

STATE OF ILLINOIS
101st GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

1st Legislative Day

5/20/2020

Speaker Hoffman: "The First Special Session of the House will come to order. With leave of the Body, we will use the Quorum Roll Call from the regular Session as a Quorum Roll Call for the First Special Session. Is there leave? Leave is granted. Mr. Clerk, please read the Proclamation."

Clerk Hollman: "The Joint Proclamation.

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 5(b) of the Illinois Constitution empowers the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House to convene special sessions of the General Assembly;

WHEREAS, as the result of COVID-19 pandemic, a demonstrable emergency exists which requires immediate action by the General Assembly;

WHEREAS, the General Assembly, as a separate, co-equal branch of Illinois government, has a responsibility to continue the work of Illinois' citizens and address the urgent matters of the State;

WHEREAS, the General Assembly provides an essential government function to ensure the continuing operation of the government and to provide for or support the health, safety and welfare of the public;

WHEREAS, the General Assembly will take all reasonable precautions to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the members, staff, and public during the special session by following recommended COVID-19 safety guidelines issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health; and

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5(b) of the Illinois Constitution, and in conformity with the Special

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Session Act, 25 ILSC 15, A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND CALLED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Special Session shall convene beginning May 20, 2020 in Springfield, Illinois at a time established by the presiding officer. The House of Representatives shall convene at the Bank of Springfield Center, and the Senate shall convene at the State Capitol Building.

2. The purpose of the Special Session shall be solely to consider new or pending legislative measures in relation to:

- a. The COVID-19 pandemic or other disasters;
- b. The State budget and its implementation;
- c. Economic recovery, infrastructure projects, and funding thereof;
- d. The explanation, arguments for and against, and the form for constitutional amendments as required under the Illinois Constitutional Amendment Act;
- e. Laws or authority scheduled to be repealed prior to June 1, 2021;
- f. The 2020 General Election and the State Board of Elections; and
- g. The hospital assessment program.

3. The Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Clerk of the House shall take whatever reasonable steps necessary to notify the members of the purpose and the date and time set for convening this emergency Special Session. This was issued May 13, 2020 by Don Harmon, the President of the Senate, and Michael J. Madigan, the Speaker of the House."

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Speaker Hoffman: "Mr. Clerk, Introduction of Resolutions."

Clerk Hollman: "First Special Session House Resolution #1 and First Special Session House Resolution #2 are offered by Representative Harris."

Speaker Hoffman: "The Chair recognizes Representative Harris."

Harris: "Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. These Resolutions adopt the regular rules and regulations of the House for the purposes of this Special Session and I would appreciate your support."

Speaker Hoffman: "You heard the Gentleman's Motion. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Motion is adopted. Mr. Clerk, please read First Special Session House Resolutions #1 and 2."

Clerk Hollman: "First Special Session House Resolution #1.

RESOLVED, that the Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred First General Assembly be adopted as the Rules of this First Special Session, so far as the same may be applicable, and the Committees of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred First General Assembly, and their membership, shall constitute the Committees of the House during this First Special Session. First Special Session House Resolution #2.

RESOLVED, that the Clerk inform the Senate that a majority of the House of Representatives has assembled, pursuant to the Proclamation, convening a First Special Session of the General Assembly, and are now ready for the transaction of business."

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Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Harris moves for the adoption of the First Special Session Resolution 1 and Resolution 2. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all of those opposed 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Resolution is adopted. Representative Batinick, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Batinick: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was hoping maybe the Sponsor of the Resolution could give us a synopsis of the changes of the House Rules."

Harris: "Mr. Batinick, I think that's in a different Resolution."

Batinick: "Okay. I'll wait for that Resolution then."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Spain, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Spain: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The House Republicans request an immediate caucus."

Speaker Hoffman: "The House Republicans have requested an immediate caucus. They will meet in the northwest corner of the floor and they will tell you where to go for your caucus. Leader Willis, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Willis: "Point of personal privilege, please."

Speaker Hoffman: "Please state your point."

Willis: "I'd like to announce that the Democrats will also caucus at the same time, please."

Speaker Hoffman: "And the Democrats will remain here for the caucus. The House will stand at ease until the call of the Chair. The House will come to order. On Supplemental Calendar #1, under the Order of Resolutions, we have House Resolution

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846, which is offered by Representative Harris. Leader Harris."

Harris: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. House Resolution 846 is in response to the national emergency declared by President Trump and the natural... national... the state declaration of disaster declared by Governor Pritzker, which sets supplementary rules for the House of Representatives on how we are to conduct ourselves during declarations of emergencies and disasters. And it basically talks about the required safety precautions, as recommended by medical experts and epidemiologists, rules of conduct, social distancing, facial coverings, and other methods that are proven to improve the chances of not transmitting the COVID-19 virus. I'd be happy to answer any questions."

Speaker Hoffman: "For further discussion, Representative Batinick."

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

Speaker Hoffman: "He indicates he'll yield."

Batinick: "I hope I have my sea legs underneath me and I am speaking on the right Resolution at this time. Representative Harris, can you please just go over some of the simple items, changes that are being recommended? I mean, I think most of us are aware of what we're doing. It looks like you and I are aware of some of the changes, but if you could go over that, that'd be swell."

Harris: "Sure. And the... we've experienced... almost everyone in this room, I assume, has experienced the recommended changes

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as we came here during Session. As you can see, there is appropriate social distancing between the desks, to the recommended guidelines. As we came into the building, as we entered, you will see there was additional security. People did have to go through a magnetometer. There was a temperature check, the contactless temperature check as you came in. And also a requirement that unless there is a two-person consent, while on the House Floor... (audio malfunction) ...would be to stay at your table because you are kept socially distanced in appropriate fashion from others."

Batinick: "Okay. Those seem reasonable. Is there anything in the Resolution regarding foggy glasses while wearing a mask?"

Harris: "This is why I took my glasses off because I couldn't see otherwise."

Batinick: "Okay. Well, you usually don't want to see us Republicans anyway. All right, I urge an 'aye' vote. Thank you for your time, Representative."

Speaker Hoffman: "Further debate, Representative Bailey."

Bailey: "Can you hear me? There you are. May I speak to the Resolution?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Please do so."

Bailey: "Thank you very much. Friends, as a new Representative in January 2019 and willing to work with everyone here, as I believe I have been up to this point, to do the people's business, I asked for simple changes to the House Rules for the benefit of all of our citizens. Number one, I asked that any Bill receiving five Sponsors on either side... on both sides of the aisle would be granted a vote. Number two, I asked

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that any Bill considered for law be granted 24 hours public viewing, instead of the current one hour allowed. These requests were about transparency and accountability and they, of course, were ignored. A year and a half later, yesterday, I get a notice at 1:45 letting me know what time this meeting is today. Now, up for consideration to the House Rules is a requirement for everyone to wear face masks. Looking around this room, I see seats are spaced adequately at more than six feet apart. I want to thank everyone that worked so diligently to set this room up. I want to thank our Illinois State Police and all the medical personnel who are making this possible. But I cannot help but think what this cost the taxpayers to set up. We've heard this message before, that if you cannot be six feet apart, then wear you mask. We're more than six feet apart, and I'll do whatever I can to stay isolated over here away from everyone else. I stand as... I stand here before you today, as I did in 2019, on behalf of the people of Illinois who feel captive, burdened, and unheard and I share their message. Friends, enough is enough. You want to send me or anyone else out these doors today, I understand. Go right ahead. But know this, that if you do that, you're silencing millions of voices of people who have had enough. There's a new day coming in Illinois and, friends, it's coming soon. And I hope we can all work together to get there. This is the people's house and I implore you to consider that right now. Thank you very much."

Speaker Hoffman: "On the Resolution, Representative Demmer."

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

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Speaker Hoffman: "He indicates he will."

Demmer: "Representative Harris, I appreciate the explanation of this Resolution. I have a question about the procedure, not just for while we're in Session here on the House Floor where, obviously, for the public or witnesses, are not... they cannot participate typically. Can you talk a little bit about how that process would happen in a committee when, under typical circumstances, there would be a lot of people in a room but also people who would testify or answer questions from us?"

Harris: "Sure, and thank you for that question, Representative. Committees will be conducted... you know, when we meet in regular circumstances all of our committee meetings are livestreamed and televised on a variety of platforms. They will continue to be so now. For folks who want to come to this location, for instance, and watch, there are remote viewing areas just out... just beyond these walls over here where members of the public or lobbyist or other interested citizens can come and view on the live screen what's going on. As far as testimony to the committees, there is an option. Anyone who wants to submit testimony, if you go onto the ilga.gov Web site, you will see on both the House and the Senate pages in a couple different locations there are links that members of the public who wish to submit their comments can send in comments and testimony. And if you click that link, you'll see that there is already a growing list of people who have submitted testimony, for instance, for the Executive Committee tomorrow."

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Demmer: "Is there any provision that would allow, in Executive Committee, to, either in person or via video/audio link, call witnesses to testify or bring in... I mean... you know at these committees we have experts who come in, we have people who offer perspective. And sometimes, some of the best benefit comes from that interchange, that Q&A. Is there a provision that would allow that?"

Harris: "That would be at the discretion of the Chairman. And if there was a witness to come, they would have to go through many of the same procedures and protocols that we do here, as far as public health and safety."

Demmer: "Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Durkin."

Durkin: "Thank you. To the Resolution. And thank you for all those joining us today. I'm glad we're back at work. That is why we ran for office and I always said that we can work together. We can do it even under the most difficult conditions to be able to fulfill our obligations, do it in a safe, healthy manner, but also do what is necessary for the State of Illinois. That's what we have to do. These are, absolutely, the most challenging times that I've ever experienced and the most uncertain times that we've had to deal with in... under any time in my career. What we're going through right now is nothing less than historic, but I'm proud that we're back at work. I'm proud that all of us are here today. I want all of us to participate whether we agree or disagree on any issue that comes before us. But the realities of the world have forced us... have forced a sea change of epic proportions on

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how we are to conduct our lives, that cherished way of life that we take for granted. It's really.. it's breathtaking but it's also frightening at the same time. With that being said, we have an obligation to do our jobs, conduct our business. But I also know, equally as important, that we cannot ignore nor compromise the health and safety of every Member of the General Assembly, their family members, every one of our staffers who works tirelessly for us. We cannot compromise or even think about compromising their health and safety. And also, for the men and women who work, not only here in this convention center, but who are with us today as part of the staff that make sense of things for us. Basically, the bottom line is we have to put them before ourselves. I say this as the Republican Leader, as an Illinoisan, as a husband, but also, more importantly, as a father to a child that has an underlying health condition. I took the test last week. I was glad to do it. I passed. I exercise social distancing. I'm also going to go even further. After we complete our work this week, I'm going to self-quarantine so I will not even in the slightest bit have any exposure to my daughter. Particularly my daughter, but also my wife. And I'm asking everyone here to think about that. Think about not yourselves. Think about your families and your children. And we can do that. We can do that. And I think these rules make sense. They're difficult but these are difficult times. This is an historic moment, but at the end of the day, our greatest responsibility as elected officials is to protect our people, to ensure their health and safety will never be challenged

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nor compromised. So with that, I just want you to know that I will be supporting the rule and I'm encouraging all to support it as well."

Speaker Hoffman: "Thank you, Leader Durkin. Seeing no further discussion, Representative Harris moves for the adoption of House Resolution 846. All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed 'nay'. The voting is open. Will be a recorded roll call, Members. 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 Resolution, there are 97 voting 'favor', 12 voting 'no', and 0 voting 'present'. This Resolution, having received a Constitutional Majority, is hereby adopted. Representative Turner, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Turner: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm having technical difficulties with my computer over here. It won't allow me to vote or hit my speak button or anything. I'd like to be recorded as a 'yes' on the last Resolution."

Speaker Hoffman: "The record shall so reflect."

Turner: "Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Welch, for what reason do you seek recognition?"

Welch: "Mr. Speaker, point of personal privilege."

Speaker Hoffman: "Please state your point."

Welch: "I'd like to, first of all, thank the Members of the House, both Democrats and Republicans, for strongly voting in support of that last Resolution. Ninety-seven to twelve is a pretty strong show of bipartisan support. And not only did we

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do that for ourselves, but we did it for our families and for our staff, everyone who's here to do the work of the people. I also want to thank my friend, my colleague, and our Leader, Durkin, for the words that he just gave on the floor. But I'd like to take a moment, Mr. Speaker, if I can, 'cause I still see that there are some folks on the floor that do not have their masks on. I'd like to ask that those who are not in compliance with this rule that was passed, in a bipartisan way, that they now come into compliance with the Rules of the House. Can we take a moment for that?"

Speaker Hoffman: "The House will take a moment for compliance. Please, everyone. Representative Welch."

Welch: "Mr. Speaker, I see that one Member is not in compliance with the Rules of the House. And I'd like to ask Representative Bailey if he would come into compliance with the rules that have been passed, in a bipartisan manner, here this afternoon. Representative Bailey, will you comply with the House Rules?"

Bailey: "I will not. Thank you."

Welch: "Mr. Speaker, Representative Bailey has noted for the record that he does not intend to come into compliance with the House Rules. This is not something that I want to do. It is something that I must do to enforce the Rules of the House. So at this time, I make a Motion to remove Representative Bailey from the House Floor until such time he is willing to come into compliance with the House Rules."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Welch has made a Motion to remove Representative Bailey from the House Floor for noncompliance

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with the House Rules. Is there any discussion or debate?
Representative Caulkins."

Caulkins: "Is this on?"

Speaker Hoffman: "Yes, it is."

Caulkins: "Thank you. You know, I've lived 73 years. I've been through a lot of things, and this is probably one of the most... let me just... let me put it this way. Every person in this room is free of the COVID-19. We've all taken a test. There isn't one person in here that's been infected. This is the safest building, a public space, in the State of Illinois. We are social distancing. We're maintaining our space. And if someone chooses to exercise their right, I don't think that we should take punitive action against them. I think this is a mistake. I would ask that you withdraw your Motion. I think this sets... sets us up for a whole different environment. None of us are threatened. None of our families are here. I have no fear of any of you and I don't think any of you should have any fear of me. And so, I would request that you please withdraw your Motion. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Batinick."

Batinick: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Motion."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the Motion."

Batinick: "I'm as frustrated as everybody that we're wearing masks right now. I know everybody wants to see my cheery smile. But frankly, if it made everybody feel comfortable that I had to tap my head 10 times and rub my belly at the same time to make everybody feel comfortable about going about their business, I would do it because I'm about... you know, this is...

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for some this I symbolic, and I understand the symbolism of it, but I think there's more important things that we could be doing with our time right now. So, I just urge all of our Members to comply for the rest of the week and get on with the people's business. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Zalewski."

Zalewski: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Motion. I wrote about this yesterday. If you're not going to do it for your own personal volition, please do it for the staff that worked incredibly hard to stand up a temporary House chamber for three straight days of important work. We have first responders here. We have staff here that have staffed the building. We have our staff here. And none of us can guarantee that we're COVID negative over the course of the next three days. And none of us can guarantee that we're going to be safe when we leave out of here. So, if you're not going to do for yourself, if you're not going to do it for your colleagues, respectfully, as a matter of course, please do it for your staff and those that are working very hard to conduct the people's business. I support the Gentleman's Motion and I urge an 'aye' vote."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Brady, on the Motion."

Brady: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Just a point to make. To the earlier comment of one of my colleagues, this may be the safest building that there is because all the safety precautions we're taking. I think the purpose of the House-changed Rules is to ensure that, to keep this building that way. I don't think the people

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that sent us here to represent them today and all this turmoil that's going on, whatever side of the aisle we're on, whatever district you represent, that those people intended for us to focus our time on a mask showdown of whether you're wearing it or you're not. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, we hear it all the time, we're all in this together. So, let's be together. Let's show the people of Illinois we're here to get things moving and opened across this state. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Thank you, Representative. Representative Welch has moved for the removal of Representative Bailey from the House Floor. This is a recorded roll call. All in favor of the removal of Representative Bailey vote 'aye'; all opposed vote 'no'. 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 Motion, there are 81 voting 'yes', 27 voting 'no', and 1 voting 'present'. Representative Bailey will be removed from the House Floor. Doormen, please remove Representative Bailey. Further Motions? Representative Welch."

Welch: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Everyone else is in compliance here. Are there? I see masks on Representative Halbbrook and Representative Miller. Representative Halbbrook, let me ask a question before being presumptive here. Is it your intent to wear a mask here and be in compliance with the House Rules? There's a question on the floor."

Speaker Hoffman: "Please, Representative, if you're going to wear the mask, please put the mask on. Please."

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Welch: "Is it your intent to be in compliance with the House Rules? I have a question on the floor, Sir."

Speaker Hoffman: "Thank you, Representative."

Welch: "Thank you, Representative. Representative Miller, I see that you are wearing a mask. Thank you for doing that. Is it your intent to be in compliance with the House Rules here today and the remainder of the week? Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Hoffman: "No further Motions. On Supplemental Calendar #1, on the Order of House Bills-Second Reading, House Bill 64, Representative Harris. Please read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 64, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. This Bill was read a second time a previous day. No Committee Amendments. No Floor Amendments have been approved for consideration. And no Motions are filed."

Speaker Hoffman: "Third Reading. Read the Bill, Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "House Bill 64, a Bill for an Act making appropriations. Third Reading of this House Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Harris."

Harris: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. House Bill 64 is an appropriation shell Bill. There is an agreement between the House and the Senate to exchange shell Bills today for the purpose of appropriations and passing an FY21 budget, as well as FY20 supplemental and capital programs. So, you will note that there was an Amendment filed on this Bill last night. That Amendment is not being adopted. The Bill is being sent to the Senate as a shell Bill. The Senate will be sending us one and those will be used for the purpose of appropriations."

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Speaker Hoffman: "Representative Batinick."

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

Speaker Hoffman: "He indicates he'll yield."

Batinick: "Representative, certainly been cordial so far today.

I don't expect compliance on this particular Bill. Couple of quick questions. You said there was an agreement from the House and Senate to exchange. I assume you just mean there was an agreement between the House Dems and the Senate to exchange shell Bills because I do not know of anybody on my side that agreed to that."

Harris: "Then I think you are probably correct."

Batinick: "Okay. And the Amendment that was not adopted was about 2500 pages. Is that not correct?"

Harris: "2246."

Batinick: "That's... it's excellent that you're on the budget team, 2246. I guess the issue is, is sometime between now and Friday we are going to be voting on a budget that is 2246 pages that we haven't seen yet, haven't read yet, correct?"

Harris: "It has been out there since yesterday. It was posted online. Members of the public are seeing it and going through it. I know I've gotten several texts. And just to be clear of what that entails, it is FY20 supplemental to close out this year. It would be the... it would reflect a version of the FY21 budget and certain capital appropriations."

Batinick: "Right. So, are you saying that this Amendment that was not adopted is the final version that we can now start studying?"

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Harris: "I would suggest starting to study it because it is certainly a foundation on which things could be built."

Batinick: "Okay, so it's the foundation. And as we know, I have a lot of people that contact me. They say, oh, this is easy. When there's changes, you just get the redline version. Yet, I've never seen a redline version down here. I don't know if you have. But we're going to have to go through the... whatever changes are done, we're going to have to go through the whole process again. I guess, to the Bill."

Speaker Hoffman: "To the Bill."

Batinick: "I certainly urge a "no" vote. There... there was plenty of time before this week for us to have more bipartisan discussions and figure out exactly where we were on the budget. There is certainly ability to absorb this and potentially come back. So, I urge a 'no' vote. Thank you."

Speaker Hoffman: "Seeing no further Members seeking recognition, the question is, 'Shall House Bill 64 pass?' All in favor vote 'aye'; all opposed '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 Bill, there are 69 voting 'yes', 42 voting 'no'. And this, having received the Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Representative Spain."

Spain: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please let the record reflect that Representative Brad Stephens is excused for the rest of the day."

Speaker Hoffman: "The record will so reflect. Mr. Clerk."

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Clerk Hollman: "Introduction and First Reading of Senate Bills. Senate Bill 264, offered by Representative Harris, a Bill for an Act concerning appropriations. First Reading of this Senate Bill. The Rules Committee will meet immediately. The Rules Committee will meet immediately."

Speaker Hoffman: "The Clerk is in receipt of Motions in Writing to waive the posting requirements for several Bills. Is there leave... if there is leave, we will take these Motions together in one Motion. Is there leave? Leave is granted. Leader Harris on the Motion."

Harris: "Mr. Speaker, I move the posting requirements be waived so the following Bills can be heard in the Executive Committee. House Bill 5574, Senate Bill 264, Senate Bill 1805, Senate Bill 2099, Senate Bill 1530, Senate Bill 1864, Senate Bill 685, Senate Bill 1937, House Resolution 845, and Senate Bill 1827."

Speaker Hoffman: "Leader Harris has moved to waive the posting requirements on those Bills. All those in favor say 'aye'; all those opposed say 'nay'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the posting requirements are waived. The House is prepared to adjourn the First Special Session and proceed with regular Session. Representative Harris moves that the First Special Session be adjourned until Thursday, May 21, at 1 p.m. All those in favor signify by saying 'aye'; all those opposed by saying 'nay'. The 'ayes' have it. And the First Special Session is adjourned."