

STATE OF ILLINOIS
104th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
SENATE TRANSCRIPT

99th Legislative Day

5/6/2026

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HUNTER)

The regular Session of the 104th General Assembly will please come to order. Would the Members please be at their desk? Will our guests in the galleries please rise? The invocation today will be given by Pastor Nicole Cox, Willow Hill United Methodist Church, Germantown Hills, Illinois.

PASTOR NICOLE COX: (Invocation)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HUNTER)

Please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Senator Johnson, please lead us in the Pledge.

SENATOR JOHNSON: (Pledge of Allegiance)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HUNTER)

BlueRoomStream seeks leave to photograph, videotape the proceedings. Is there any objection? Seeing no objections, granted. Mr. Secretary, Reading and Approval of the Journal.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Journal of Tuesday, May 5th, 2026.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HUNTER)

Senator Glowiak Hilton.

SENATOR GLOWIAK HILTON:

Madam President, I move to postpone the reading and approval of the Journal just read by the Secretary, pending arrival of the printed transcripts.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HUNTER)

Senator Glowiak Hilton moves to postpone the reading and approval of the Journal, pending arrival of the printed transcript. There being no objection, so ordered. Mr. Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution 769, offered by Senator Murphy and all

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Members. And Senate Resolution 773, offered by Senator Fowler and all Members. They are both celebration of life resolutions, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HUNTER)

Resolutions Consent Calendar.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution 770 and 771, offered by Senator Faraci. Senate -- they are both congratulatory. Senate Resolution 768, offered by Senator Fine. And Senate Resolution 772,{sic} (Congratulatory) offered by Senator Villa. They are both substantive.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HUNTER)

Mr. Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senator Cervantes, Chair of the Committee on Criminal Law, reports - Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 3506 Recommend Do Adopt. House Bills 1810, 4394, 43 -- 4639, 4676, 5021, 5310, and 5489 Do Pass. Senator Loughran Cappel, Chair of the Committee on Education, reports - Senate Joint Resolution 50 Be Adopted, and House Bill 1783, 3250, 4397, 4577, 4581, 4788, 4795, 4862, 5099, 5321 Do Pass; House Bills 3408 and 5552 Do Pass, as Amended; and Senate Amendment 1 to House Bill 5364 Recommend Do Adopt. Senator Simmons, Chair of the Committee on Public Health, reports - House Bills 4477, 4982, 5193, and 5494 Do Pass. Senator Villa, Chair of the Committee on Health and Human Services, reports - Senate Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 3798 Recommend Do Adopt. House Bills 2539, 3392, 4284, 4509, 4517, 4612, and 5446 Do Pass. And House Bills 4757 and 4868 Do Pass, as Amended. Senator Villivalam, Chair of the Committee on Transportation, reports - Senate Amendment 5

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to Senate Bill 3208 Recommend Do Adopt; House Bills 4385, 4442, 4472, and 5281 Do Pass. Senator Peters, Chair of the Committee on Labor, reports - House Bill 13 -- House Bills 1353, 4361, and 4491 Do Pass. Senator Collins, Chair of the Committee on Child Welfare, reports - House Bills 2190 and 4242 Do Pass. Senator Morrison, Chair of the Committee on Insurance, reports - House Bills 3454, 4203, and 5001 Do Pass; and House Bill 4373 Do Pass, as Amended. Senator Edly-Allen, Chair of the Committee on Higher Education, reports - House Bills 4979 and 5460 Do Pass; and House Bill 4990 Do Pass, as Amended. Senator Martwick, Chair of the Committee on Pensions, reports - Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 638, Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 2826, and Senate Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 3404 Recommend Do Adopt; House Bill 2270 Do Pass; and House Bill 4909 Do Pass, as amended. Senator Fine, Chair of the Committee on Behavioral and Mental Health, reports - House Bills 4584 and 4714 Do Pass. And Senator Porfirio, Chair of the Committee on Veterans Affairs, reports - Senate Joint Resolution 56 Be Adopted. PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HUNTER)

Mr. Secretary, Introduction and Reading in -- of the Senate Bills for the first time.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 4197, offered by Senator Porfirio, an Act concerning criminal law. Senate Bill 4198, offered by Senator -- Senator Joyce, an Act concerning appropriations. 1st Reading of the bills.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HUNTER)

ABC7 seeks leave to photograph, video the proceedings. There -- is there any objections? Seeing no objections, leave is granted. Is it -- Senator Koehler, in the Chair.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Hunter, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR HUNTER:

For the purpose of an introduction.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Please state your introduction.

SENATOR HUNTER:

We have on the balcony today, a group of wonderful sisters that we call the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Sisters Statewide, and they're down in Springfield, today, for our annual Advocacy Day at the Capitol. And I'd like to give a warm welcome, for all of my sorority sisters who took time out of their busy schedules to come down to Springfield to be with us, here today. Ladies, will you please stand.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Please rise, and let's welcome our guests to the Springfield. Senator Hunter.

SENATOR HUNTER:

And, in addition to, my sorority sisters being here, you know, there is no organization, nor does any organizations function without leadership. And so, I have with me today, three beautiful women who leads Statewide -- on a Statewide level, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and it's none other than Miss Peggy Lewis LeCompte, she's the former central region director, Sonya Bo -- Bomen -- Bowen, former central regional director, and Sherri Hale, Illinois State Coordinator for the AKA Day at the Capitol. Let's welcome them to the Senate.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Welcome to the Senate. Leader Lightford, for what purpose do

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you seek recognition?

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I also rise to welcome the Ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha to the General Assembly as one of their "D9 (Divine Nine) Sisters" of Delta Sigma Theta. I just wanna let you all know that we see you in the community, we know the differences that you're making, we appreciate your level of advocacy, and we're proud to join you in sisterhood. Have an amazing day.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Villanueva, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR VILLANUEVA:

The purpose of an announcement, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Please state your announcement.

SENATOR VILLANUEVA:

Mr. President, today I stand to acknowledge the up -- up -- coming close of a trailblazing era of Latino leadership, for both the State and the nation. With me here today is someone who is no stranger to this Chamber, because once a Senator, always a Senator. My Congressman, Jesús "Chuy" García. Chuy, who announced his intent to retire from Congress earlier this year and will be ending his -- his term in January 2027. Is basically preparing to end a forty-year-long chapter filled with public service, advocacy, and unwavering commitment to the betterment of all people, especially the people often overlooked and overshadowed. Over the last four decades, Chuy has served Illinois communities with authentic representation and leadership, especially the communities I

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represent today. In 1986, he became the first Mexican American Alderperson of Little Village, our neighborhood back at home, where he commissioned our iconic Little Village Arch Landmark. He helped strengthen progressive City governance during Chicago City Council wars, championing immigrant rights and access to City services and so many other wins, but he didn't stop there. He brought his fight down here to Springfield, becoming the first Mexican American to serve in this Chamber. From passing high-impact legislation such as the Language Assistance Services Act in 1993, and measures to protect the welfare and safety of immigrant workers, to advocating for immigrant and Latino representation, equity for Chicago schools, and transit, and infrastructure for working-class communities, Chuy embodied being a progressive voice not only for all Latinos, but for all Illinoisans. After over thirty years of advocacy and representation at the local and State levels, because he was also a County Commissioner. He ran for United States Congress in the Illinois 4th Congressional District, winning his election in November of 2018 and being sworn into the office on January 3rd, 2019, becoming the first Mexican American from the Midwest to serve in Congress. I was there; it was a great time, and bringing a mariachi to the halls of Congress was probably one of the most amazing experiences I've ever had. I often refer to Chuy, as the Man, the Myth, the Legend, and I know he's blushing as I'm saying this, but most importantly, he's a mentor and a friend. He's a shining example of our neighborhood, of our Little Village, and the people we represent - resilient, relentless, and full of life. His legacy and leadership reshaped the future for Latinos, acknowledging that our communities are not a chip that should be bargained for -- for -- with -- bargained with for

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political gain, but instead are a foundation for the change across America. From grassroots empowerment to coalition building and eventually congressional representation, Chuy has truly embodied the promise of America and made this nation better for all who call it home. I am fully prepared to get a barrage of text messages and phone calls from him about the goings-on in Springfield and how I'm obviously not doing my job well enough, or too well -- starting next January and maybe talking about tomatoes and gardening, and also a million and one other things, I know you're gonna do that. But I want to say this from my heart, I would not be in this Chamber were it not for him, both as a Latina that represents the Southwest Side of the City of Chicago, but also a little girl from Little Village who saw herself in a movement and who got to meet somebody at a very early age and who is a family friend. To be able to say that I represent my family, my neighbors, my communities, the people that I love, I do it with all the love in the heart -- in the world, in my heart, because I had a shining example of how public service, community service, of what it means to be a legislator. All I -- I got all of that from Chuy. And so, I'd like everyone to join me in congratulating Congressman Garcia on his retirement, his upcoming retirement from public service, and thanking him for his forty yearlong commitment to the people of the State of Illinois. Thank you, Chuy.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Welcome to the Illinois Senate. Senator Villa, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR VILLA:

Hello. Hello. Thank you. Okay, thank you, Mr. President, for an announcement.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Please state your announcement.

SENATOR VILLA:

A continued announcement. So, unas palabras para el congresista. Un millón de abrazos no serían lo suficiente para demostrarle el respeto, admiración y cariño que tengo en mi corazón por su compromiso a el pueblo, y más que eso, su compromiso como hombre de familia. Chuy, of course, I was emotional when I heard the news of your retirement, but I am so incredibly thankful for the way that you have led throughout these years. Your path and footsteps haven't just opened doors for families; you have literally broken-down doors to get others into the rooms where decisions happen. Not only are you an amazing father and husband and grandfather, but you've been a mentor to so many of us. I wish you so much happiness, so much peace. I will be praying that the Virgen de Guadalupe will continue to bless you in all of your personal endeavors, and I know that you will continue to accomplish so much in the future. Please send our respects and gratitude to your wife, to your grandchildren, and to your familia for all of these years. Gracias, paisano, and I can't wait to continue to see you a million more times to keep giving you those hugs that you've deserved. Thank you, amigo.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Guzmán, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR GUZMÁN:

Thank you, Mr. President. I rise for the point of continued introduction.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Continue.

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SENATOR GUZMÁN:

Thank you. I also want to extend my congratulations to Congressman Chuy Garcia on a legacy that has been rooted in courage, in politics that brings all of us in, and a deep love for our communities. For many of us, Chuy, you have helped show us what it means to build power from the neighborhood up with immigrant families, with working people, and with the Southwest and the Northwest, because we thank you for your work in the Northwest as well. Your leadership has opened doors, has helped generations of organizers and leaders like me and so many here, that you help remind that public service should always stay connected to the people. I'm wishing you the best for you and your family, wishing you peace and health, and thank you so much for your legacy and for your love and care for us all.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Leader Lightford, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Speak to the announcement, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Please continue.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I had the blessed opportunity to serve with then Senator -- Senator Chuy Garcia, and it was at a time when I was just as young, or actually younger, than Celina. I had arrived here in the legislature, and I served in Veto Session and Lame Duck Session of '98 and '99. And what I recognized immediately about Chuy was the fire, in his belly, for his community. It was the soul that you saw, and he and Miguel DelValle were the only two Latino Senators

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at that time, and as a Black Caucus Member, we worked together in unity, we worked together in unity. And when Chuy left the legislature we continued his work, we continued to support Senator DelValle. Then, the map changed, and that's when Senator Martinez arrived and -- as the first woman, Mexican American, and then more Senators to follow. And then Delgado came over from the House and, you know, we just were one big happily family, and then a Latino caucus was created. But Chuy, I want you to know that all the things that you said and did came to fruition because of the presence that you left, the yearning to get it done for your people. You left a staple here in the Illinois Senate, and you carried that staple to the commissioners seat and then on to federal government. You leave a mark on three levels of government. And I want the Body to know that's what government is for, is to help our communities to feel proud in doing so and doing it in unity. And I think the only other Senator still serving here that served with you, Chuy, was Dave Syverson. And I don't see Syverson on the Floor, but he probably never voted for anything we needed anyway, so, we're not missing Syverson now. But I want to just tell you God bless you, thank you for a life of service, and I -- and we wish you, and I do, a happy retirement. God bless you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Aquino, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR AQUINO:

Point of Personal Privilege.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Please state your point.

SENATOR AQUINO:

Yeah. I wanna continue on the accolades of -- of Chuy Garcia.

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It is -- he may not be retiring from this Body, but he was, as we say, "Once a Senator, always a Senator," and so we're giving him his -- his flowers now here on the Senate Floor. There's, there's so many things that have already been said, and I don't want to repeat things, and I want to give some context of today and this week. We all celebrate Cinco de Mayo, and we think about Latino Unity Day, and for some of us, even as staffers on both sides, and -- and -- and Members come up to Latino caucus Members like, "Hey, are you guys having your party?" And we get really excited to, about that, but that festivity started out, at least it was told to me, by a gentleman like, Chuy and others, that there was a few Latinos, not many, but even then, in that small Latino caucus, -- a caucus of maybe collectively six, House and Senate, there was, there was not a whole lot of unity sometimes. There was different opinions of policy and politics -- in our community, and that happens. It's just, it happens. However, they knew that there was a need to be unified at times, and so they decide to say, "Hey, we're here together, we should celebrate together and utilize Cinco de Mayo as something to celebrate something together." And so how they did it was they had a cookout; you can't argue, it's bipartisan, and it's even, even on our side. It -- you cannot say no to a good carne asada and a cerveza on a good hot day in Springfield. And so, that's what they did. They got together in a lot, had a cookout, and started inviting others. That was about thirty-something years ago, and it's transitioned to a great party that we all like, and we will go tonight, and we'll have a very nice time. But it's to talk about that legacy, though, of that gentleman right there, of the impact that he had on this Chamber and in this Body that continues, that -- that legacy that will

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continue on because of the great Members of Celina Villanueva, of Karina Villa, Graciela Guzmán, and so, so many others. Javier, I see you back there as well, and other Members that are in the House, in that other Body, the lower Chamber, but are there because of the inspiration of Chuy Garcia. My last story is this - I ran for something before I got here, and Chuy did not endorse me. He did not, it was fine. The moment that I got that call, or that I, I found out that he was endorsing someone else, it was the moment that I knew that I wasn't going to win that race, and I thank him because that was not, in the stars, for me. A few months later, less than a year, I decided to run for Senate. And one of my first meetings was with then Commissioner Garcia. He didn't have to take that meeting, but he did, and I was going ask him again, second shot, for support for -- for this race for the Senate. And Chuy, I don't know if you remember this, but not only did he eventually support me, but the first thing he said, and he is a -- he is a giant in the Latino community in politics, he did a "Mea culpa." He -- he apologized to a young kid who was just running, wanting to -- to run for and -- and support and -- and -- and -- and speak up for his community, and he said, "Hey, I didn't support you in the last one, it was politics. But I do and -- and I want to support you on this one, and I'm going to help you." And we -- and I totally respected that, and I said I understood, but the fact that someone who I idolized and saw him do so much work and was so happy to then receive that endorsement after not receiving one before. The fact that his first thing was to -- to say, "I'm sorry," when he, he didn't have -- he didn't even have to take a meeting with me, just shows the character of the man that he is. I will close with this, Chuy, I -- I thank you, but I thank your

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wife, Evelyn. I thank your family. I thank you for all the sacrifices that many people in this Body won't know, of those decades that you have committed to your community, not only on the Southwest Side -- not only the South Side, not only in Chicago and Illinois, but nationally. You are that giant that we stand on your shoulders, and of your family's, and of Evelyn. So, to you, to her, to your entire family, gracias -- gracias. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Hunter, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR HUNTER:

Point of Personal Privilege, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Please state your point.

SENATOR HUNTER:

I've known Chuy Garcia since 1983, when we first met during Harold Washington's election. We worked together on a regular basis; we planned, we strategized, we worked on getting out the vote, and Chuy and I kept our friendship -- up until today. We still call each other; we ask each other for advice. You know, I know his family members; he knows some of mine. And just, and -- and so -- so Chuy, I just want to say thank you very much for everything that you've done. You sacrificed a tremendous amount. Your family has sacrificed, as well, to make sure that you stayed in office and that you looked out for the best interests of the people. And so, I just want to say thank you, Chuy. It's been a wonderful pleasure to know you, and I don't know what your next steps are going to be, but I don't see you sitting at home. So, I know you're going to be out here in the streets with us and -- and -- and working on a number of other issues. And so, God bless you,

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take care of yourself, and I'll see you later. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Sally Turner, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR SALLY TURNER:

A message of a -- resolution.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Please state your resolution.

SENATOR SALLY TURNER:

Thank you, Mr. -- President. I'm honored today to bring Senate Resolution 664 to recognize Governor Jim Edgar, our 38th governor of our great state. Today we're privileged and blessed to have with us in the gallery our First Lady of Illinois, Mrs. Brenda Edgar: the Honorable Ray LaHood, who's now distinguished Executive Director of Edgar Fellows, and his wife Kathy and grandson McKay; Executive Director of the Edgar Fellows, Wendy Butler; and the former Chief of Staff of Brenda Edgar, Tom Faulkner. It is my distinct honor to read the resolution, and I'm happy to receive comments from our fellow Senators after reading and honoring Governor Edgar and his devotion to Illinois. Whereas, it's fitting that the Members of the Illinois Senate recognize...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator, Senator, can we -- can we do the resolution when would do resolution, and introduce your guests at this point, and we'll come back to the resolution? If it's all right. So, will the guests that she just mentioned please rise - Ray LaHood, Kathy LaHood. Senator Fine, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR FINE:

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For an announcement, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Please state your announcement.

SENATOR FINE:

I actually have two announcements, so I'll start with number one; I would like to introduce the Body to my Page for the Day, her name is Iris Hopmann. I'm very excited to have her today; she is a constituent from Wilmette, she's fourteen years old, and next year will be attending Woodlands Academy. In her academics, she loves history, and one day we are going to see a budding lawyer. She has ambitions to go to law school, and my guess is one day she'll be sitting in the seat on the Floor instead of me. In her spare time, she loves theater, she likes to swim, and she loves debate. She has two sisters, one older and one younger, and I am just thrilled to have her today and have her experience life in Springfield. So, please give a warm welcome to Iris.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Welcome to the Illinois Senate.

SENATOR FINE:

My second announcement. I would be remiss if I did not recognize a woman on this Floor who greets everyone with a smile, who is keeping us in order and making everything - runs like a clock, and it was her birthday yesterday. So, to Brittany Hawker, happy, happy birthday and many, many more.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Happy... Senator Simmons, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Thank you, Mr. President, for purposes of an introduction.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Please state your introduction.

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Thank you so much, Mr. President. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I just wanted to take a minute to introduce a personal friend who's in the gallery, Marcel Marsh, who is a -- a dear friend of mine, but he's also a Chicago firefighter, and we've got Chicago firefighters here with Local 2. I just wanted to say that I have so much respect for what all of our public safety officers do to keep us safe, but especially our firefighters, when we think about how elemental it is that we live in safe, secure housing. They risk their lives every day. My friend and buddy, Marcel, I love you for risking your life every day for all of us to be safe. Ladies and Gentlemen, will you join me in welcoming the Chicago firefighters to the Illinois Senate?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Welcome to the Illinois Senate. Senator Castro, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR CASTRO:

Purpose of an introduction, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Please state your introduction.

SENATOR CASTRO:

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Chamber, I'd like to introduce my Pages for a Day, who are actually some of my dearest friends' son and daughter, Amelie Bernal and Benjamin Bernal. So, this is their first time to the Capitol, and they're enjoying themselves very much just seeing government run, so give them a great Springfield welcome.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Welcome to the Illinois Senate. Senator Sims, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR SIMS:

Thank you, Mr. President. I heard a little bit from the peanut gallery, but I have a for -- for a point of -- or introduction. This is one, this is one of those special days for me. It gives me the opportunity to recognize some very important people. First, let me -- many of you have met her and seen her before, she is here in another capacity now. So, she -- my, that is my daughter. My daughter, Kennedy, is here, with the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha. She is also joined by two of her sorority sisters from Beta Chapter, who are also here in the gallery with us, if they could rise and be recognized. And I -- it -- Mr., Mr. President, again, this one gives me great pleasure, because to, to be able to stand here and recognize and introduce several of the men, the men of Alpha Phi Alpha who are here in the gallery, who b- been trailblazers for years. We, we are also joined by the leadership of the District of Illinois and the Midwestern Region of Alpha Phi Alpha, starting with brother, Brother Quincy Banks, who is the Midwestern Region Executive Director. We have Brother Dr. Leonard McKinnis, who is the exec -- the -- the Illinois District Director, who is our State President. Our regional chaplain, Dr. El -- Dr. El Bernard Jakes. Seth Wilson, who is the Illinois -- the Illinois District Senior Advisor, and Brother Prentice Butler, who is our Alpha Legislative Chair. Would the Member of -- Members of the Illinois Senate please -- please give our -- give the men of Alpha Phi Alpha and our leadership some warm -- a warm round of applause and welcome.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Welcome to the Illinois Senate. Senator Plummer, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR PLUMMER:

Thank you. Point of introduction, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Please state your introduction.

SENATOR PLUMMER:

I'd like to introduce to the Body two -- two special guests today, Grant Peterson and his son, Ben Peterson. They're actually constituents of Senator McClure's, but Grant manages the RP Lumber in Carlinville, and so I've got a -- a -- a good relationship with Grant. And Ben is here because he's fascinated by government, wants to learn more about how government works. We've had some great conversation; I'm wildly impressed with his knowledge of existing legislation that we're working on and how the process works. In fact, Senator McClure came down here earlier and tried to trick Ben with some of his history questions, and I stood here as Ben aced every single question that Senator McClure asked him. So, I'd just like to introduce Grant and Ben to the Body. Ben is looking forward to growing up, getting more involved in -- in the governmental process. His -- his two favorite Presidents were Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon, and he believes the two best Presidents were George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. He -- he's a -- he's a fount of knowledge, and it's truly an honor to, to have them up here today. Back home at school, he plays basketball and football, and I -- I will say, I know, with firsthand knowledge, Grant's just doing a phenomenal job operating a lumberyard in Macoupin County, Illinois, that provides a lot of

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services and a lot of products to the communities that we all serve. So, with that being said, I'd like the Body to please welcome Ben and Grant to Springfield.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Welcome to the Illinois Senate. Senator Sims.

SENATOR SIMS:

Mr. President, I -- I was remiss and I -- forgive me -- we -- I did not introduce one other member of -- of Alpha Kappa Alpha who has joined us, that's Cleopatra Cowley, who is also with us.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Welcome to the Illinois Senate.

SENATOR SIMS:

Cleopatra, who hopes to join us in the lower Chamber, here, she is -- she's with us here to see how -- how real work gets done here in, under the Dome.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Welcome to the Illinois Senate. Senator Balkema, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR BALKEMA:

For an announcement.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Please state your announcement.

SENATOR BALKEMA:

I -- I have the privilege of carrying on the tradition that Senator Bennett did, before, which was ensure that we celebrate Bacon Day. Who does not love bacon? Senate Resolution 7-4-9 we passed last year, and really honored for the Illinois Pork Producers, to be a part of this and to continue to celebrate Bacon Day, in the second Floor by the Governor's Office right now,

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whenever you have time, there's a wonderful menu down there of pork items. Love to have everybody stop by and enjoy in all the fun.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Thank you. We will now go to page 14; we will go to Senate Resolutions. Senate Resolution 664, Senator Sally Turner. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

ACTING SECRETARY KAISER:

Senate Resolution 664, offered by Senator Turner, Rose, and others. WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that the Members of the Illinois Senate recognize the accomplishments and contributions made by exceptional officials and citizens of the State of Illinois. And WHEREAS, Former Governor Jim Edgar was raised in Charleston and attended Eastern Illinois University, where his leadership was evident early on through his role as student body president. And WHEREAS, Governor Edgar was first elected to public office in 1977; he devoted himself fully to public service, serving with distinction as a State Representative from the 53rd District, Illinois Secretary of State, and ultimately as the 38th Governor of Illinois, where he guided the State through a very difficult and challenging times of -- with steady resolve and an unwavering commitment to the public good. And WHEREAS, Governor Edgar, during his two terms as governor, steered Illinois through a budget deficit with courage and foresight, ensuring the essential services were preserved for restoring public confidence in government. And WHEREAS, Governor Edgar was a tireless advocate for education, championing reforms that improved school funding and ensuring that every child in Illinois had access to quality learning opportunities, leaving behind a legacy of stronger,

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fairer educational foundations for generations to come. And WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Governor Edgar embodied the rare spirit of true statesmanship, bridging the political divides, fostering bipartisanship, and demonstrating that the respect and cooperation among lawmakers were essential to building a better future. And WHEREAS, Governor Edgar's influence extended beyond public office, being named the distinguished fellow at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, a fellow at the National Academy of Public Administration, and a resident fellow at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, where he continued to shape young minds and inspire future leaders. And WHEREAS, Governor Edgar served as chairman of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation and as a Laureate of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois, carrying forward the legacy of Illinois most revered leader, Abraham Lincoln, exemplifying honesty, fairness, and a devotion to the common good. And WHEREAS, Governor -- Edgar also created the Edgar Fellows Program, investing deeply in the next generation of civic leaders by teaching that effective governance requires mutual understanding, respect for differing views, and a commitment to the greater good. And WHEREAS, Governor Edgar's leadership, integrity, and humility earned him the respect and admiration of citizens across Illinois as well as in the nation, and his dedication was recognized with the Order of Lincoln, the State of Illinois honest -- honest -- highest honor. And WHEREAS, Governor Edgar will be remembered beyond his titles and accolades as a man of character and compassion whose steady hand and servant's heart left an indelible mark on the history and people of Illinois. Therefore, be it RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we

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declare September 14,{sic} 2026 (July 22), 2026, as Governor Jim Edgar Day in the State of Illinois in recognition of former Governor Jim Edgar's life, his legacy, and his extraordinary career in public service. And be it further RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to his family with appreciation and -- and -- esteem and respect.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Sally Turner, on your resolution.

SENATOR SALLY TURNER:

Thank you, Mr. President. As I mentioned earlier, here with me today is, Brenda Edgar. I'd like her to stand up for a moment and recognize Brenda. She's going to continue on the Edgar Fellows and continue to serve the way that Governor Edgar served. We're so proud of Brenda and the legacy that she brings to us, and also, the children she raised, and the -- and so much that you've done for our State. And also next to Brenda, of course, is Ray LaHood and his wife Kathy, and grandson McKay. Ray LaHood is going to continue on as the distinguished Executive Director of Edgar Fellows, alongside Wendy Butler, who's up at the top of the steps, and Wendy will be guiding this as well. I'd like to offer any opportunity for anyone to speak. I know I spoke with a couple of you that would like to, say some memories that you have about Governor Edgar.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Bryant, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR BRYANT:

For a Point of Personal Privilege, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Please state your point.

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SENATOR BRYANT:

To the resolution. This is specifically to Brenda. I -- I had the privilege, along with my grandparents, to host an event for Brenda in Murphysboro at our restaurant. We were newly open, and, she and Jim, Jim couldn't attend that one, but she came in his -- stead. They sent a thank you afterwards, and my grandma had that hanging on her bulletin board for about twenty-five years. So, when it -- it was just a thank you with Jim and Brenda and the kids, and, when she passed, I kept the -- I kept that as a memento. So, I want you to know that in my family, you and Jim will always be remembered. And I thank you, Senator, for continuing the -- the Edgar Fellows, and look forward to what you're going to do in the future. So, thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Rose.

SENATOR ROSE:

Thank you, Mr. President. Mrs. Edgar, I -- I tried to find the right words here. I'll start with saying in 1990 in Charleston, Illinois, there was no one larger life and no bigger deal than then Secretary of State Jim Edgar running for governor. Being a high school student at the time, I got a phone call to go make phone calls for, Secretary, then Secretary Edgar. And, like -- why would I wanna do that? Why? It's... I'm in high school. I don't wanna go make phone calls. So, he said, "What else are you going to do?" I said, "Well, okay." Who knew that I actually enjoyed cold calling random people that I didn't know and tell them to vote for Governor Edgar for -- to represent Coles County and -- and Charleston, in -- in -- as our State's governor? The whole town -- the whole county, Coles County- everybody was Edgar crazy,

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just absolutely Edgar crazy. When he won, I... You just can't convey the feelings and the emotion that a kid from Charleston, Illinois could be Governor of the State of Illinois. It was just an amazing, an amazing moment in time. You know, as governor, he had such an amazing knowledge of every last nook and cranny of -- of not just the government, but the entire State. He literally had been everywhere over campaigns and all the things, but, you know, when it came to budget time, there was nobody that knew more than he did. The policy acumen that he had and -- and the, frankly, the good times that came from it, and they were good times; he left office with a budget surplus. Imagine that, imagine that. Wow. I -- I just have to tell you that -- that -- you know, as a Charleston kid, there was nobody bigger than Jim Edgar. It's, it's an honor to represent his -- his area. And actually, he wasn't even the first Edgar I met. I met Bunny Edgar, who was my sixth-grade teacher, when I first moved to Charleston. But, and of course Fred, the Governor's brother, the whole group. I mean, it, -- there was just nobody like him, there will not be anyone like him. I -- I was so pleased last year, maybe the year, but whatever, yeah, last year at the Edgar Fellows, I'd found -- we'd found some old pictures of Babe Woodard, who was then Representative Edgar State Senator. And -- and Babe had taken a bunch of pictures of -- of them, and then also during his time as Secretary and time as Governor, it was Babe and Bill Black and the Governor. And I was so happy that I found those here in our -- in our archives, and I took them over to Edgar Fellows and gave them to him. And I -- I'll just -- I'll never forget the look on his face as he just thought back to those -- the -- the good days. Represent Charleston, Coles County, Central Illinois. Governor Edgar was

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just such an immense fixture in this State. Mrs. Edgar, I -- I -- I cannot tell you how thankful I am for you and your family sharing him with the rest of us all these years. And I -- I -- I truly am sorry and I -- I -- there's no -- nothing we can say here that'll replace your loss. But on behalf of the people of Illinois, behalf of the people of Coles County, behalf of the people of Charleston, and all of us fellow Trojan Charleston High School classmates, we will forever remember and cherish your husband's legacy.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator McClure.

SENATOR MCCLURE:

To the resolution.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

To the resolution.

SENATOR MCCLURE:

First of all, when Governor Edgar was reelected in 1994, he won every single county in this State. He only lost one county, actually, and that was Gallatin County, and he lost by three votes. Think about that, and he still talked about that when I would see him for our Youth Advisory Councils: three votes. He was very proud of the fact that during his time in office, adoptions in this State were increased of foster children by five hundred percent. What a legacy. He wasn't just -- I -- I consider our two greatest Governors, Governor Edgar and Governor Thompson, and Governor Edgar wasn't just great policy-wise, and by the way, Mrs. Edgar, on the adoption successes and so many successes with Governor Edgar, they were hand in hand and -- and what an incredible legacy to leave behind. But Governor Edgar wasn't just focused on policy; he was focused on making the State a better place, not just during

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his term in office, but into the future. And we really haven't seen that for many years with our governors, trying to make sure the next generation is going to keep the State moving forward. And he was great at picking his personnel. My mom was his Director of Personnel when he was Secretary of State and then Deputy Director of Personnel when he was Governor. And that's when I first met Governor Edgar as a child, and I think it would've been at a rally for governor or for Secretary of State, one of those two. But he's one of the people that's inspired me to run for office. When I was thinking about running for office the first time for State Senate, I had lunch with Governor Edgar, and he went through a list. I, you know, when you're a young candidate, you think you can win any race, you can do anything, you know, but Governor Edgar took a look at the district and he -- he, we talked about it very thoroughly, and he gave me some good advice, and I listened to his advice, and I didn't run for office. And I ran for office two years later, and now I'm a State Senator. I believe if I would've run the first time, I would not be sitting in this position right now, so I thank Governor Edgar for that. It was an honor to be an Edgar Fellow. And totally randomly, Senator Aquino and I were sharing stories last night, which you brought it up, which was very nice, but to think that Senator Aquino and I became friends before we ever enter, or before I ever entered this Chamber, is all thanks to Governor Edgar and the work he's doing to try to promote bipartisanship, working together to make a better State. I asked him to speak at my Youth Advisory Council, which is kids from all across my ten counties, and kids that are in some of the rural areas of our State never had the chance to interact with the Governor before; he spoke at least twice for my Youth Advisory

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Council -- Councils. And man, what an incredible honor, and the feedback he gave them was always amazing. Very witty person, very funny, and one of my students in the Youth Advisory Council said that they want to go into office and run for office when they, when they get out of college. And who's the inspiration behind that? I was told, was it me? No. It was Governor Edgar. And I know he told Governor Edgar that, I think, at a reception maybe a couple of years ago. But you know, I look forward to seeing the Edgar Fellows continue to thrive under Secretary LaHood. And, you know, Governor Edgar will never be forgotten in this State, and he leaves behind a legacy that is really impossible to measure because people like me, others that worked in his administration that are here still making a difference, it's all because of the start we had and the inspiration that we had from, as far as I'm concerned, as great a governor as we have ever had in the history of our State, Jim Edgar.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Morrison.

SENATOR MORRISON:

To the resolution.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

To the resolution.

SENATOR MORRISON:

So, shortly after I was brought into the Senate family, I was nominated for and then had the honor of becoming an Edgar Fellow. And I will say that of all the things Jim Edgar did do and could have done with all of his abilities and all of his connections, the legacy that he has left us all in the General Assembly of the Edgar Fellows, I think is the greatest. If I could

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sum up what I learned, it was respect. It was respect those people who don't look like you, who aren't from the same town as you, who aren't from the same party as you. Respect the people who live downstate, respect the people who live in the inner city. We're all the same people, and we all represent people who count on us. It was a tremendous honor to be named an Edgar Fellow. I'm happy to continue to support that organization, and I think we should all strive to leave some kind of legacy like that as we work in the General Assembly as legislators. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Tracy.

SENATOR TRACY:

Thank you, Mr. President. To the resolution, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

To the resolution.

SENATOR TRACY:

I cannot think of a greater example of statesmanship than Governor Edgar and, likewise, Congressman Ray LaHood and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood. Mrs. Edgar and I are Union County girls. Mrs. Edgar's mother, Mrs. Smith, was one of our typing teachers at the old Wildcat High School. Who thought a girl from Anna could become the First Lady of Illinois? But she did it with grace. She served Anna with grace; she was our fair queen; she was an example and role model for all the Union County girls. She went to Eastern University and met the love of her life, and the two of them were a bold team, a together team. And I was -- so excited after being Secretary of State and then being elected governor. They lived in the mansion; their children moved into the mansion. They were the first family of Illinois, and they lived in

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the mansion. Their children went to Springfield schools. I looked forward, and I still have every Christmas card of the Edgar family at our mansion, our State mansion. And I'm so excited that this Edgar Fellow Program will be continued; the legacy of Jim Edgar will be continued, and we'll see that respect and statesmanship example continue in the State of Illinois. I can't thank them enough. I -- I must say they support public officials all the time. Governor Edgar supported some of my efforts. Likewise, the new Executive Director Fellow, Ray LaHood, supported so many candidates and instilled in those candidates the values that they represented. So, I'm so glad that this resolution is brought forward, and the Edgar legacy will continue forever. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Hunter.

SENATOR HUNTER:

Thank you very much, Mr. President. To the resolution.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

To the resolution.

SENATOR HUNTER:

I was working in one of the non-for-profit organizations, HRDI, led by the late Dr. C. Vincent Bateman, and we provided alcohol and drug, and mental health services to residents on the South Side of Chicago. And I remember, I wound up working there for eighteen years, and I remember we were having some financial problems. And so, Dr. Bateman said, "Let me go and talk to the Governor." He had no appointment. He came down to Springfield, went to his office, and Jim Edgar said, "Yeah, come on in and see me." And Jim Edgar made sure that not only did we no longer have a fiscal problem, a cash flow problem, but he also provided us

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with some additional funding to expand our services, okay? And he was such a good man. I -- we got to know him. We worked on -- we worked with him on some of his community projects. We even supported him, and we were criticized by the Black community for supporting a Republican. And so, we said, "Well, this Republican stood up when nobody else did, and this Republican made sure that residents in need on the South Side of Chicago received the services that they really needed." And Jim Edgar was concerned about having so many different agencies, that he transformed the human services system, and he is the first person that created the -- the Illinois Department of Human Services, where he made -- merged Department of Aging, Developmentally Disabled, Alcohol, Drugs, Mental Health. All of these were separate agencies, and there were other agencies that I left off of my list. But he -- he created a, what they -- they were calling it a super agency because Human Services had over thirteen thousand employees, which became the largest Agency in the State of Illinois. And then he went so far as to make sure that he put two African Americans over that Agency. And the first Director was Howard Peters, and Linda Baker became the Assistant under Howard Peters. And Linda Baker today is now working with the Edgar Foundation. So, I just wanna thank you, Brenda, for carrying on your husband's legacy. It means not only so much to you and your family and the community, but it means a lot to me as well. So, Jim was a good man, as you know, and I'll never forget him. So, thank you so very much.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Sims.

SENATOR SIMS:

Thank you, Mr. President. First, let me say to our former

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First Lady, thank you for sharing Governor Edgar with us. When I started here as a young staffer, Governor Edgar was in office. I actually started here as a Dunn Fellowship under or -- or as a Dunn Fellow under Governor Edgar, before coming over to staff and working to learn about the budget process and watching as government worked. Governor Edgar was as partisan as they came, but that did not stop him from being bipartisan also, because that's the essence of statesmanship, and we could have more of that right now. I -- I -- when -- like as many of you in this Chamber I -- I have the honor of serving as an Edgar Fellow. But I also had the opportunity -- I got... When I got the call to come back and be on the faculty and to speak at the -- at the -- for the Edgar Fellows, that was a tremendous honor for me. And to have those moments with Governor Edgar to talk about the -- the work that we were doing, the -- the -- the -- the difficult times that we were facing, it mean -- it meant the world to me. And the last year when I had the opportunity to speak at the -- at the fellowship, he was -- he was too ill to attend but you could absolutely see his spirit, you could absolutely see his intent walking through those rooms. You could see the folks who were attending that fellowship, who were fellows, the good work that they were going to do. So, that is his legacy. You know, I -- I -- you often hear me say, something that my grandfather said to me long ago, "The things that you do for yourself, they die when you die. The things that you do for others, they -- they live on, and that's your legacy." Governor Edgar's legacy is that he is going -- he's making a difference, and he has made a difference in elected officials and elected lives at the State, local -- State and local level. And is -- we will and what he taught us is that

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it's -- it's okay to disagree. Because it is okay to disagree. We -- we come from very different places. But what is not okay is for us to not have the best interest for the people of Illinois at our heart and at the -- at the center of all of our work, and that's -- that's his legacy. His legacy is that he taught us that have the people of the State of Illinois at the center of your work. So, Mrs. Edgar, thank you. Thank you for sharing him with us. Thank you for continuing the legacy of the Edgar Fellows, because that work will continue to make a difference across the State of Illinois. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Simmons.

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Thank you, Mr. President. To the resolution.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

To the resolution.

SENATOR SIMMONS:

Thank you so much, Mr. President. I never got to serve with Governor Edgar, obviously, but I got a chance to participate in the Edgar Fellows Program, and I just remember the first night, literally the Sunday when the Governor comes and he shares his -- you know, he just shared his whole story, how he became governor, how he approached governing, how he gave back after he was governor. I was riveted. And what really stood out for me, because, you know, politicians give a lot of speeches and say a lot of things, but what really, really motivated me with the Governor's remarks is that he was talking about things I recognized in my short time in the State Senate. And, you know, just this whole thing around thinking about what are people gonna say about our

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work fifty years from now, a hundred years from now? And that's the thing about Governor Edgar, is that when he talked about the State, you -- you could see that. It wasn't that he just said it or said, "You know, you have to respect people. You have to listen to people who come from a different place than you." He told stories that showed that the receipts were there, and that really -- that really inspired me and I think helped to add to how I try to handle myself in this role. I'm proud to say that Governor Edgar is one of those that has been a role model for me. And I think that that is the possibility of our democracy, and I think that the Governor showed us the best that our democracy and our State can be. And that -- that is a legacy that's gonna outlive him. It's going to outlive all of us and it'll -- it'll be -- it'll be with us for generations. And it -- and it, and it's you know, it was when I -- when I saw that the Governor had passed, I remember I was -- I was there last year also for back to speak to the fellows. By the way, Governor Edgar is the only person that can get Senator Bryant and I up early in the morning to speak to the fellows and have it be civil. I mean, that was really you know, the example of the receipts. But, you know, when we talk about this whole thing about statespersonship, statesmanship, stateswomanship, it's so badly needed right now. When I -- when I saw that he passed, I just thought -- I thought I found myself reflecting on where we are right now in our policy in this country, where people are rewarded for how hard they punch somebody in the face. How much can you insult somebody on social media? How much can you embarrass people? And you know, none of that is gonna save our country. None of that is gonna help anybody live a better life, and it doesn't make us look good to the next generation. Kudos to

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Governor Edgar and to -- to the family and to the First Lady for sharing him with us so that he could share that example to all of us, that I -- I know that each of us in this Chamber in some way or another will -- will carry forward. He elevated -- he elevated our State, he elevated our politics, and I -- I thank you so much for -- for giving him to us. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Villa.

SENATOR VILLA:

To the resolution, Mr. President

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

To the resolution.

SENATOR VILLA:

I was sitting here wondering if I should push the button or not, and then I heard my mother's voice in my head of what she would say knowing that Mrs. Edgar was here. You see, my mom was a proud Governor Edgar voting Republican. Is, was, I don't know. The purpose of me standing here is because I was born and raised in DuPage County, represented by Republicans my whole life. So, many of them were how I learned about elected office and how to behave as an elected official, and I do believe that Governor Edgar was a true gentleman, a true statesman. Out in DuPage County, being a Latina sometimes felt lonely when I was growing up, and to hear and see Governor Edgar speak up and say that immigrants in Illinois belong here, and we're gonna put our money where our values are, that meant so much to me to hear him speak up in favor of driver's license for all, I won't forget that. I hope that my friends and colleagues from across the aisle and I will continue to behave in that way, in that friendship that we have established. We don't

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always have to agree, but let's try to find ourselves to a yes more often than not. And Mrs. Edgar, thank you so much on behalf of my mother, and my family for -- for all the time that you lent us, Governor Edgar. He, I -- and I'm also, proud to be an Edgar Fellow.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

And our last speaker, President Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Mr. President. To the resolution.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

To the resolution.

SENATOR HARMON:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, and to all of our guests here today, Governor Jim Edgar's leadership, both in office and out, made our State a better place. Governor Edgar guided Illinois through difficult times and made hard decisions he believed were right, knowing not everyone would agree, and in fact, knowing quite a few people would disagree. His brand of steady, principled leadership, his intellectual consistency is what endures. As a Democrat, I can say this plainly, Jim Edgar was a true statesman. He believed government was a place to solve problems, not to stage them. And while his years in office are an important part of our history, his work afterward may be his most lasting legacy. Through the Edgar Fellows Program, he invested in leaders on both sides of the aisle, teaching that respect, listening, and compromise are essential to good government. I've had an opportunity to spend time with many of the fellows. You can see the Governor's influence in how they approach this work. Government doesn't have to be, and should not be, a show. Mrs.

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Edgar, thank you for sharing your husband with the people of Illinois. My sympathies remain with your family, and I offer my deep appreciation for a life of service that made this State stronger. I urge adoption of the resolution.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Sally Turner, to close on the resolution.

SENATOR SALLY TURNER:

Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you for all your kind words for our friends that are here today. Just the last thing I wanna mention, that beyond his titles and accolades, he was -- he had a servant's heart, and we are greatly appreciative of that, and we look forward to see what Secretary LaHood's going to be doing with the next step in the Edgar Fellows. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

So, the question is, shall Senate Resolution 664 pass. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. The Senate will stand at ease for a few minutes to allow the Committee on Assignments to meet. Members of the Committee on Assignments will meet in the President's Anteroom. Senate will come to order. Mr. Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senator Lightford, Chair of the Committee on Assignments, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Refer to Agriculture Committee - Floor Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 3116; refer to Appropriations Education - Committee Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 3202; refer to Criminal Law Committee - Committee Amendment 1 to House Bill 5021; refer to Education Committee - Committee Amendment 1 to House Bill 5107; refer to Executive

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Committee - Committee Amendment 1 to House Bill 3190, Amendment 2 to House Bill 5000, Committee Amendment 1 to House Bill 5093, Floor Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 3391, Committee Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 4004 and Committee Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 4041; refer to Insurance Committee - Committee Amendment 2 to House Bill 2584 and Committee Amendment 1 to House Bill 3605; refer to Judiciary Committee - Committee Amendment 1 to House Bill 4659 and Committee Amendment 1 to House Bill 5487; refer to Licensed Activities Committee - Committee Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 3211, Committee Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 3421; refer to Local Government Committee - Committee Amendment 3 to House Bill 5187; refer to Revenue Committee - Committee Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 3940. Be Approved For Consideration: Senate Resolution 770 and 771. Signed, Senator Kimberly A. Lightford, Chair.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Let me just share with you the schedule for this afternoon. We're going to do a handful of resolutions, and then we're going to go to both House Bills and Senate Bills 2nd Reading. So, if you have a bill that you want to move to 3rd, please come to the Floor. Senator Fowler, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR FOWLER:

Thank you, for a presentation or introduction, please.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Please state your introduction.

SENATOR FOWLER:

Thank you, Mr. President, and Members of the Senate. It's not often we have an opportunity to have our district staff in the State Capitol here on the Chamber -- in the Chamber, especially when you live two hundred miles south of here down in God's

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country. But I'm honored to have up in the gallery -- I know you all know Dana. Stand up Dana. She's our -- she serves on my Capitol, Capitol LA, District LA, so she's -- you've met her. But from my district office, have Amy Oxford and Jared Long with us this evening, and so fortunate to have them and the hard work that they -- they do for the district, the constituents of the 59th District. And Amy also serves as my 501(c)(3) not-for-profit foundation Executive Director. So, glad to have them in the State Capitol and I'd like for you to give them a warm welcome, please. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Welcome to Springfield. We're gonna go to page 14, towards the middle of the page. We're gonna go to Senate Resolution 733, Senator Sims. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution 733, offered by Senator Sims.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Sims, on your resolution.

SENATOR SIMS:

Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Today, I rise with great pride and deep admiration and appreciation to celebrate Illinois -- the Senate Resolution 733, recognizing May 6th, 2026, as Alpha Phi Alpha Day in the State of Illinois, and honoring nearly one hundred and twenty years of extraordinary service, leadership, scholarship, and advocacy by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated. For nearly one hundred and twenty years, Alpha Phi Alpha has stood more -- as more than a fraternity. It has been a movement. Founded in 1906 at Cornell University by -- by the seven visionary jewels, Alpha Phi Alpha emerged during a time when African Americans were denied opportunity, denied

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dignity, and denied access to the many institutions of this nation. Yet these men chose not bitterness, they chose brotherhood. Not retreat, but leadership. They built an organizations grounded in scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity. And over the course of more than a century, Alpha men have carried those principles into every corner of American life, from the pulpit to the courtroom, from the classroom to the boardroom, from the military to elected office, from the streets of our neighborhoods to the Halls of Congress. Alpha Phi Alpha has consistently answered the call to lead. We celebrate giants like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose moral courage transformed America. We remember Thurgood Marshall, whose brilliance reshaped constitutional law. Closer to home, we lift up the names of former Senator Adelbert (H.) Roberts, who was the first African American to serve in the Illinois Senate. The former mayor -- former Chicago Mayor Eugene Sawyer, former Cook County Board President John Stroger, and former Senator Donne Trotter. We -- we honor countless legislate -- educators, pastors, veterans, labor leaders, entrepreneurs, and public servants who wore the black and old gold, not merely as colors, but as a commitment to service. And what makes this recognition especially meaningful is that Alpha Phi Alpha has never confined itself to ceremonial leadership. Alpha has always shown up where the work was hardest. When communities needed mentorship, Alpha answered; when young men needed guidance, Alpha answered. When civil rights were under attack, Alpha answered. When democracy itself demanded defenders, Alpha answered. That legacy continues today across Illinois and across this nation. To every brother of Alpha Phi Alpha visiting our Illinois State Capitol today, we thank you. We thank you for your

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leadership, your service, your advocacy, and your unwavering commitment to uplifting humanity. As we commemorate this milestone, let us remember that the work is not finished. The ideals embodied by Alpha Phi Alpha, scholarship, justice, civic engagement, and love for all mankind remain urgently needed in our society today. So, on behalf of the Illinois Senate, we want to recognize those one hundred and twenty years of remarkable service, and -- and Mr. President, I move for the adoption of Senate -- Senate Resolution 733.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Seeing no discussion. The question is, shall Senate Resolution 733 pass. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. We'll go to Senate Resolution 734, Senator Hunter. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution 734, offered by Senator Hunter.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Hunter, on your resolution.

SENATOR HUNTER:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Resolution reads as, WHEREAS, On January 15, 1908, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated was founded by Ethel Hedgeman Lyle and eight other collegiate women with the mission to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, to promote unity and friendship among college women, to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social stature, and to maintain a progressive interest in college life, and to be of "Service to All Mankind". And -- WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa

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Alpha Sorority, Incorporated has a rich history of social action. In 1915, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated hosted its first political action conference with human rights activist and Illinois Congressman Martin B. Madden as the speaker, marking its commitment to progress -- to progress -- to progress through advocacy, education, social progress, and political engagements. And WHEREAS, soaring to greater heights of service and sisterhood, -- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated established its headquarters on the South Side of Chicago in 1949, becoming the most complex while expanding to mobilize over three hundred and ninety thousand -- initiated members in eleven hundred and twenty chapters in fifty U.S. States and -- Territories and fifteen nations, focusing on advocacy, service projects aimed at improving socioeconomic, racial, political, and environmental issues, further amplifying its influence. And WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sororities, Incorporated diverse collaborative work throughout the United States and including, but not limited to, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, and the United Arab Emirates, integrates an elevated level of personal engagement with the strong bonds of sisterhood and a productive network of community partners. And WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated Annual Advocacy Day event is an opportunity for its members to meet and discuss proposed legislation with Illinois lawmakers, engage in educational workshops concentrated on Ill -- on concentrated on the Illinois Legislative Black caucus, four key pillars of Illinois government, and explore ways to enhance civic engagement. And WHEREAS, Illinois is home to fifty Alpha Kappa Alpha Sororities Incorporated Chapters, of which eighteen are located on college and university campuses, and thirteen are alumni

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chapters located in communities throughout the State. WHEREAS, the Illinois Chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, along with members located throughout Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, North -- North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and St. Louis and Cape Girardeau, Missouri, are designated as the sorority's central region, and this region is home to ninety-four empowered and engaged chapters focused on advocacy and service. And WHEREAS, on May 6th, 2026, Illinois members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated will participate in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated Day at the Illinois State Capitol. And WHEREAS, in a collective effort to enhance the priorities of the respective communities in which they serve, the Illinois delegation of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated will be joined by the Illinois Delegation of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated for Alpha Phi Alpha -- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated Day at the Illinois State Capitol for the government, for the empowerment of the people. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS that we declare May 6th, 2026, as Alpha Kappa Alpha Incorporated Day in the State of Illinois. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Seeing no discussion. The question is, shall Senate Resolution 734 pass. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. Senator Joyce on resolution -- Senate Resolution 609. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution 609, offered by Senator Joyce.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

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Senator Joyce, on your resolution.

SENATOR JOYCE:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Resolution 609 declares May 10th through May 16th of 2026 as Home Fire Sprinkler Week in Illinois. Fire sprinklers provide the highest level of fire protection, offering a proven and cost-effective way to save lives and protect property from theft of fire. I urge its adoption.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Seeing no discussion. The question is, shall Senate Resolution 609 pass. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. Moving on to Senate Resolution 620, Senator Fine. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution 620, offered by Senator Fine.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Fine, on your resolution.

SENATOR GLOWIAK HILTON:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Resolution 620 declares May 3rd through the 9th as Compost Awareness Week in the State of Illinois. Composting is an amazing way that we could not only eliminate food waste but also help to grow new fruits and vegetables within our communities.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Seeing no discussion, the question is, shall Senate Resolution 620 pass. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. Senator Fine, on Senate Resolution 638. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

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SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution 638, offered by Senator Fine.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Fine, on your resolution.

SENATOR GLOWIAK HILTON:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Resolution 638 declares May 3rd through the 9th as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week. TD is a condition that's marked by uncontrollable, abnormal, and repetitive movements of the face, torso, limbs, or extremity, and advocates for mental health hope to spread awareness about this prolonged issue that is associated with TD and make sure the public is aware of it and know the treatments for it.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Seeing no discussion. The question is, shall Senate Resolution 638 pass. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. Senate Resolution 684, Senator Castro. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution 684...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Out of the record. Out of the record. Senate Resolution 696, Senator Balkema. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution 696, offered by Senator Balkema.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Balkema, on your resolution.

SENATOR BALKEMA:

I apologize. Can you go ahead and come back to me in a

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second?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Out of the record. Senate Resolution 701, Senator Johnson. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution 701, offered by Senator Johnson.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Johnson, on your resolution.

SENATOR JOHNSON:

Thank you, Mr. President. Senate Resolution 701... Did you say 701? I'm sorry. Give me a minute. Senate Resolution 701 declares May 2026 as Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month. Nearly twenty-eight thousand people in the United States have asthma, of which 4 million seven hundred and fifty thousand are children. Over one million adults and children in Illinois have asthma. Asthma effects lead to one million individuals visiting emergency rooms and departments each year. And so, thank you for recognizing May 2026 as Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Seeing no -- discussion. Senate... The question is, shall Senate Resolution 701 pass. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. Senator Balkema, on your resolution 696. Mr. Secretary, please read the resolution.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Resolution 696, offered by Senator Balkema.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Senator Balkema.

SENATOR BALKEMA:

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Senate Resolution 696 declares May 2026 as NEC Awareness Month. NEC awareness is encouraged to increase public awareness, education, and research efforts related to necrotizing enterocolitis and support for families affected by this disease. And I had a constituent in my district that just a little paragraph, "My wife and I lost our son at one week old in October to a disease called NEC." The organization is battling NEC and developing relationships to help develop solutions for this, and I really appreciate the General Assembly's support.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Seeing no discussion. The question is, shall Senate Resolution 696 pass. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, say Nay. The vote -- the Ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted. Senator Faraci, do you have some special guests here? Senator Faraci, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

SENATOR FARACI:

For announcement, Mr. President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Please state your announcement.

SENATOR FARACI:

So first of all, I am standing up. Thank you, Mr. President. Today, we have some very special guests in the Chamber, the University of Illinois men's basketball team. As many of you already know, the Fighting Illini had a historic '25-'26 season, making it to the Final Four of the 2026 NCAA Division 1 men's basketball tournament. Only the sixth time in program -- program's history. This 2025-26 team has redefined the standard for Illinois men's basketball. Not only did they record the most regular season victories in the last twenty years, finishing with twenty-four

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wins, but they also achieved a fifteen and five Big Ten Conference record. I watched every one of those games, by the way, with Pat tying for the second most conference wins in the program -- in wins in program history. The Fighting Illini team has become one of only four teams nationally to accomplish a twenty plus wins regular season. While the winning record and tournament run makes this team deserving of recognition, the true testament of this team's success is their commitment, their drive, and sportsmanship of its athletes, and the expertise of coaching and support staff, coaches and support staff. To top it all off, this team has captivated and unified fans across the State. I've been a Champaign resident and Illini fan for forty-five years, and I can say that nothing has fostered a sense of community pride and excitement from our -- for our residents quite like the 2025-26 Fighting Illini Final Four. I'd like to give a special shout out to Head Coach Brad Underwood. Tyler Underwood, who's in the -- in the -- in the gallery, also played for the University of Illinois for four years. Thank you, coach. U of I Athletic Director, Josh Whitman. And of course, our New Chancellor, Chancellor Isbell, (Jr.) Thank you for your continuing support of our students. You know, there's not much I enjoy more than spending time with my family, but when we get to watch the Illini basketball play together, that's really what makes me happy. So, congratulations on our historic run. We're wishing you many more successful seasons to come, and I'd like to introduce each one of our players. Davorin (David) Mirkovic, Jake Davis behind me. Tomislav Ivisic, which we, we call him Tommy. I hope that's okay, Tommy. His brother, now who's older? I forget. He's older by a minute. Four minutes. Zvonimir Ivisic, we call -- I hope it's okay, we call you Z. We

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call you Z. Jason Jakstys, Blake Fagbemi. Hey, Blake. And AJ, AJ Redd. Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my proud honor to introduce the University of Illinois basketball team to the Senate Chambers. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

Welcome to the Illinois Senate. Senator Rose.

SENATOR ROSE:

Thank you, Mr. President. Behalf of our side of the aisle, I too wish to welcome our awesome Illini to the Illinois State Senate. Like Senator Faraci, I'm a lifetime, Illini, two-time alumni. My parents went there, met there, got married there. We -- in fact, I saw Coach at Chancellor Isbell's, welcoming party, and I said to Coach at the time, I said, "Hey, guys like me have been waiting our whole lives for basketball and football to be in sync in the same season, and just what a special year it's going to be." And at that point in time, half of you guys hadn't gotten your visas yet. And so, coach looks and says, "We just got to get them here first." So, we're so glad you guys are here. And while, apparently the Senate President has relaxed our -- our dress code for today, I'm going to announce we're renaming the State of Illinois, Illinisovich.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

I'm not sure we're that relaxed yet. Capital News requests taking photos. Seeing no objection, leave is granted. I don't know how to top that. We're going to do some more business, but -- Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, we're going to do Senate Bills 2nd Reading, so if you have a Senate bill that you want to move to 3rd, please come to the Floor. We're going to do Senate Bills 2nd Reading. Alright, we'll go to page 2 at the top of the page Senator

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Cunningham has Senate Bill 1700. Senator Murphy has Senate Bill 1940. Senator Feigenholtz has Senate Bill 2785. Senator Chesney has Senate Bill 3116. Do you wish to move that to 3rd? Mr. Secretary, please read the bill.

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Senate Bill 3116, an Act concerning animals. 2nd Reading of the bill. No committee or Floor amendments reported.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR KOEHLER)

3rd Reading. There being no further business to come before the Senate, the Senate stands adjourned until noon on the 7th Day of May 2026. The Senate stands adjourned. Please go to your committees, which will be starting promptly.

PERFUNCTORY SESSION

SECRETARY ANDERSON:

Pursuant to the directive of the Senate President, the regular Session of the Senate is now in perfunctory Session. Communication from the President. Letter dated May 6th, 2026. Dear Mr. Secretary, Pursuant to Senate Rule 2-10, I'm scheduling a perfunctory Session to convene on May 6th, 2026. Signed, Don Harmon, Senate President. Resolutions. Senate Resolution 774, offered by Senator Porfirio and Senate Resolution 775, offered by Senator Stadelman. They are both congratulatory. Senate Resolution 776, offered by Senator Collins. It is substantive. Committee Reports. Senator Castro, Chair of the Committee on Executive, reports - Senate Bills 2713, 4038, and 4041 Do Pass, as Amended; Senate Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 3391, Recommend Do Adopt; House Bills 3169, 4217, 4420, 4428, 4461, 4533, 4695, 4844, 4890, 5024, 5095, 5166, and 5390 Do Pass; and House Bill 3663 Do Pass, as Amended; Senate Amendment 2 to House Bill 5000 and Senate Amendment 1 to House Bill 5081 Recommend

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Do Adopt. Senator Glowiak Hilton, Chair of the Committee on Licensed Activities, reports - Senate Bill 3421 Do Pass, as Amended; House Bills 3460, 3769, 4154, 4698, 4793, 5411, and 5435 Do Pass; House Bills 4762 and 5225 Do Pass, as Amended; and Senate Amendment 1 to House Bill 1807, Recommend Do Adopt. Senator Joyce, Chair of the Committee on State Government, reports - Senate Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 807 Recommend Do Adopt; and House Bills 4687 and 5181 Do Pass. Senator Hastings, Chair of the Committee on Judiciary, reports - Senate Bill 3777 Do Pass; Senate Amendment 3 to Senate Bill 2822 Recommend Do Adopt; House Bills 67, 228, 3659, 4273, 4277, 4462, 4540, 4649, 4725, 4842, 4984, and 5449 Do Pass; House Bills 4659 and 5487 Do Pass, as Amended. Senator Johnson, Chair of the Committee on Local Government, reports - Senate Amendment 3 to Senate Bill 4025 Recommend Do Adopt; House Bills 2137, 4292, and 5542 Do Pass; and House Bill 5187 Do Pass, as Amended. Senator Faraci, Chair of the Committee on Commerce, reports - House Bill 5470 Do Pass. Messages from the House. A Message from the House by Mr. Hollman, Clerk. Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed a bill of the following title, in the passage of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to-wit: House Bill 5486. Passed the House, May 6, 2026. John W. Hollman, Clerk of the House. House Bill's 1st Reading. House Bill 5486, offered by Senator Simmons, an Act concerning State government. 1st Reading of the bill. There being no further business to come before this perfunctory Session, the Senate stands adjourned until May 7, 2026, or until the call of the Senate President. The Senate stands adjourned.