are probably going to begin to acknowledge some of our Members who are not going to be returning for the 101st General Assembly, I want to take this opportunity to thank, in a very special way, one of my colleagues who, for me living in the South Suburbs, a gentleman who has been a stalwarth for the South Suburbs, wanting us and desiring of us to continue to be better in the South Suburbs and to do better in the South Suburbs and for

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us to grow in the South Suburbs in a way. It's often said, politically, that as a region, the South Suburbs...it is often said as a region, the South Suburbs, collectively, is the size of the City of San Francisco with somewhere in the neighborhood of about 750 thousand rhetoric... residents. So, we know that the South Suburbs plays a crucial part in the election of not only... not only county wide folks in our area but also statewide folks in our area, and they spend a lot of time campaigning there. One of the Gentleman, who is in this Body, that tries to hold those candidates to a very high standard of making sure that they acknowledge the South Suburbs and that they don't turn their back on us once they've been elected and that is our... our colleague, Ladies and Gentlemen, Representative Al Riley. And I just want to take this opportunity... and I just want to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge all of his hard work... and so that it's reflected in our record. And a gentleman, again, who values what we do in the in the South Suburbs. He has given us information. He has given us data. He has given us a blueprint that we can follow for the remainder of us who are here, who are representing the South Suburban communities, from the city limits into Will County, from Indiana west to Will County as well. We just want to say that we appreciate all of that work, Al. We appreciate everything that you've given us, that you... everything that you shared with us. I know, myself, I have learned some words that I didn't know existed in the dictionary as a result of Al Riley, like sine cornai, I believe I'm pronouncing it... still not pronouncing it right. Oh well. But, nevertheless, he's done that. You know, he's

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our... you know, our resident expert in a lot of areas here on this side of the aisle, as well as those experts on the other side of the aisle as well. But again, just as we depart from the 100th General Assembly, looking forward, Al should know that his life lessons that he given us, that he's shared with us, the things that he has told us and taught us will not be forgotten. And we will continue to try to uphold that very high standard as far as Legislators in the South Suburbs are concerned. And again, Al, we just want to say thank you and certainly good luck to you in whatever your next endeavor, and I know you won't be far from us even after today. So again, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for acknowledging my colleague from the South Suburbs, Representative Al Riley."

Speaker Turner: "Thank you, Representative. Representative Ammons for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Ammons: "Point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Turner: "Please proceed, Representative."

Ammons: "Thank you. I just want to echo Representative Davis' comments about our senior Member who's leaving us, Representative Riley. I'll just say that he was, indeed, considered the professor on this side of the aisle for us. And as a new Member coming in from Central Illinois, he was one of the first people that I called to help me walk through this process and he gave me a great education. I just want to also acknowledge, in his absence, our other senior Member, Mr. Lou Lang, who we all learned yesterday will be leaving us. I sat with him for my entire first term and learned how the engine works in the General Assembly and he will truly be missed, even though he won't be away. I want to send him

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congratulations for all of his years of service and to thank him. And finally, I want thank my seat mate, Ms. Wallace, Dr. Wallace, who's leaving us, who is a tireless advocate for children and families. She's my friend and I'm going to miss her. And we thank her for all of her service. Thank you Rockford for allowing her to come here and for us to walk on this path together. Thank you so much."

Speaker Turner: "Representative Keith Wheeler, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Wheeler, K.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Turner: "Please proceed, Sir."

Wheeler, K.: "Ladies and Gentlemen, it's with a heavy heart that we learn that former Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner passed away on December 28 after a wonderful life of service, which included a stint in the Peace Corps, 18 years of service at the City of Aurora, before spending almost 12 years as the Mayor of Illinois' second largest city. So, on behalf of Representatives Chapa LaVia and Kifowit, along with current Aurora Mayor Richard Irvin and all the people of Aurora, we mourn the loss of Mayor Tom Weisner and request and a moment of silence in his honor."

Speaker Turner: "Body shall take a moment of silence. Thank you, Members. Thank you, Representative Wheeler. Representative Breen, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Breen: "Point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Turner: "Please proceed, Sir."

Breen: "Thank you. I just want to put a thank you in the permanent record of the Illinois House for someone who richly deserves

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it. My Legislative Aide and District Director Lydia Kryrochenko who retired this past December 31. Lydia faithfully served the people of Illinois for over 34 years beginning with Representative Tom McCracken back in 1984, who then became Senator Tom McCracken. And then she worked for Senator Kirk Dillard for 18 years and when he concluded his service Lydia was good enough to allow me to have her serve as my Legislative Aide and District Director for these past four years. She was incredibly generous with her time and talent. She served as a mentor to other districts legislative aides. Godspeed in your retirement Lydia and thank you for giving so much to the people of DuPage County and of Illinois."

Speaker Turner: "Thank you, Representative. The Chair recognizes Speaker Madigan for a Motion."

Madigan: "Mr. Speaker, is there anything further to come before the House?"

Speaker Turner: "No, Sir."

Madigan: "So, the Chair is prepared to adjourn?"

Speaker Turner: "I'm being told that we have Agreed Resolutions."

Madigan: "Why don't you do those?"

Speaker Turner: "Mr. Clerk. Agreed Resolutions."

Clerk Hollman: "Agreed Resolutions. House Resolution 1362, offered by Representative Crespo. House Resolutions 1363, offered by Representative Riley. House Resolutions 1364, offered by Representative Riley. House Resolutions 1365, offered by Representative Riley. House Resolution 1366, offered by Representative Cavaletto. House Resolution 1367, offered by Representative Fortner."

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Speaker Turner: "Representative Feigenholtz moves that we adopt the Agreed Resolutions. All in favor say 'aye'; all opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Resolutions are adopted. Speaker Madigan."

Madigan: "Mr. Speaker, my plan is to offer the Adjournment Resolution but I'd like to offer some remarks before I do that, simply to thank all the Members of this term of the House of Representatives and of the Senate. We all know that over the last four years why all of us as Members of the Legislature have been involved in an epic struggle with the Executive Department. What happened, happened. No need to spend time today talking about blame or fault. What happened, happened. My point would be that in the end, at the end of the struggle, it was the Legislature on a bipartisan basis that took the action to solve the problem, get a budget adopted, provide the revenue to pay for the budget. That means that all of us, and all of you are entitled to a great deal of credit for participating in that process. You deserve credit for being here. You deserve credit for what you do day in and day out. But you know that from time to time the issues become more significant on one day than they were in a prior day or they may be in a future day and that's exactly what happened in that struggle between the Legislature and the Executive Department. And so to finish, let me thank and compliment Minority Leader Durkin for his fine work over the last two to four years. And in terms of the Resolution of the epic struggle, let's give credit and thanks to Representative David Harris and Representative Steve Andersson. Mr. Speaker,

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with no further ado, I move that the House do stand adjourned sine die."

Speaker Turner: "Speaker Madigan moves that the House adjourn sine die. All in favor say 'aye'; all opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the House adjourns sine die."