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NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

June 12, 2017

3:23 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR FRED AKSHAR, Acting President

FRANCIS W. PATIENCE, Secretary

1                   P R O C E E D I N G S

2                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The  
3   Senate will come to order.

4                   I ask everyone present to please  
5   rise and repeat with me the Pledge of  
6   Allegiance.

7                   (Whereupon, the assemblage recited  
8   the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.)

9                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The  
10   Reverend Thadeus Aravindathu is with us today to  
11   give the invocation.  He is pastor and  
12   administrator of the Church of St. Boniface in  
13   Wesley Hills, New York.

14                   Pastor.

15                   REVEREND ARAVINDATHU:  Let us pray  
16   the prayer by St. Francis of Assisi.  This was  
17   prayed 800 years ago.  Let us pray.

18                   Lord, make me a channel of Thy  
19   peace.  Where there is hatred, may I bring love.  
20   Where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of  
21   forgiveness.  Where there is discord, I may  
22   bring harmony.  Where there is error, I may  
23   bring truth.  Where there is doubt, I may bring  
24   faith.  Where there is despair, I may bring  
25   hope.  Where there are shadows, I may bring

1 light. Where there is sadness, I may bring joy.

2 Lord, grant that I may seek rather  
3 to comfort than to be comforted, to understand  
4 than to be understood, to love than to be loved.  
5 For it is by self-forgetting that one finds  
6 self. It is by forgiving that one is forgiven.  
7 It is by dying that one awakens to eternal life.

8 Amen.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank  
10 you, Pastor.

11 The reading of the Journal.

12 THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Sunday,  
13 June 11th, the Senate met pursuant to  
14 adjournment. The Journal of Saturday,  
15 June 10th, was read and approved. On motion,  
16 Senate adjourned.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Without  
18 objection, the Journal stands approved as read.

19 Presentation of petitions.

20 Messages from the Assembly.

21 The Secretary will read.

22 THE SECRETARY: On page 10,  
23 Senator Valesky moves to discharge, from the  
24 Committee on Rules, Assembly Bill Number 4972A  
25 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill

1 1078A, Third Reading Calendar 278.

2           On page 30, Senator Ortt moves to  
3 discharge, from the Committee on Health,  
4 Assembly Bill Number 5175A and substitute it for  
5 the identical Senate Bill 1241A, Third Reading  
6 Calendar 715.

7           On page 37, Senator Klein moves to  
8 discharge, from the Committee on Rules,  
9 Assembly Bill Number 5151B and substitute it for  
10 the identical Senate Bill 2724B, Third Reading  
11 Calendar 830.

12           And on page 85, Senator Montgomery  
13 moves to discharge, from the Committee On Crime  
14 Victims, Crime and Correction, Assembly Bill  
15 Number 3053 and substitute it for the identical  
16 Senate Bill 3982, Third Reading Calendar 1523.

17           ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The  
18 substitutions are so ordered.

19           Messages from the Governor.

20           Reports of standing committees.

21           Reports of select committees.

22           Communications and reports from  
23 state officers.

24           Motions and resolutions.

25           Senator DeFrancisco.

1                   SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:    Yeah, I'd  
2     like to call up Print Number 1411, by Senator  
3     Griffo, recalled from the Assembly, which is now  
4     at the desk.

5                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The  
6     Secretary will read the title of the bill.

7                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number 40,  
8     by Senator Griffo, Senate Print 1411, an act to  
9     amend the Volunteer Firefighters' Benefit Law.

10                  SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:    I now move to  
11     reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed.

12                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Call the  
13     roll on reconsideration.

14                                    (The Secretary called the roll.)

15                  THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 50.

16                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The bill  
17     is restored to its place on the Third Reading  
18     Calendar.

19                  SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:    I now offer  
20     the following amendments.

21                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The  
22     amendments are received, and the bill shall  
23     retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

24                  SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:    I'd now like  
25     to call up Print Number 6243, by Senator Bonacic,

1 recalled from the Assembly, which is now at the  
2 desk.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The  
4 Secretary will read the title of the bill.

5 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
6 1511, by Senator Bonacic, Senate Print 6243, an  
7 act to amend the Tax Law.

8 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I move to  
9 reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the  
11 roll on reconsideration.

12 (The Secretary called the roll.)

13 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 50.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
15 is restored to its place on the Third Reading  
16 Calendar.

17 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: I now offer  
18 the following amendments.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The  
20 amendments are received, and the bill shall  
21 retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

22 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:  
23 Amendments are offered to the following Third  
24 Reading Calendar bills:

25 By Senator Funke, page 24, Calendar

1 Number 622, Senate Print 3724;

2 By Senator Robach, page 29, Calendar

3 Number 704, Senate Print 5397;

4 By Senator Larkin, page 35, Calendar

5 Number 796, Senate Print 5400;

6 By Senator Ortt, page 39, Calendar

7 Number 868, Senate Print 4825A;

8 By Senator Bonacic, page 56,

9 Calendar Number 1135, Senate Print 6180;

10 By Senator Golden, page 63, Calendar

11 Number 1253, Senate Print 6326;

12 By Senator Tedisco, page 65,

13 Calendar 1277, Senate Print 5394;

14 By Senator Tedisco, page 66,

15 Calendar Number 1284, Senate Print 5793;

16 By Senator Griffio, page 72, Calendar

17 Number 1356, Senate Print 6335;

18 By Senator Gallivan, page 81,

19 Calendar Number 1469, Senate Print 4329;

20 By Senator Bonacic, page 48,

21 Calendar Number 1038, Senate Print 988;

22 By Senator Seward, page 50, Calendar

23 Number 1078, Senate Print 4241.

24 I now move that these bills retain

25 their place on the order of third reading.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Senator  
2 DeFrancisco, the amendments are received and the  
3 bills shall retain their place on the Third  
4 Reading Calendar.

5                   SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:    Would you  
6 please call on Senator Valesky.

7                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Senator  
8 Valesky.

9                   SENATOR VALESKY:    Thank you,  
10 Mr. President.

11                   On behalf of Senator Alcantara, on  
12 page 71 I offer the following amendments to  
13 Calendar 1344, Senate Bill 5778, and ask that  
14 said bill retain its place on the Third Reading  
15 Calendar.

16                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The  
17 amendments are received, and the bill shall  
18 retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

19                   SENATOR VALESKY:    And on behalf of  
20 Senator Savino, on page 52 I offer the following  
21 amendments to Calendar 1097, Senate Bill 6091,  
22 and ask that said bill retain its place on the  
23 Third Reading Calendar.

24                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The  
25 amendments are received, and the bill shall

1 retain its place on the Third Reading Calendar.

2 Senator DeFrancisco.

3 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Can we now  
4 take up previously adopted Resolution 2399, by  
5 Senator Young, read the title only, and call on  
6 Senator Young to speak.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The  
8 Secretary will read.

9 THE SECRETARY: Legislative  
10 Resolution Number 2399, by Senator Young,  
11 commending Lieutenant Liza-J Bobseine upon the  
12 occasion of her designation as recipient of a  
13 Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an  
14 individual by the New York State Senate.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator  
16 Young.

17 SENATOR YOUNG: Thank you,  
18 Mr. President. I want to thank you and my  
19 colleagues for pausing in our deliberations and  
20 allowing me to speak -- and I know Senator  
21 Marchione will be speaking also -- on these two  
22 resolutions that are before us. The first one is  
23 for Liza-J Bobseine. The second one is for EnCon  
24 Officer James Davey. But I want to give a  
25 special introduction.

1           This has a lot of significance for  
2 the people of New York State, because we always  
3 want to pause and honor those that serve us so  
4 well. But it has a lot of personal significance  
5 for me also, because I've had the privilege of  
6 being dear friends with the Bobseine family for  
7 probably about 17 or 18 years now. And I am so  
8 proud of this family because they are so unique  
9 and such great citizens of the State of New York.

10           And I'd like to make some  
11 introductions of people who have joined us today.  
12 First of all, we have Department of Environmental  
13 Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos, who has  
14 come. And I want to thank the commissioner for  
15 helping set this up.

16           But also, Commissioner, I want to  
17 thank you because I know that you care about your  
18 EnCon officers very deeply, and I know that when  
19 this incident occurred, you immediately went to  
20 the hospital. So thank you for your dedication.

21           We also have been joined by retired  
22 EnCon Captain Gary Bobseine and his wife Jan, who  
23 are the parents of Lieutenant Liza-J Bobseine;  
24 her sister, Katy Bobseine, who is here; and also  
25 Polly Bobseine Albright, who also is a sister.

1 And I want to point out that she also served --  
2 and Senator Croci may be interested in this -- in  
3 Special Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan and was  
4 2005 Airman of the Year for the entire country.  
5 So very accomplished there too.

6 But she's brought along Ruger, who I  
7 think has taken over the entire Senate. He's  
8 4 years old. I expect him to be a future Senator  
9 after he becomes a builder and -- what else,  
10 Senator? A pilot. So in his spare time he'd  
11 like to be a Senator also. But I'm glad that  
12 Ruger could come.

13 We have Mr. and Mrs. Ken and Sharon  
14 Davey, parents of EnCon Officer James Davey. And  
15 welcome to you.

16 DEC officials are here today. We  
17 have Chief of Staff Julie Tighe; Assistant  
18 Commissioner Chris Ballantyne; Director Joe  
19 Schneider; Major Scott Florence; Major George  
20 Steele; Captain Tom Caifa. And also we have  
21 someone who traveled -- two special people --  
22 from Niagara County today, and that's retired  
23 EnCon Officer Dick Lane and his wife Gretchen.  
24 So welcome to you. We're so happy that you're  
25 here.

1           As this resolution title stated,  
2           today we are humbly recognizing the bravery and  
3           fearlessness of two remarkable public servants.

4           At approximately 5:20 p.m., a full  
5           53 minutes after sunset on November 29, 2016,  
6           Environmental Conservation Officer James Davey  
7           and Lieutenant Liza-J Bobseine were investigating  
8           a trespassing complaint and reports of illegal  
9           hunting with shots fired.

10           During the course of their  
11           investigation, the two officers came upon fresh  
12           tire tracks in a field in the Town of Gallatin in  
13           Columbia County. While walking through the field  
14           under darkness, heavy fog and rain, Officers  
15           Davey and Bobseine heard voices and decided to  
16           approach the hunters.

17           Being a DEC officer offers a unique  
18           challenge because in many cases such as this one,  
19           the officers know that the person they are  
20           approaching is likely armed and often a skilled  
21           marksman -- and oftentimes it's in a very remote  
22           area.

23           As the officers approached the  
24           illegal hunters, a shot was fired from a .30-30  
25           rifle. The bullet hit Officer Davey, resulting

1 in significant damage to his pelvis and  
2 associated blood vessels. Lieutenant Bobseine,  
3 acting quickly, was able to apply a compress to  
4 the significant wound. She maintained pressure  
5 on the injury for more than one hour and called  
6 for medical support.

7 Think about that. Pressure for more  
8 than one hour. That's almost impossible to do.  
9 But she rose to the occasion, and she did it.

10 While attending to Officer Davey,  
11 Lieutenant Bobseine was also able to keep the  
12 suspect under control a half-mile into the field.  
13 Lieutenant Bobseine's swift response thankfully  
14 prevented significant loss of blood that could  
15 have otherwise cost Officer Davey his life.

16 Her actions were instrumental in the  
17 apprehension of the shooter, Alan Blanchard, and  
18 another suspect. Blanchard would later be  
19 charged with second-degree assault after claiming  
20 he mistook the officers for a deer.

21 Officer Davey underwent extensive  
22 surgery at Mid-Hudson Hospital to repair damage  
23 and was placed in the hospital's intensive care  
24 unit in stable condition.

25 Following the incident, DEC

1 Commissioner Seggos stated: "It's clear that if  
2 it were not for her actions, Officer Davey would  
3 not have survived. I commend the two officers  
4 for their courage in the line of duty and thank  
5 them for their dedicated service."

6 I just want to tell you a little bit  
7 about Lieutenant Bobseine. She's a 10-year  
8 veteran of the EnCon Police, a native of  
9 Cattaraugus County, the 57th Senate District, and  
10 comes from a long line of public servants. Her  
11 father and grandfather were both State  
12 Environmental Conservation officers, and her  
13 brother Ike is currently serving as an EnCon  
14 officer.

15 Remarkably, Lieutenant Bobseine is  
16 also no stranger to lifesaving actions. In 2011,  
17 while stationed on Long Island, Lieutenant  
18 Bobseine was credited with saving the life of a  
19 66-year-old woman who was sitting in her car in a  
20 parking lot and had stopped breathing. For her  
21 heroism, she was honored as Officer of the Year  
22 by the New York State Rifle and Pistol  
23 Association.

24 And prior to her service as an EnCon  
25 officer, Lieutenant Bobseine was a forester with

1 the DEC's Division of Land and Forests.

2 She holds a master's degree in  
3 forestry from the SUNY Environmental Science and  
4 Forestry School and was commissioned as a  
5 lieutenant in 2013.

6 Also, for EnCon Officer Davey, he's  
7 a 12-year veteran of the force, graduated from  
8 DEC Basic Police Academy in 2005. He spent many  
9 years on the Marine Enforcement Unit in New York  
10 City, where he gained a reputation as an  
11 excellent officer.

12 EnCon Officer Davey transferred to  
13 Westchester and Putnam Counties in 2008, where he  
14 expanded his role in public outreach and  
15 education, becoming very familiar with local  
16 sporting groups and often participating in their  
17 events.

18 After relocating to Columbia County,  
19 Officer Davey again enhanced his role in public  
20 outreach and education, gaining recognition for  
21 his assistance at the annual Columbia County  
22 Veterans Pheasant Hunt, which is affiliated with  
23 the Wounded Warriors Project.

24 He currently is assigned to patrol  
25 Columbia County, acts as a Division of Criminal

1 Justice Services certified police instructor, and  
2 recently became a certified firearms instructor  
3 for the DEC.

4 As you can see, Mr. President and my  
5 colleagues, these two individuals really  
6 exemplify the definition of heroism. They are  
7 deserving of our utmost thanks and praise, and I  
8 am proud to have sponsored, along with Senator  
9 Marchione, Liberty Medal resolutions honoring  
10 both courageous officers.

11 I thank them for their service to  
12 our great state. And at this point I know that  
13 Senator Marchione also would like to speak,  
14 because these two officers currently reside in  
15 her district in Columbia County.

16 So thank you, Mr. President.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank  
18 you, Senator Young.

19 Senator Marchione.

20 SENATOR MARCHIONE: Thank you,  
21 Mr. President. It's my honor to stand and speak  
22 on this resolution honoring Officer Davey and  
23 Lieutenant Bobseine.

24 You know, I talked earlier with them  
25 and I talked about the idea that when you come

1 upon a hunter or you come upon someone in the  
2 woods that's carrying a firearm, you don't  
3 automatically become concerned about it because  
4 that's what you come upon when you do the brave  
5 work that they do.

6           But in this instance, things went  
7 very bad and they went very bad quickly. And the  
8 dedication and the expertise and the skills that  
9 were used to save Officer Davey's life, I just am  
10 in awe at the great job that Lieutenant Bobseine  
11 did.

12           And I just want to say thank you to  
13 her, thank you to the Environmental Conservation  
14 officers who risk their lives every day out there  
15 in the woods for us.

16           I want to also say thank you to the  
17 commissioner for his care and concern for his  
18 department -- not just his environmental  
19 conservation officers, but all of his department  
20 and all of the good work that they do for us.

21           It really is an honor to stand up  
22 and to say thank you. You certainly both  
23 exemplify a proud tradition of EnCon officers.  
24 And it's a privilege to have this opportunity to  
25 recognize and commend the bravery, the skill, and

1 the dedication of both of my constituents, as  
2 both of these individuals live within my district  
3 and the incident occurred within the 43rd Senate  
4 District.

5 Thank you, a very heartfelt thank  
6 you for what you do for us.

7 Thank you, Mr. President.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank  
9 you, Senator Marchione.

10 Before we recognize our community  
11 heroes, the Secretary will read previously  
12 adopted Resolution Number 2398, by Senator Young,  
13 title only.

14 THE SECRETARY: Legislative  
15 Resolution Number 2398, by Senator Young,  
16 commending Officer James Davey upon the occasion  
17 of his designation as recipient of a Liberty  
18 Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an  
19 individual by the New York State Senate.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: To  
21 Lieutenant Bobseine and Officer Davey, the  
22 commissioner, as well as your families and the  
23 DEC family, we congratulate you, we thank you for  
24 being selfless public servants, and we welcome  
25 you to the New York State Senate chamber. We

1 extend all of the courtesies and the privileges  
2 of this great house to you and to your families.

3 Ladies and gentlemen, please rise.  
4 (Standing ovation.)

5 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator  
6 DeFrancisco.

7 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Could you  
8 recognize Senator Flanagan for an important  
9 introduction.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator  
11 Flanagan.

12 SENATOR FLANAGAN: Thank you,  
13 Mr. President.

14 I'm elated to stand even for a brief  
15 couple of moments to talk about a group that is  
16 joining us physically in this part of the  
17 chamber, our Japanese delegation.

18 I had a fantastic meeting this  
19 morning with the entire contingent of folks who  
20 are here. And I hope -- you know, you're going  
21 to have to forgive me, given the fact that my  
22 last name is Flanagan, I may not get it  
23 absolutely correctly, but there's a whole  
24 delegation. I want to welcome Ambassador  
25 Takahashi and his entire group for being here in

1 Albany today.

2                   So when we think about the work that  
3 we do, I had about a half an hour to 45 minutes  
4 with the delegation to listen to who they are,  
5 what they do, where they live -- Kawasaki,  
6 Buffalo, all kinds of different things all across  
7 the great State of New York.

8                   They have a contingent -- and I  
9 think I have my numbers correctly, or close to  
10 it -- 33,000 jobs, \$11 billion in investment in  
11 the State of New York. They are amiable, they  
12 are professional, they care very deeply about the  
13 great State of New York.

14                   And I believe that we should strive  
15 to do everything we can to create an economic  
16 development environment that inures to their  
17 benefit, which works for the great people of the  
18 State of New York. And I know they have Canon,  
19 which happens to be down in the Senator  
20 Marcellino and Senator Flanagan area out on  
21 Long Island.

22                   But Ambassador, to you and your  
23 delegation, welcome. I hope you had a terrific  
24 day here today. And we want to continue to  
25 foster that relationship with you, and we only

1 wish you the best. So we want to extend the  
2 courtesies of the chamber to you and your  
3 delegation.

4 Thank you.

5 (Standing ovation.)

6 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:

7 Ambassador, to you and your delegation, we  
8 welcome you to the New York State Senate. And on  
9 behalf of Majority Leader Flanagan, we extend all  
10 the privileges and courtesies of the house.

11 AMBASSADOR TAKAHASHI: Thank you  
12 very much.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: You're  
14 welcome.

15 Senator DeFrancisco.

16 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes, can you  
17 recognize Senator Flanagan again, while taking up  
18 previously adopted Resolution 2386. Read it in  
19 its entirety, please.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The  
21 Secretary will read.

22 THE SECRETARY: Legislative  
23 Resolution Number 2386, by Senator Flanagan,  
24 commending Barbara Jones upon the occasion of her  
25 appointment as Irish Ambassador to Mexico.

1                   "WHEREAS, It is the custom of this  
2 Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to  
3 certain individuals of high standard and  
4 professionalism whose singular objective is given  
5 to serving the advancement of democracy in the  
6 world; and

7                   "WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern,  
8 and in full accord with its long-standing  
9 traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud  
10 to commend Barbara Jones upon the occasion of her  
11 appointment as Irish Ambassador to Mexico; and

12                   "WHEREAS, Recently, the United  
13 States government has approved the appointment of  
14 several overseas ambassadors; Barbara Jones, the  
15 current Consul General in New York, will assume  
16 the role of Irish Ambassador to Mexico, Colombia,  
17 Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Peru  
18 and Venezuela; and

19                   "WHEREAS, Barbara Jones was born in  
20 County Wexford, Ireland; she graduated with  
21 degrees in both French and history from the  
22 University College in Dublin, Ireland; she also  
23 holds her post-graduate qualifications in  
24 education from University College, and computer  
25 Science from the National Institute of High

1 Education from the University of Limerick; and  
2 "WHEREAS, In September of 1983,  
3 Barbara Jones began her distinguished career at  
4 the Department of Foreign Affairs, working  
5 primarily on Anglo-Irish and European Union  
6 issues; and

7 "WHEREAS, From 1994-1997, Barbara  
8 Jones served as Head of the Humanitarian Aid  
9 policy; in this capacity, she traveled  
10 extensively in Africa; her overseas postings  
11 included assignments at the Consulate General of  
12 Ireland in San Francisco from 1986-1990, the  
13 Embassy at Luxembourg from 1991-1993, and as  
14 Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Ireland  
15 in London, where she managed political relations  
16 and the Northern Ireland peace process; and

17 "WHEREAS, In September of 2012,  
18 Barbara Jones was appointed Joint Secretary at  
19 the British-Irish Intergovernmental Secretariat  
20 in Belfast, Ireland; two years later, she was  
21 named the Consul General of Ireland in New York;  
22 and

23 "WHEREAS, Barbara Jones also served  
24 in two additional government departments in  
25 Dublin from 1997-2002; from 1999-2002, she served

1 as both speechwriter and special advisor in the  
2 Department of the Taoiseach; prior to holding  
3 those two positions, she was seconded to the  
4 Trade Section of the Department of Enterprise,  
5 Trade and Employment, where she was instrumental  
6 in writing and developing a new long-term  
7 strategy for promoting Irish trade with both  
8 China and Asia; and

9 "WHEREAS, With her throughout have  
10 been her husband, Oliver O'Connor, and their  
11 three children, Kilian, Tadhg, and Maeve, all of  
12 whom have shown her love and support and rejoice  
13 in her many achievements; and

14 "WHEREAS, It is the sense of this  
15 Legislative Body that those who enhance the  
16 quality of life in their community and have shown  
17 a long and sustained commitment to the  
18 maintenance of high standards in their  
19 profession, certainly have earned the recognition  
20 and applause of all the citizens of this great  
21 Empire State; now, therefore, be it

22 "RESOLVED, That this Legislative  
23 Body pause in its deliberations to commend  
24 Barbara Jones upon the occasion of her  
25 appointment as Irish Ambassador to Mexico, and to

1 wish her great success in her new position; and  
2 be it further

3 "RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
4 resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to  
5 Barbara Jones."

6 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator  
7 Flanagan on the resolution.

8 SENATOR FLANAGAN: Thank you,  
9 Mr. President.

10 This is, I think, emblematic of the  
11 fact that we are in the quintessential melting  
12 pot here in the great State of New York. We have  
13 our delegation, our Japanese delegation, our  
14 ambassador from Ireland. And I want to extend  
15 the courtesies of the house to a gentleman who is  
16 a gentleman in every sense of the word, a true  
17 leader in the New York State Assembly, and that's  
18 Assemblyman Michael Cusick from Staten Island.

19 Mike, it's nice to see you here.

20 (Applause.)

21 SENATOR FLANAGAN: Also too,  
22 Mr. President, if I may, I had a lovely  
23 conversation with Ambassador Jones. And the  
24 diversity of her portfolio is -- it's really  
25 astounding. And she has been all over the world.

1           I had a chance to meet with her in  
2 New York City and was complimenting her on how  
3 they run their office. It's simple, it's clean,  
4 it's effective, everyone's nice, and they're  
5 there to basically try and help people. And I  
6 think she's done a superb job as an ambassador  
7 for Ireland.

8           Now, I'm disheartened to say that  
9 she accepted an ambassadorship to Mexico based on  
10 the fact that we refused to make St. Patrick's  
11 Day a state holiday.

12           (Laughter.)

13           SENATOR FLANAGAN: I don't know why  
14 she feels that way, but nonetheless she has.

15           But her extensive background leads  
16 me to believe that the people of Mexico and the  
17 surrounding countries are going to be very well  
18 served by her new position, her new tenure. And  
19 I'm grateful to have the opportunity to just  
20 speak on a resolution that we did pass  
21 previously.

22           Ambassador, we wish you only the  
23 best. We thank you for the work and services  
24 that you provided here in the State of New York.  
25 And the people of the other countries you're

1 going to serve, they should be lucky to have you  
2 as the steward on behalf of Ireland in their  
3 countries.

4 Mr. President, if you would again  
5 extended the courtesies of the chamber to  
6 Ambassador Jones.

7 Thank you.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank  
9 you, Senator Flanagan.

10 Senator Kennedy.

11 SENATOR KENNEDY: Thank you,  
12 Mr. President.

13 I too stand to honor this  
14 extraordinary woman in our midst. Welcome back  
15 to the Senate chamber, Ambassador. What an honor  
16 it is for us to be in your presence.

17 Thank you for all that you've done  
18 for our great state and the relationship that has  
19 been built between New York and Ireland as well  
20 as the United States and Ireland under your  
21 leadership.

22 I have had the opportunity over the  
23 course of the last couple of years to get to know  
24 you personally. I have worked with you here in  
25 Albany, down in New York City, out in Buffalo,

1 and even over in Ireland. And I can attest to  
2 the leadership that you have brought to the great  
3 country of Ireland, now more unified than ever  
4 before.

5                   And now as you bring your esteemed  
6 role as the ambassador to other parts of the  
7 world, I can tell you that it's with the utmost  
8 regard that the people of this great state will  
9 honor you and your reputation, your legacy, and  
10 your continued work on behalf of a grateful state  
11 and nation here.

12                   And we know that the best is yet to  
13 come in the relationship between Ireland and  
14 Mexico under your leadership, and we look forward  
15 to your continued success and, quite frankly, our  
16 continued work together. Because once you come  
17 here to New York and you befriend so many  
18 different people and have demonstrated a keen  
19 ability to bring sides together that  
20 unfortunately in the past have never worked  
21 together, it is part of who you are and  
22 unquestionably will continue to make this world a  
23 better place.

24                   So thank you for everything you've  
25 done for all of us, and welcome back again. And

1 congratulations on your next role.

2 Thank you.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:

4 Assemblyman Cusick, welcome again.

5 Ambassador, congratulations on your  
6 appointment. On behalf of the members of this  
7 great house, we welcome you to the New York State  
8 Senate chamber, and we extend all of the  
9 privileges and the courtesies of this great  
10 house.

11 Ladies and gentlemen, please  
12 recognize the ambassador.

13 (Standing ovation.)

14 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator  
15 DeFrancisco.

16 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Can we now  
17 take up privileged Resolution 2785, by Senator  
18 Carlucci, title only, and call on Senator  
19 Carlucci, please.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The  
21 Secretary will read.

22 THE SECRETARY: Legislative  
23 Resolution Number 2785, by Senator Carlucci,  
24 memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to  
25 proclaim August 2017 as Indian American Heritage

1 Month in the State of New York.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator  
3 Carlucci.

4 SENATOR CARLUCCI: Thank you,  
5 Mr. President.

6 It's an absolute honor and a  
7 privilege to have this resolution before the  
8 house today to proclaim August, this August, as  
9 Indian American Heritage month.

10 This August is particularly special  
11 because it will be celebrating India's  
12 independence, its 70th anniversary, on  
13 August 15th of this year.

14 And we're so privileged to have with  
15 us in the gallery some members of Rockland County  
16 and other areas as well that are with us today.  
17 We have a great organization in Rockland County.  
18 We've got such a vibrant and growing  
19 Indian-American community. And we're honored to  
20 have with us a good friend of mine and a partner  
21 in government, Aney Paul. And Aney is actually  
22 the first --

23 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator  
24 Carlucci, excuse me one second, please.

25 Can I have some order in the house,

1 please.

2 Senator Carlucci.

3 SENATOR CARLUCCI: Thank you,  
4 Mr. President.

5 And Aney Paul is the first female  
6 Indian-American elected to a county legislature  
7 in the State of New York. And she's a real honor  
8 and a privilege to work with. We've worked  
9 together on many initiatives.

10 But we're just honored to have this  
11 resolution on the floor today. We celebrate it  
12 each year in Rockland County with a parade, and  
13 that's going to be August 19th this year. And we  
14 invite anybody that would like to join us, that  
15 parade grows and grows every year. So we're  
16 looking to have an even bigger turnout this year.

17 But some interesting facts.  
18 Actually, in New York State, we're the  
19 second-largest population of Indian-Americans in  
20 the United States. There's over 3 million  
21 Indians living in the United States, with over  
22 300,000 living here.

23 India -- we've taken a lot of cues  
24 from -- is the world's largest democracy. In  
25 fact, in their last parliamentary elections,

1 551 million people voted. So we think the  
2 politics and government could be complex here in  
3 Albany; I can't imagine what it's like in India  
4 with all those different segments going on.

5 But again, Mr. President, it's just  
6 an honor and a privilege to have my friends with  
7 us here today to see us in action here in the  
8 State Senate. We invite all of you to join us as  
9 we march down the streets in Rockland County to  
10 proclaim the 70th anniversary of India's  
11 independence this August. And we are excited to  
12 proclaim August as Indian American Heritage Month  
13 in the State of New York.

14 Thank you, Mr. President.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator  
16 Carlucci, thank you.

17 All in favor of adopting privileged  
18 Resolution Number 2785, by Senator Carlucci,  
19 signify by saying aye.

20 (Response of "Aye.")

21 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Opposed,  
22 nay.

23 (No response.)

24 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The  
25 resolution is adopted.

1 Senator DeFrancisco.

2 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:

3 Mr. President, can we now take up the  
4 noncontroversial reading of the calendar.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The  
6 Secretary will read.

7 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 74,  
8 by Senator Carlucci, Print Senate Print 711, an  
9 act to amend the Penal Law.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the  
11 last section.

12 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
14 is laid aside.

15 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
16 100, by Senator Felder, Senate Print 1110, an act  
17 to amend the Education Law.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the  
19 last section.

20 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
22 is laid aside.

23 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
24 278, substituted earlier by Member of the  
25 Assembly Magee, Assembly Print 4972A, an act to

1 amend the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law.

2 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Lay the  
4 bill aside.

5 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
6 339, by Senator LaValle, Senate Print 4332, an  
7 act authorizing.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: There is  
9 a home-rule message at the desk.

10 The Secretary will read the last  
11 section.

12 THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This  
13 act shall take effect immediately.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the  
15 roll.

16 (The Secretary called the roll.)

17 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce  
18 the results.

19 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 63.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
21 is passed.

22 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
23 378, by Senator LaValle, Senate Print 2980, an  
24 act to amend the Real Property Tax Law.

25 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The bill  
2   is laid aside.

3                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
4   418, by Senator Little, Senate Print 5141, an act  
5   to amend the Private Housing Finance Law.

6                   SENATOR GIANARIS:   Lay it aside.

7                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The bill  
8   is laid aside.

9                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
10   491, by Senator Alcantara, Senate Print 1342A, an  
11   act to amend the Penal Law.

12                   SENATOR GIANARIS:   Lay it aside.

13                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The bill  
14   is laid aside.

15                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
16   515, by Senator Ranzenhofer, Senate Print 3709,  
17   an act to amend the Elder Law.

18                   SENATOR GIANARIS:   Lay it aside.

19                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The bill  
20   is laid aside.

21                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
22   531, by Senator Griffo, Senate Print 2420B, an  
23   act to amend the General Municipal Law.

24                   SENATOR GIANARIS:   Lay it aside.

25                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The bill

1 is laid aside.

2 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
3 566, by Senator Golden, Senate Print 5130, an act  
4 to amend the Retirement and Social Security Law.

5 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
7 is laid aside.

8 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
9 579, by Senator Croci, Senate Print 5305A, an act  
10 authorizing.

11 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

12 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: For the day.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: That bill  
14 is laid aside for the day.

15 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
16 585, by Senator Savino, Senate Print 5429A, an  
17 act to authorize.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the  
19 last section.

20 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
21 act shall take effect immediately.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the  
23 roll.

24 (The Secretary called the roll.)

25 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Results.

1                   THE SECRETARY:    In relation to  
2   Calendar 585, those recorded in the negative are  
3   Senators Akshar, Bonacic, O'Mara and Ranzenhofer.

4                   Ayes, 59.   Nays, 4.

5                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The bill  
6   is passed.

7                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
8   609, by Senator Golden, Senate Print 1612, an act  
9   to amend the Civil Service Law.

10                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Read the  
11   last section.

12                  THE SECRETARY:    Section 2.   This  
13   act shall take effect immediately.

14                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Call the  
15   roll.

16                  (The Secretary called the roll.)

17                  THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 62.   Nays, 1.  
18   Senator DeFrancisco recorded in the negative.

19                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The bill  
20   is passed.

21                  THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
22   715, substituted earlier by Member of the  
23   Assembly Gottfried, Assembly Print 5175A, an act  
24   to amend the Social Services Law.

25                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Read the

1 last section.

2 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
3 act shall take effect on the 180th day.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the  
5 roll.

6 (The Secretary called the roll.)

7 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce  
8 the results.

9 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 63.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
11 is passed.

12 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
13 716, by Senator Hannon, Senate Print 2271, an act  
14 to amend the Public Health Law.

15 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Lay the  
17 bill aside.

18 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
19 746, by Senator Avella, Senate Print 1971, an act  
20 to amend the Executive Law.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the  
22 last section.

23 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
24 act shall take effect on the first of January.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the

1 roll.

2 (The Secretary called the roll.)

3 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce  
4 the results.

5 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 63.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
7 is passed.

8 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
9 747, by Senator Hannon, Senate Print 2243, an act  
10 to amend the Executive Law.

11 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
13 is laid aside.

14 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
15 778, by Senator Klein, Senate Print 5664B, an act  
16 to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law.

17 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
19 is laid aside.

20 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
21 779, by Senator Murphy, Senate Print 4395, an act  
22 to amend the Administrative Code of the City of  
23 New York.

24 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill

1 is laid aside.

2 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
3 791, by Senator DeFrancisco, Senate Print 5007,  
4 an act in relation to authorizing.

5 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
7 is laid aside.

8 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
9 793, by Senator Young, Senate Print 5244A, an act  
10 to amend the Real Property Tax Law.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the  
12 last section.

13 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
14 act shall take effect immediately.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the  
16 roll.

17 (The Secretary called the roll.)

18 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce  
19 the results.

20 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 63.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
22 is passed.

23 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
24 800, by Senator LaValle, Senate Print 5558, an  
25 act authorizing.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    There is  
2 a home-rule message at the desk.

3                   The Secretary will read the last  
4 section.

5                   THE SECRETARY:    Section 2.  This  
6 act shall take effect immediately.

7                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Call the  
8 roll.

9                   (The Secretary called the roll.)

10                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Announce  
11 the results.

12                  THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 63.

13                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The bill  
14 is passed.

15                  THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
16 803, by Senator DeFrancisco, Senate Print 5763,  
17 an act to amend the General Municipal Law.

18                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    There is  
19 a home-rule message at the desk.

20                  The Secretary will read the last  
21 section.

22                  THE SECRETARY:    Section 2.  This  
23 act shall take effect immediately.

24                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Call the  
25 roll.

1 (The Secretary called the roll.)

2 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce  
3 the results.

4 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 63.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
6 is passed.

7 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
8 808, by Senator Alcantara, Senate Print 5881B, an  
9 act to amend the Administrative Code of the City  
10 of New York.

11 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
13 is laid aside.

14 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
15 817, by Senator Larkin, Senate Print 5401, an act  
16 to amend the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law.

17 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
19 is laid aside.

20 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
21 830, substituted earlier by Member of the  
22 Assembly Crespo, Assembly Print 5151B, an act to  
23 amend the Education Law.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the  
25 last section.

1 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
2 act shall take effect immediately.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the  
4 roll.

5 (The Secretary called the roll.)

6 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce  
7 the results.

8 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 63.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
10 is passed.

11 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
12 851, by Senator Phillips, Senate Print 5843A, an  
13 act to amend the Highway Law.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the  
15 last section.

16 THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This  
17 act shall take effect immediately.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the  
19 roll.

20 (The Secretary called the roll.)

21 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce  
22 the results.

23 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 63.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
25 is passed.

1                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
2   866, by Senator LaValle, Senate Print 3177, an  
3   act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law.

4                   SENATOR GIANARIS:    Lay it aside.

5                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Lay the  
6   bill aside.

7                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
8   895, by Senator Bonacic, Senate Print 3898A, an  
9   act to amend the Racing, Pari-Mutuel Wagering and  
10  Breeding Law.

11                   SENATOR GIANARIS:    Lay it aside.

12                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Lay the  
13  bill aside.

14                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
15  931, by Senator Ritchie, Senate Print 728, an act  
16  to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law.

17                   SENATOR GIANARIS:    Lay it aside.

18                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Lay the  
19  bill aside.

20                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
21  939, by Senator Marchione, Senate Print 5354, an  
22  act to amend the Agriculture and Markets Law.

23                   SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:    Lay the bill  
24  aside for the day, please.

25                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The bill

1 will be laid aside for the day.

2 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
3 951, by Senator Ortt, Senate Print 5681, an act  
4 to require.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the  
6 last section.

7 THE SECRETARY: Section 4. This  
8 act shall take effect immediately.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the  
10 roll.

11 (The Secretary called the roll.)

12 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce  
13 the results.

14 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 63.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
16 is passed.

17 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
18 954, by Senator Young, Senate Print 856, an act  
19 to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

20 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Lay the  
22 bill aside.

23 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
24 1008, by Senator Lanza, Senate Print 4062, an act  
25 to amend the Tax Law.

1                   SENATOR GIANARIS:   Lay it aside.

2                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:   Lay the  
3 bill aside.

4                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
5 1030, by Senator Griffo, Senate Print 2730, an  
6 act to amend the Penal Law.

7                   SENATOR GIANARIS:   Lay it aside.

8                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:   Lay the  
9 bill aside.

10                  Calendar Number 1038 was amended  
11 today, therefore it is high.  It will be laid  
12 aside for the day.

13                  THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
14 1045, by Senator Lanza, Senate Print 2634, an act  
15 to amend the Tax Law.

16                  SENATOR GIANARIS:   Lay it aside.

17                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:   Lay the  
18 bill aside.

19                  THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
20 1046, by Senator Little, Senate Print 2645A, an  
21 act to amend the Tax Law.

22                  SENATOR GIANARIS:   Lay it aside.

23                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:   Lay the  
24 bill aside.

25                  THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number

1 1061, substituted earlier by Member of the  
2 Assembly Lavine, Assembly Print 5950A, an act to  
3 amend the Tax Law.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the  
5 last section.

6 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
7 act shall take effect immediately.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the  
9 roll.

10 (The Secretary called the roll.)

11 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce  
12 the results.

13 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 63.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
15 is passed.

16 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
17 1072, by Senator Lanza, Senate Print 5752, an act  
18 to require.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the  
20 last section.

21 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
22 act shall take effect immediately.

23 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the  
24 roll.

25 (The Secretary called the roll.)

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Announce  
2   the results.

3                   THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 63.

4                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The bill  
5   is passed.

6                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
7   1080, by Senator Seward, Senate Print 4654, an  
8   act to amend the Insurance Law.

9                   SENATOR GIANARIS:    Lay it aside.

10                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Lay the  
11   bill aside.

12                  THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
13   1104, by Senator Ritchie, Senate Print 1404, an  
14   act to amend the Real Property Tax Law.

15                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Read the  
16   last section.

17                  THE SECRETARY:    Section 2. This  
18   act shall take effect immediately.

19                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Call the  
20   roll.

21                               (The Secretary called the roll.)

22                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Announce  
23   the results.

24                  THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 62. Nays, 1.  
25   Senator Krueger recorded in the negative.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The bill  
2    is passed.

3                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
4    1125, by Senator Young, Senate Print 547, an act  
5    to amend the Social Services Law.

6                   SENATOR GIANARIS:    Lay it aside.

7                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Lay the  
8    bill aside.

9                   THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
10   1264, by Senator Griffo, Senate Print 3746A, an  
11   act to amend the Public Authorities Law.

12                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Read the  
13   last section.

14                  THE SECRETARY:    Section 2.  This  
15   act shall take effect immediately.

16                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Call the  
17   roll.

18                  (The Secretary called the roll.)

19                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Announce  
20   the results.

21                  THE SECRETARY:    Ayes, 63.

22                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The bill  
23   is passed.

24                  THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number  
25   1265, by Senator Griffo, Senate Print 3906, an

1 act to amend the Executive Law.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the  
3 last section.

4 THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This  
5 act shall take effect immediately.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the  
7 roll.

8 (The Secretary called the roll.)

9 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce  
10 the results.

11 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 63.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
13 is passed.

14 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
15 1273, by Senator Gallivan, Senate Print 4509A, an  
16 act to amend the Tax Law.

17 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Lay the  
19 bill aside.

20 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
21 1275, by Senator Murphy, Senate Print 4735A, an  
22 act to amend the Executive Law.

23 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the  
24 last section.

25 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This

1 act shall take effect immediately.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the  
3 roll.

4 (The Secretary called the roll.)

5 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce  
6 the results.

7 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 63.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
9 is passed.

10 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
11 1285, by Senator Valesky, Senate Print 5903, an  
12 act to amend the State Finance Law.

13 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Lay the  
15 bill aside.

16 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
17 1288, by Senator Ranzenhofer, Senate Print 2894,  
18 an act to amend the Not-For-Profit Corporation  
19 Law.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the  
21 last section.

22 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
23 act shall take effect immediately.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the  
25 roll.

1 (The Secretary called the roll.)  
2 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce  
3 the results.  
4 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 63.  
5 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
6 is passed.  
7 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
8 1290, by Senator DeFrancisco, Senate Print 3506,  
9 an act to amend the Public Authorities Law.  
10 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.  
11 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Lay the  
12 bill aside.  
13 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
14 1291, by Senator Lanza, Senate Print 3543A, an  
15 act to amend the Public Authorities Law.  
16 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the  
17 last section.  
18 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
19 act shall take effect on the 180th day.  
20 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the  
21 roll.  
22 (The Secretary called the roll.)  
23 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator  
24 Krueger to explain her vote.  
25 SENATOR KRUEGER: Thank you,

1 Mr. President. To explain my vote no.

2                   So this would be a bill that would  
3 grant a 10 percent discount on New York City  
4 water bills to senior citizens and veterans.  
5 Well, we always like to do the right thing by  
6 senior citizens and veterans. The catch is the  
7 way the bill is written, since most people in  
8 New York City live in multi-dwelling units,  
9 apartment buildings, not single-family homes or  
10 even two-family homes, it would be very confusing  
11 how you'd define who the senior or the veteran is  
12 to get the 10 percent deduction within the larger  
13 water bill for a building that might have five  
14 units or might have 500 units.

15                   It also has no means testing at all.  
16 So for example, while my constituents might be  
17 thrilled, because I probably have more  
18 billionaires and millionaires than any other  
19 district in the City of New York or the State of  
20 New York, I'm not sure that going home and  
21 explaining we're voting for a bill to give  
22 billionaires a 10 percent reduction because  
23 they're over a certain age, but somebody else's  
24 water bills are going to have to go up because we  
25 gave billionaires of a certain age a 10 percent

1 reduction -- I just don't, with all due respect,  
2 think it's good public policy to draw a line  
3 simply based on age, not need, when deciding  
4 certain people pay less.

5 I really don't understand how we  
6 would expect the City of New York to know the age  
7 of every individual who lives within a building,  
8 because the water bill would be for just the  
9 building itself, in most cases, statistically.

10 And it would of course leave a hole  
11 in the amount of money the City of New York  
12 actually had available to meet its clean water  
13 costs, without any other explanation other than  
14 my assumption that we'd have to raise other  
15 people's water bills to pay for this deduction.

16 So everybody likes to reduce  
17 everybody's taxes. I'm sure everybody  
18 particularly likes to reduce senior citizens' and  
19 veterans' taxes. But I have to say I don't  
20 really think this is the right approach to this  
21 issue, so I'll be voting no, Mr. President.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator  
23 Krueger to be recorded in the negative.

24 Announce the result.

25 THE SECRETARY: In relation to

1 Calendar 1291, those recorded in the negative are  
2 Senators Benjamin, Krueger and Montgomery.

3 Ayes, 60. Nays, 3.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
5 is passed.

6 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
7 1300, by Senator Seward, Senate Print 421, an act  
8 to amend the Penal Law.

9 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Lay the  
11 bill aside.

12 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
13 1302, by Senator Squadron, Senate Print 499, an  
14 act to amend the Penal Law.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the  
16 last section.

17 THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This  
18 act shall take effect on the first of November.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the  
20 roll.

21 (The Secretary called the roll.)

22 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce  
23 the results.

24 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 63.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill

1 is passed.

2 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
3 1309, by Senator Helming, Senate Print 2572, an  
4 act to amend the Penal Law.

5 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Lay the  
7 bill aside.

8 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
9 1347, by Senator Griffo, Senate Print 2419, an  
10 act to amend the Banking Law.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the  
12 last section.

13 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
14 act shall take effect on the 120th day.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the  
16 roll.

17 (The Secretary called the roll.)

18 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce  
19 the results.

20 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 63.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
22 is passed.

23 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
24 1383, by Senator Bonacic, Senate Print 1027, an  
25 act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

1 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Lay the  
3 bill aside.

4 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
5 1390, by Senator Akshar, Senate Print 1248, an  
6 act to amend the Judiciary Law.

7 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Lay the  
9 bill aside.

10 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
11 1422, by Senator Helming, Senate Print 2505, an  
12 act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the  
14 last section.

15 THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This  
16 act shall take effect immediately.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the  
18 roll.

19 (The Secretary called the roll.)

20 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce  
21 the results.

22 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 63.

23 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
24 is passed.

25 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number

1 1424, by Senator Gallivan, Senate Print 2512, an  
2 act to amend the Criminal Procedure Law.

3 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Lay the  
5 bill aside.

6 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
7 1427, by Senator Helming, Senate Print 2566, an  
8 act to amend the Penal Law.

9 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay the bill  
10 aside.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Lay the  
12 bill aside.

13 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
14 1481, by Senator Stavisky, Senate Print 5213, an  
15 act to amend the Criminal Procedure Law.

16 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Please lay  
17 the bill aside.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
19 is laid aside.

20 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
21 1482, by Senator Stavisky, Senate Print 5220, an  
22 act to amend the Criminal Procedure Law.

23 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Lay the bill  
24 aside.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill

1 is laid aside.

2 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
3 1506, by Senator Flanagan, Senate Print 6567, an  
4 act to amend the Education Law.

5 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay that bill  
6 aside.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Lay the  
8 bill aside.

9 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
10 1507, by Senator Flanagan, Senate Print 6568, an  
11 act to amend the Education Law.

12 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Lay the  
14 bill aside.

15 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
16 1508, by Senator Flanagan, Senate Print 6569, an  
17 act to amend the Education Law.

18 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Lay the  
20 bill aside.

21 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
22 1518, by Senator Bonacic, Senate Print 6561, an  
23 act in relation to.

24 SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill

1 is laid aside.

2 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
3 1523, substituted earlier by Member of the  
4 Assembly Weprin, Assembly Print 3053, an act to  
5 amend the Executive Law.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Read the  
7 last section.

8 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Lay it aside.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Lay the  
10 bill aside.

11 Senator DeFrancisco, that completes  
12 the noncontroversial reading of the calendar.

13 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Could we go  
14 back to motions and resolutions, please.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Motions  
16 and resolutions.

17 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Can we take  
18 up previously adopted Resolution 2475, by Senator  
19 Serino, read the title only, and call on Senator  
20 Serino to speak.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The  
22 Secretary will read the title only.

23 THE SECRETARY: Legislative  
24 Resolution 2475, by Senator Serino, memorializing  
25 Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 15,

1 2017, as Elder Abuse Awareness Day in the State  
2 of New York.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator  
4 Serino.

5 SENATOR SERINO: Thank you,  
6 Mr. President.

7 I rise today as chair of the  
8 Senate's Aging Committee in anticipation of World  
9 Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

10 New York's seniors were born and  
11 raised in a generation defined by industrious  
12 independence, a generation where self-sufficiency  
13 was valued above all else. Many of them  
14 capitalized on that drive by spending their lives  
15 building their nest eggs, making them targets for  
16 abuse, abuse that too often happens at the hands  
17 of the people our seniors know and trust the  
18 most.

19 The result? For every known case of  
20 elder abuse, recent reports estimate that at  
21 least 20 cases actually go unreported. And  
22 financial abuse costs New York's seniors  
23 \$1.5 billion each year. These statistics make it  
24 painfully clear that we can and must do better.

25 This week, organizations around the

1 world will pause on Thursday, June 15th, in  
2 recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day,  
3 to shine light on this critical issue.

4 I wanted to speak on this resolution  
5 ahead of the day in hopes it would give my  
6 colleagues here today some time to get involved.  
7 I thank you for recognizing this initiative, and  
8 I hope when you return to your districts on  
9 Thursday that you will spread the word: There is  
10 no excuse for elder abuse.

11 Thank you, Mr. President.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank  
13 you, Senator Serino.

14 Senator DeFrancisco.

15 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Can we now  
16 take up previously adopted Resolution 2436, read  
17 the title only, and call on Senator Hoylman.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The  
19 Secretary will read the title only.

20 THE SECRETARY: Legislative  
21 Resolution Number 2436, by Senator Hoylman,  
22 memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to  
23 proclaim May 12, 2017, as Myalgic  
24 Encephalomyelitis Awareness Day in the State of  
25 New York.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Senator  
2    Hoylman.

3                   SENATOR HOYLMAN:    Thank you,  
4    Mr. President, for allowing me to speak on this  
5    resolution memorializing the Governor to proclaim  
6    May 12th as Myalgic Encephalomyelitis, better  
7    known and better pronounced as ME -- Awareness  
8    Day in New York, which is in conjunction with  
9    National ME Awareness Month in May.

10                  I first learned about ME when a  
11    friend and former constituent, Terri Wilder,  
12    who's here in the gallery with us, reached out to  
13    me and we discussed the condition that has been  
14    plaguing her for decades. Terri was diagnosed  
15    with ME in March of 2016, but she thinks she may  
16    have had it since she was a teenager or even  
17    younger.

18                  ME is incredibly widespread and  
19    incredibly misunderstood. A lot of us have heard  
20    of ME by its prior name, which is chronic fatigue  
21    syndrome, and it's a chronic, complex, systemic  
22    neuroimmune condition that can profoundly limit  
23    health and productivity of affected patients.  
24    It's much more than just feeling tired. It can  
25    include significant neurological and cognitive

1 impairment and unrelenting and sometimes  
2 debilitating pain.

3           Symptoms can get worse even from  
4 just minimal exertion, and it severely impacts  
5 people's lives. Fifty-four to 69 percent of  
6 folks with ME are unemployed. At least  
7 25 percent of them are bedridden or housebound  
8 during their lifetime. And for moderate to  
9 severe patients, living with ME has been compared  
10 with Stage 4 cancer, advanced-stage AIDS, or  
11 congestive heart failure. Imagine living with  
12 that all of your life.

13           What's more troublesome is that  
14 there are no FDA-approved treatments for ME.  
15 That's even with as many as 2.5 million Americans  
16 suffering from it, including 62,000 to 152,000  
17 New Yorkers.

18           But sadly -- and this is another  
19 distressing part of this condition -- many  
20 individuals with ME are told by families and  
21 friends or even doctors that their severe  
22 conditions are imagined, leaving so many of them  
23 misunderstood. And it's not unlike the stigma  
24 that surrounds autism, or multiple sclerosis  
25 decades ago, when these were derided as disorders

1 of nerves and insecurity.

2           There is a dearth of healthcare and  
3 social services for people with ME, and very few  
4 medical providers here in the state trained to  
5 provide care, plus little or no recognition of  
6 the seriousness of this public health crisis.

7           Well, that's what we're trying to  
8 change today with this resolution. I was happy  
9 to bring this resolution forward even while the  
10 National Institutes of Health is facing budget  
11 cuts of up to \$5.8 billion from the Trump  
12 administration. We have to make the case here in  
13 New York that we need to fund rare and  
14 difficult-to-diagnose conditions like ME.

15           Again, Terri, thank you so much.  
16 Terri is a long-time AIDS activist and has worked  
17 with groups like ACT-UP. And professionally,  
18 she's at the Mount Sinai Hospital, where she  
19 trains medical professionals in issues  
20 surrounding HIV-positive and transgender patient  
21 care. So she knows how to activate a group and  
22 get them energized for a cause, and that's what  
23 she's doing here today with ME.

24           And I, finally, wanted to thank our  
25 Health Commissioner, Dr. Zucker, for reaching out

1 to me personally and commending the State Senate  
2 for considering this important resolution in  
3 bringing awareness to the cause of ME.

4 Thank you, Mr. President.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank  
6 you, Senator Hoylman.

7 Senator DeFrancisco.

8 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Yes, there  
9 will be an immediate meeting of the Rules  
10 Committee in Room 332.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: There is  
12 an immediate meeting of the Rules Committee in  
13 Room 332.

14 The Senate will stand at ease.

15 (Whereupon, the Senate stood at ease  
16 at 4:19 p.m.)

17 (Whereupon, the Senate reconvened at  
18 4:54 p.m.)

19 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The  
20 Senate will come to order.

21 Senator DeFrancisco.

22 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Is there a  
23 Rules Committee report at the desk, please?

24 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Yes,  
25 there is.

1                   SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:    Will you  
2 please have it read.

3                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The  
4 Secretary will read.

5                   THE SECRETARY:    Senator Flanagan,  
6 from the Committee on Rules, reports the  
7 following bills:

8                               Senate Print 307A, by Senator  
9 Murphy, an act to amend the Executive Law;

10                               Senate 381, by Senator Carlucci, an  
11 act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law;

12                               Senate 385, by Senator Robach, an  
13 act to amend the Highway Law;

14                               Senate 794A, by Senator Alcantara,  
15 an act to amend the Education Law;

16                               Senate 842B, by Senator Young, an  
17 act to amend the Executive Law;

18                               Senate 893, by Senator Amedore, an  
19 act to establish;

20                               Senate 1014, by Senator Robach, an  
21 act to amend the Correction Law;

22                               Senate 1186, by Senator Marcellino,  
23 an act to amend the Executive Law;

24                               Senate 1311, by Senator Marcellino,  
25 an act relating to legalizing, validating,

1 ratifying and confirming;

2 Senate 1348, by Senator Funke, an  
3 act to amend Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2012;

4 Senate 1470, by Senator Ritchie, an  
5 act to direct;

6 Senate 1650, by Senator Carlucci, an  
7 act to amend the Parks, Recreation and Historic  
8 Preservation Law;

9 Senate 1910A, by Senator Ritchie, an  
10 act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law;

11 Senate 2137A, by Senator Serino, an  
12 act to amend the Social Services Law;

13 Senate 2154A, by Senator Serino, an  
14 act to amend the Social Services Law;

15 Senate 2155A, by Senator Serino, an  
16 act to amend the Elder Law;

17 Senate 2173, by Senator Serino, an  
18 act to amend the Correction Law;

19 Senate 2550, by Senator LaValle, an  
20 act to amend the Education Law;

21 Senate 2554, by Senator LaValle, an  
22 act to amend the Education Law;

23 Senate 3421, by Senator Parker, an  
24 act to amend the Social Services Law;

25 Senate 3879, by Senator Ranzenhofer,

1 an act to amend the Executive Law;

2 Senate 3880, by Senator Ranzenhofer,

3 an act to amend the Environmental Conservation  
4 Law;

5 Senate 3931, by Senator O'Mara, an  
6 act to amend the Transportation Law;

7 Senate 3981A, by Senator Savino, an  
8 act to amend the Social Services Law;

9 Senate 4059, by Senator Lanza, an  
10 act to amend the Correction Law;

11 Senate 4135A, by Senator Savino, an  
12 act to amend the Executive Law;

13 Senate 4423B, by Senator  
14 DeFrancisco, an act to amend the Public Service  
15 Law;

16 Senate 4833, by Senator Avella, an  
17 act to amend the Social Services Law;

18 Senate 4909, by Senator Díaz, an act  
19 to amend the Executive Law;

20 Senate 5059A, by Senator Valesky, an  
21 act to amend the Abandoned Property Law;

22 Senate 5064A, by Senator  
23 Ranzenhofer, an act to amend the Environmental  
24 Conservation Law;

25 Senate 5222, by Senator Stavisky, an

1 act to amend the Real Property Tax Law;  
2 Senate 5269, by the Senate Committee  
3 on Rules, an act to amend the Tax Law;  
4 Senate 5270, by the Senate Committee  
5 on Rules, an act to amend the Tax Law;  
6 Senate 5271, by the Senate Committee  
7 on Rules, an act to amend the Tax Law;  
8 Senate 5359, by the Senate Committee  
9 on Rules, an act to amend the Tax Law;  
10 Senate 5415A, by Senator Serino, an  
11 act to amend the Elder Law;  
12 Senate 5494A, by Senator Gallivan,  
13 an act to amend the Correction Law;  
14 Senate 5641A, by Senator Croci, an  
15 act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law;  
16 Senate 5680, by Senator Ortt, an act  
17 to require;  
18 Senate 5826, by the Senate Committee  
19 on Rules, an act to amend the Tax Law;  
20 Senate 5956, by the Senate Committee  
21 on Rules, an act to amend the Tax Law;  
22 Senate 5957, by the Senate Committee  
23 on Rules, an act to amend the Tax Law;  
24 Senate 5958, by the Senate Committee  
25 on Rules, an act to amend the Real Property Law;

1                   Senate 5959, by the Senate Committee  
2 on Rules, an act to amend the Tax Law;

3                   Senate 5960, by the Senate Committee  
4 on Rules, an act to amend the Tax Law;

5                   Senate 6022, by Senator Serino, an  
6 act to amend the Penal Law;

7                   Senate 6081, by Senator Serino, an  
8 act to amend Chapter 942 of the Laws of 1983;

9                   Senate 6431A, by Senator Serino, an  
10 act to amend the Retirement and Social Security  
11 Law;

12                   Senate 6459, by Senator DeFrancisco,  
13 an act to expand;

14                   Senate 6462, by Senator  
15 Stewart-Cousins, an act to amend Chapter 118 of  
16 the Laws of 1969;

17                   Senate 6470A, by Senator Marcellino,  
18 an act to amend the Navigation Law;

19                   Senate 6514, by Senator Ritchie, an  
20 act to amend the Local Finance Law;

21                   Senate 6624, by Senator Seward, an  
22 act to amend the Insurance Law;

23                   Senate 6650, by Senator Serino, an  
24 act to amend the Banking Law;

25                   Senate 6651A, by Senator Flanagan,

1 an act to amend the Public Authorities Law;

2 Senate 6659, by Senator Klein, an

3 act to amend the Tax Law;

4 Senate 6661, by Senator Hannon, an

5 act to amend the Public Health Law;

6 Senate 6662, by Senator Little, an

7 act to amend the Multiple Dwelling Law;

8 And Senate 6663, by Senator Ortt, an

9 act to amend the Insurance Law.

10 All bills reported direct to third  
11 reading.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator  
13 DeFrancisco.

14 SENATOR DeFRANCISCO: Move to  
15 accept the report of the Rules Committee.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: All in  
17 favor of accepting the report of the Rules  
18 Committee, signify by saying aye.

19 (Response of "Aye.")

20 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Opposed,  
21 nay.

22 (No response.)

23 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The  
24 report is accepted.

25 Senator DeFrancisco.

1                   SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:    One moment,  
2    please.

3                    Can we call up the first bill on the  
4    controversial calendar, please -- namely,  
5    Calendar Number 74.

6                    ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The  
7    Secretary will ring the bell.

8                    The Secretary will read.

9                    THE SECRETARY:    Calendar Number 74,  
10   by Senator Carlucci, Senate Print 711, an act to  
11   amend the Penal Law.

12                   SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:    Can we remain  
13   at ease for a moment before the debate begins.

14                    ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The  
15   Senate will stand at ease.

16                    SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:    Would you  
17   please lay that bill aside?

18                    We're trying to get some movement in  
19   the process, but that will not give us any.

20                    (Laughter.)

21                    ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Calendar  
22   Number 74 will be laid aside.

23                    SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:    Lay it aside,  
24   and if we could go to Calendar 808.

25                    ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The

1 Secretary will read.

2 THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number  
3 808, by Senator Alcantara, Senate Print 5881B, an  
4 act to amend the Administrative Code of the City  
5 of New York.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator  
7 Parker, why do you rise?

8 SENATOR PARKER: On the bill.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator  
10 Parker on the bill.

11 SENATOR PARKER: Thank you,  
12 Mr. President. Actually, Mr. President, could  
13 I -- will the sponsor yield for some questions?

14 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Does the  
15 sponsor yield for a question?

16 SENATOR ALCANTARA: Yes.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The  
18 sponsor yields.

19 SENATOR PARKER: Thank you.  
20 Through you, Mr. President, thank you, Senator  
21 Alcantara.

22 Will the sponsor please explain the  
23 bill?

24 SENATOR ALCANTARA: Sure.

25 The bill will require the City of

1 New York retroactively to apply SCRIE and DRIE  
2 benefits dating back to the original day of  
3 eligibility for such benefits in the case where  
4 the individual made a late application.

5 The individual rent will be frozen  
6 prospectively of an application at the rate that  
7 the individual was paying at the original date of  
8 eligibility for the SCRIE/DRIE benefits.

9 The lookback period will be capped  
10 at a minimum of two years. For individuals that  
11 apply more than two years after becoming  
12 eligible, they will receive the maximum of the  
13 two years lookback when determining the rent  
14 freeze.

15 SENATOR PARKER: Mr. President,  
16 through you, will the sponsor continue to yield.

17 SENATOR ALCANTARA: Yes.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator  
19 Alcantara, do you continue to yield?

20 SENATOR ALCANTARA: Yes.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The  
22 sponsor yields.

23 SENATOR PARKER: Senator Alcantara  
24 -- through you, Mr. President -- who would  
25 benefit from this bill?

1                   SENATOR ALCANTARA:    It would be  
2   senior citizens that because they probably forgot  
3   the application, or for those of us that are --  
4   it would just be senior citizens that would  
5   benefit from this.

6                   SENATOR PARKER:    Mr. President,  
7   through you, will the sponsor continue to yield  
8   to a question?

9                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:   Does the  
10   sponsor continue to yield?

11                   SENATOR ALCANTARA:    Yes.

12                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:   The  
13   sponsor yields.

14                   SENATOR PARKER:    Through you,  
15   Mr. President.  Senator, how would this rent cap  
16   rollback impact property owners?  And who would  
17   have to pay for the SCRIE candidate -- for the  
18   back rent payments?

19                   SENATOR ALCANTARA:    The SCRIE/DRIE  
20   would hold the landlord harmless.

21                   SENATOR PARKER:    Through you,  
22   Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to yield  
23   for questions?

24                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:   Does the  
25   sponsor continue to yield?

1                   SENATOR ALCANTARA:    Yes.

2                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The  
3 sponsor yields.

4                   SENATOR PARKER:     So who will pay  
5 the back payments that have not been paid under  
6 this program?  I know the property owners are  
7 held harmless, but I was wondering who will pay  
8 the back payments.

9                   SENATOR ALCANTARA:    There's no back  
10 payment.  What it means is that your rent would  
11 be what it was two years from the day you  
12 qualified for it.

13                  SENATOR PARKER:     Through you,  
14 Mr. President.  First let me thank the sponsor  
15 for her patience on my questions.  But will  
16 she --

17                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    On the  
18 bill, Senator Parker?

19                  SENATOR PARKER:     No.  Will she  
20 continue to yield for a question?

21                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Does the  
22 sponsor continue to yield?

23                  SENATOR ALCANTARA:    Yes.

24                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The  
25 sponsor yields.

1                   SENATOR PARKER:    Thank you.  
2    Through you, Mr. President.   Who would reimburse  
3    property owners for the overpayment of property  
4    taxes?

5                   SENATOR ALCANTARA:   The bill has  
6    nothing to do with the taxes.   It just speaks to  
7    the rent freeze.

8                   SENATOR PARKER:    Mr. President,  
9    Through you, will the sponsor continue to yield  
10   for a question?

11                   SENATOR ALCANTARA:    Yes.

12                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:   Does the  
13   sponsor continue to yield?

14                   SENATOR ALCANTARA:    Yes.

15                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:   The  
16   sponsor yields.

17                   SENATOR PARKER:    Who would be for  
18   finding eligible seniors who have not filed for  
19   SCRIE but who are qualified and within the  
20   two-year window?

21                   SENATOR ALCANTARA:    They don't have  
22   to actively do it.   For example, when a senior  
23   citizen goes to a place to apply, if they  
24   qualified two years back, they would  
25   retroactively apply it to them two years back.

1                   SENATOR PARKER:    Mr. President,  
2 through you, will the sponsor continue to yield  
3 for a question?

4                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:   Does the  
5 sponsor continue to yield?

6                   SENATOR ALCANTARA:    Yes.

7                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:   The  
8 sponsor yields.

9                   SENATOR PARKER:    Thank you,  
10 Mr. President. Through you.

11                   Senator, why are there seniors who  
12 have not filed for SCRIE?

13                   SENATOR ALCANTARA:    Because they  
14 don't know. Like for example in my district,  
15 more than 50 percent of seniors that qualify have  
16 not applied. It could be due to a language  
17 barrier, outreach on behalf of the city.

18                   SENATOR PARKER:    Through you,  
19 Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to yield  
20 for a question?

21                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:   Does the  
22 sponsor continue to yield?

23                   SENATOR ALCANTARA:    Yes.

24                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:   The  
25 sponsor yields.

1                   SENATOR PARKER:     Senator, what are  
2 we doing if in fact the problem is in part a  
3 language barrier?  And certainly I have the same  
4 issue, not just with Spanish-speaking seniors in  
5 my district, but also a very large Haitian-  
6 Creole-speaking population.  Who is responsible  
7 for bridging that language gap?

8                   SENATOR ALCANTARA:   Well, when I  
9 spoke about the language issue, I was not just  
10 referring to Spanish.  It's whatever language --  
11 for example, if somebody is in a mostly Chinese  
12 neighborhood, I would imagine that it's Cantonese  
13 and Mandarin.

14                   It would be -- can you repeat your  
15 question again, please?

16                   SENATOR PARKER:     Through you,  
17 Mr. President.  The question is who's responsible  
18 for making sure that that language barrier is  
19 actually bridged?

20                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:   Does the  
21 sponsor continue to yield for a question?

22                   SENATOR ALCANTARA:   Correct.  
23                   The administrating agency is  
24 responsible.

25                   SENATOR PARKER:     Through you,

1 Mr. President, would the sponsor continue to  
2 yield for a question?

3 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Does the  
4 sponsor continue to yield for a question?

5 SENATOR ALCANTARA: Yes.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The  
7 sponsor yields.

8 SENATOR PARKER: How many seniors  
9 do we believe that this affects statewide?

10 SENATOR ALCANTARA: I'm not sure.  
11 The comptroller office for the city didn't give  
12 us a number.

13 SENATOR PARKER: Through you,  
14 Mr. President, does the sponsor continue to yield  
15 for a question?

16 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Will the  
17 sponsor continue to yield for a question?

18 SENATOR ALCANTARA: Yes.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The  
20 sponsor yields.

21 SENATOR PARKER: Senator, how much  
22 do we believe that this bill -- this SCRIE  
23 rollback act, how much is this going to cost the  
24 State of New York?

25 SENATOR ALCANTARA: The

1 comptroller's office didn't give us an estimate,  
2 but they will get back to us.

3 SENATOR PARKER: Mr. President,  
4 through you, will the sponsor continue to yield  
5 for a question?

6 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Does the  
7 sponsor continue to yield for a question?

8 SENATOR ALCANTARA: Yes.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The  
10 sponsor yields.

11 SENATOR PARKER: Senator, so are  
12 you to have the Senate understand that we are  
13 proceeding with this bill and we're asked to vote  
14 on this bill without a proper fiscal analysis of  
15 the impact of this legislation on the State of  
16 New York?

17 SENATOR ALCANTARA: There is no  
18 cost to the State of New York.

19 SENATOR PARKER: Okay. Through  
20 you, Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to  
21 yield for a question?

22 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Does the  
23 sponsor continue to yield for a question?

24 SENATOR ALCANTARA: Yes.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The

1 sponsor yields.

2 SENATOR PARKER: If there's no cost  
3 to the State of New York, where does the money  
4 come from in order to kind of look back and bring  
5 these people into the program who weren't in the  
6 program currently? Are you indicating that  
7 there's extra money in the SCRIE program?

8 SENATOR ALCANTARA: It would be a  
9 loss of revenue to the City of New York to make  
10 up for the program.

11 SENATOR PARKER: Through you,  
12 Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to yield  
13 for a question?

14 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Does the  
15 sponsor continue to yield for a question?

16 SENATOR ALCANTARA: Yes.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The  
18 sponsor yields.

19 SENATOR PARKER: Senator, then how  
20 much would this bill cost the City of New York?

21 SENATOR ALCANTARA: The city hasn't  
22 gotten back to us with an estimate.

23 SENATOR PARKER: Through you,  
24 Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to yield  
25 for a question?

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Does the  
2 sponsor yield for a question?

3                   SENATOR ALCANTARA:    Yes.

4                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The  
5 sponsor yields.

6                   SENATOR PARKER:    Thank you,  
7 Senator.

8                   This sounds a little redundant, but  
9 then so we're going to, again, go forward with  
10 passing a bill which we don't understand the --  
11 we don't understand the economic impact of this  
12 bill on the City of New York, and yet we're going  
13 to take -- are you asking us to take a vote on it  
14 without understanding that?

15                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Senator  
16 Parker, are you on the bill?

17                   SENATOR PARKER:    No, I'm not on the  
18 bill, I'm asking a question, through you,  
19 Mr. President, about what -- if we don't know --  
20 I'm being told that we don't know the economic  
21 impact on the city. And so yet we're -- I'm  
22 asking the Senator if she still wants us to vote  
23 yes on a bill in which we don't know the economic  
24 impact to the City of New York.

25                   SENATOR ALCANTARA:    We don't know

1 the economic impact on the City of New York. But  
2 I do know the economic impact that would have on  
3 seniors in any district that can hardly afford to  
4 live in the City of New York. And I know what  
5 that would do with somebody who is living on food  
6 stamps and who can hardly afford to still stay in  
7 the City of New York.

8 SENATOR PARKER: Mr. President,  
9 through you, will the sponsor continue to yield  
10 for a question?

11 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Does the  
12 sponsor yield for a question?

13 SENATOR ALCANTARA: Yes.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The  
15 sponsor yields.

16 SENATOR PARKER: Senator, does this  
17 bill impact senior citizens outside of the City  
18 of New York?

19 SENATOR ALCANTARA: No, just the  
20 City of New York.

21 SENATOR PARKER: Mr. President,  
22 through you, will the sponsor continue to yield  
23 for a question?

24 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Does the  
25 sponsor yield for a question?

1                   SENATOR ALCANTARA:    Yes.

2                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The  
3 sponsor yields.

4                   SENATOR PARKER:    Senator -- through  
5 you, Mr. President, Senator, why doesn't this  
6 bill impact seniors throughout the State of  
7 New York?

8                   SENATOR ALCANTARA:    The city --  
9 because most of the -- in my district, for  
10 example, that's where the rent studies have been  
11 done that even seniors, people living on a \$15 an  
12 hour minimum wage cannot afford to live in the  
13 City of New York. The cost to live in places  
14 outside of New York is way cheaper than to stay  
15 in the city.

16                   SENATOR PARKER:    Mr. President,  
17 through you, will the sponsor continue to yield  
18 for a question?

19                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Does the  
20 sponsor continue to yield for a question?

21                   SENATOR ALCANTARA:    Yes.

22                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The  
23 sponsor yields.

24                   SENATOR PARKER:    Senator, do we  
25 have any idea on the methodologies that the

1 agency that will be implementing the SCRIE  
2 program in the City of New York -- I'm assuming  
3 that the New York City Department of Aging --  
4 what modalities and techniques they'll be using  
5 to get these seniors that they have currently not  
6 included in the program, to get them now to be  
7 included in the program?

8 SENATOR ALCANTARA: It's the  
9 Department of Finance that would be  
10 administrating the program.

11 SENATOR PARKER: Through you,  
12 Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to yield  
13 for a question?

14 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Does the  
15 sponsor yield for another question?

16 SENATOR ALCANTARA: Yes.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The  
18 sponsor yields.

19 SENATOR PARKER: Senator, thank you  
20 again for your patience.

21 So the Department of Finance. Do we  
22 know what the Department of Finance will do in  
23 order to get these qualifying seniors who had not  
24 to this point registered for SCRIE, what they  
25 will do now differently to make them now register

1 for the rollback program?

2 SENATOR ALCANTARA: The Department  
3 of Finance reviews the applications, and they  
4 will know on the person's birthday whether or not  
5 they qualify for this program.

6 SENATOR PARKER: Through you,  
7 Mr. President, will the sponsor continue to yield  
8 for a question?

9 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Does the  
10 sponsor continue to yield for a question?

11 SENATOR ALCANTARA: Yes.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The  
13 sponsor yields.

14 SENATOR PARKER: Senator, once they  
15 actually have reviewed the applications and they  
16 have figured out that there are X number of  
17 senior citizens in the City of New York who are  
18 eligible for the SCRIE program and have not  
19 applied for the program within the last two  
20 years, what will they be specifically -- do you  
21 know what they'll specifically be doing in order  
22 to now get them to register for this rollback  
23 program?

24 SENATOR ALCANTARA: The Department  
25 of Finance would be calculating. They don't have

1 to tell people to enroll in the program. And  
2 they would do it -- people -- their rent is  
3 calculated as an individual applies.

4 SENATOR PARKER: Thank you,  
5 Senator.

6 Mr. President, on the bill.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator  
8 Parker on the bill.

9 SENATOR PARKER: First let me thank  
10 Senator Alcantara for her advocacy and for her  
11 leadership on this important issue. Certainly  
12 there's a great deal of support and sympathy and  
13 empathy around the issues concerning seniors in  
14 the State of New York.

15 I've said before and I'll repeat it  
16 again that, you know, in the 21st District that I  
17 represent -- which is part of Canarsie and part  
18 of Flatlands, but principally East Flatbush and  
19 Flatbush, Midwood, Ditmas Park, Windsor Terrace  
20 and Park Slope -- I actually represent the  
21 largest number of senior citizens than any other  
22 Senate district in the State of New York.

23 And I know just firsthand from my  
24 experience with my own parents about what it took  
25 to maintain a home and raise children and do all

1 the things that life requires on -- you know, on  
2 the incomes that people have and just trying to  
3 scrape to survive.

4 I think that Senator Alcantara has  
5 come forward with a great idea in the context of,  
6 you know, making sure that we have legislation  
7 that addresses the issues that our senior  
8 citizens are facing, particularly as it relates  
9 to rents in the City of New York.

10 Some of you may know that in  
11 Brooklyn, the largest not just borough but the  
12 largest county, not just in the State of New York  
13 but really the largest county by population in  
14 the entire country, we have a very, very large  
15 senior citizen population. Unfortunately, that  
16 senior citizen population is shrinking. And that  
17 senior population is shrinking to a large degree  
18 because there's literally no place for them to  
19 live.

20 That what's happening with the  
21 great land giveaway that Mayor Bloomberg  
22 orchestrated during his 12 years in occupation of  
23 City Hall in the City of New York -- what we saw  
24 was large swaths of land, you know, given away  
25 willy-nilly to his developer friends really in

1 exchange for nothing for the city. No agreements  
2 around rent regulations, no agreements around  
3 affordable housing, no agreements around housing  
4 for seniors, no agreements around housing for  
5 veterans, no agreements around housing for the  
6 disabled.

7                   And so simply what we have is a  
8 flood of market-rate housing that has gone up,  
9 you know, unfettered and indiscriminately and  
10 without any concern for the most vulnerable  
11 populations in our great borough.

12                   The City of New York is the largest  
13 city in the country. If Brooklyn was its own  
14 city, as it once was prior to 1850, we would be  
15 the fourth largest city in the entire country  
16 after the City of New York -- after the rest of  
17 the City of New York, LA, and then Chicago. And  
18 we're only about 10,000 people less than what  
19 they have in Chicago.

20                   And as you can imagine, in a city  
21 that's almost 3 million strong -- this is  
22 Brooklyn, we're talking about Brooklyn being a  
23 city of 3 million strong -- proportionately the  
24 numbers of senior citizens that we have in the  
25 Borough of Brooklyn is actually very, very large.

1 I don't have an exact number, but on average the  
2 senior population is approximately 30 percent of  
3 the entire population nationally. Right? And  
4 you see that same number almost worldwide.

5 That number actually thankfully is  
6 growing. I'm actually in a -- I'm actually, you  
7 know, an aspiring senior citizen myself.

8 (Laughter.)

9 SENATOR PARKER: An aspiring senior  
10 citizen hoping to be able to live my golden years  
11 in the place that I was born and raised and the  
12 place that I call home.

13 But, you know, again, as I mentioned  
14 before, in the City of New York oftentimes the  
15 cost of living is going up and the chance of  
16 living is going down. And so this is a good bill  
17 in that it provides an ability for some of our  
18 senior citizens to age in place.

19 It is disheartening when you see  
20 developments come in with market rates, with just  
21 market rates, and they then raise the rents of  
22 the housing available in that community, and  
23 everybody starts raising their rents because of  
24 that new building. And that then pushes out  
25 families on low incomes. Families on middle

1 incomes, right? In fact, if you're a poor family  
2 in the City of New York, you are more likely to  
3 have options that a middle-class family doesn't  
4 have.

5           If you're a teacher married to a  
6 police officer, where do you live in the City of  
7 New York? There's almost no place for you to  
8 live. If you're a firefighter married to a  
9 nurse, where do you live? Right?

10           And so certainly that has a  
11 deleterious impact on our senior population,  
12 which thankfully is growing because of technology  
13 and things like medicine, you know, access to  
14 health insurance, access to more modern health  
15 facilities, more understanding of a wellness  
16 model versus a sickness model. You know,  
17 certainly we want to thank Obamacare for keeping  
18 our seniors who might have had preexisting  
19 conditions, you know, well and strong. Everybody  
20 unfortunately does not have the state medical  
21 insurance that we all enjoy here, and so we need  
22 to continue to do more for our seniors.

23           And so as our senior population  
24 grows, with the pressure and the stress on our  
25 housing in the State of New York, particularly in

1 places like New York City and in Brooklyn where I  
2 represent, it becomes increasingly more important  
3 to have options for our senior citizens.

4 Many times these senior citizens are  
5 part of what we refer to as the hidden homeless.  
6 What do we call the hidden homeless? The hidden  
7 homeless are people who really can't afford to  
8 live anywhere and would be out on the street if  
9 it wasn't for the mercy and the love of family  
10 members, oftentimes a child, a grandchild, a  
11 niece, a nephew -- somebody who will take the  
12 senior citizens in, even though that senior would  
13 not have any place to live if they did not have,  
14 you know, anyplace else to go.

15 You know, even neighbors now are  
16 taking in nonfamilial senior citizens from the  
17 community to make sure that they are not just  
18 housed but they're able to, to some degree, be  
19 housed in place. That they are not ripped away  
20 from the bosom of the communities they've lived  
21 in for 20 and 30 and 40 years.

22 That could be -- we could imagine,  
23 Mr. President, how disconcerting it may be for  
24 someone in their 70s or 80s or even 90s who have  
25 been living in a place maybe 50 years, maybe

1 60 years, to all of a sudden not be able to  
2 afford the place that they have been living. Not  
3 to know where the corner store is. Not to be  
4 able to walk to the park. Not to be able to go  
5 to a senior citizens center that is in the  
6 community in which they know the executive  
7 director and the other seniors there, where  
8 they've built not just family but community.

9           But too often, Mr. President, that  
10 is the story that we are running into, is case  
11 after case after case where senior citizens in  
12 the State of New York who cannot afford their  
13 housing circumstance are cast out into the  
14 street, and oftentimes are forced to go live with  
15 somebody else, sometimes even in another state.  
16 And that certainly is not I think what these  
17 folks who have given so much to our communities  
18 and so much to our families deserve.

19           I don't remember, and I'd ask the  
20 sponsor and others to correct me if I'm wrong  
21 about this, but I don't remember any public  
22 hearings on this matter. I think that we ought  
23 to be talking about public hearings. Not just  
24 talking about them, I think that it would be a  
25 good idea to have public hearings. I would

1 certainly sit through all of the testimony given  
2 at a public hearing on such an important issue as  
3 relates to seniors and housing in the State of  
4 New York.

5           And I know that although today we're  
6 just talking about New York City, I am sure that  
7 there are seniors in need of housing across the  
8 great State of New York. I'm sure in places as  
9 well as from Buffalo to Rochester, from Syracuse  
10 to Albany, that there are in fact places in which  
11 senior citizens are having a hard time making  
12 their way.

13           I'm sure in some of the more rural  
14 places as well, senior citizens, you know, are  
15 having problems not just simply with the rents.  
16 Because this is just a part of it. Rent is just  
17 a part of it. You know, water bills are going  
18 up. Energy bills are going up. Right? Property  
19 taxes are going up. Right?

20           And so in that context, where do our  
21 seniors go? Where do we provide a place for our  
22 seniors, particularly when they want to age in  
23 place? Why should they, just because they have  
24 retired and they have developed more experience  
25 and, you know, maybe a little bit more gray hair,

1 that they should be ripped out of the comforts of  
2 the home that they've known for decades and be  
3 cast into a new circumstance? That shouldn't be  
4 the fate of people who have given so much, who  
5 have paved the way for us to be at this place and  
6 this time, that have literally suckled us in  
7 their bosoms and helped us become the adults that  
8 we are here today.

9           We should be doing everything we can  
10 to make sure that the senior citizens in the  
11 State of New York have an ability to keep their  
12 homes. And I think a good first step would be a  
13 SCRIE public hearing -- maybe a series of public  
14 hearings. You know, we could have one in  
15 Brooklyn and one in Albany, one in Buffalo, one  
16 in Albany -- I mean, sorry, one in Syracuse.  
17 Certainly we'll have one in Washington Heights,  
18 in Inwood. You know, the Rockaways, I hear,  
19 would like to have that conversation. We want to  
20 do one in Utica. You know, the senior population  
21 in Utica certainly deserves no less protection  
22 around the issues of housing than any other  
23 place.

24           And so I think that this kind of  
25 conversation becomes the backbone of good

1 legislation. All of us could be more informed.  
2 They say that legislators -- you know, our  
3 knowledge is a mile wide and an inch deep. Our  
4 seniors should be a place that we are able to not  
5 just get a mile wide, but we should be a mile  
6 deep on senior issues and make sure that we're  
7 doing the best that we can.

8                   And certainly housing is a great  
9 place to start. Why do I say that? I'm glad you  
10 asked.

11                   (Laughter.)

12                   SENATOR PARKER: Housing is an  
13 important place to start because in public  
14 policy, one of the things we talk about are  
15 externalities. That is, if you do something --  
16 think about dropping a pebble into a pond. You  
17 see the ripples that go out, right? That pebble  
18 doesn't just affect that one spot in which it  
19 entered the river or the -- sorry -- the pond.  
20 The pond. Let me keep my metaphors straight,  
21 thank you.

22                   Right? The pebble doesn't just  
23 affect the place in which the pebble entered the  
24 pond, but the ripples also affect the entire  
25 pond.

1           When you talk about public policy  
2 externalities, the things that we do in Albany --  
3 always think about every time we pass a bill or  
4 don't pass a bill, every time we bring a bill to  
5 the floor or don't bring a bill to the floor,  
6 that is like dropping another pebble into the  
7 pond of the State of New York. And we're having  
8 impacts that ripple across the entire state.

9           In this particular case, the  
10 externalities around housing are greater than  
11 just simply having a place to lay your head and  
12 shelter from the rain and the cold or the heat.  
13 Housing becomes the basis of good healthcare.

14           ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Senator  
15 DeFrancisco, why do you rise?

16           SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:    Would the  
17 Senator yield to a question?

18           ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Senator  
19 Parker, will you yield for a question?

20           SENATOR PARKER:    Yes.

21           SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:    In order for  
22 me to better understand your argument, can you  
23 tell me, are you for or against this bill?

24           SENATOR PARKER:    I'm for the bill,  
25 Mr. President, through you.

1                   SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:    Would the  
2 Senator yield to another question?

3                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Senator,  
4 will you yield for another question?

5                   SENATOR PARKER:        Yes.

6                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    The  
7 Senator yields.

8                   SENATOR DeFRANCISCO:    So you're not  
9 concerned about the economic impact on the City  
10 of New York any longer?

11                   SENATOR PARKER:        Through you,  
12 Mr. President, I'm absolutely concerned for the  
13 impact on the City of New York.

14                   I do think that when we talk about  
15 seniors and housing, the question is not how much  
16 it costs, the question is what will it cost us if  
17 we don't in fact protect our seniors. I can't,  
18 you know, stand here representing the community I  
19 represent, with the largest population of seniors  
20 of any Senate district in the State of New York,  
21 and not vote for a bill that is going to protect  
22 our seniors.

23                   However, I do know that the senior  
24 citizens of my district, as well as the senior  
25 citizens of the State of New York, are very

1 interested in not just the economic impact, but  
2 to understand why we do this.

3 If I can proceed back on the bill,  
4 Mr. President.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator  
6 Parker on the bill.

7 SENATOR PARKER: That as we go  
8 forward and look at the externalities of housing,  
9 that one of those things is about housing itself,  
10 which is the primary impact. Then you have a  
11 secondary cause, which is health. Seniors with  
12 better housing experience better health, period.  
13 That's not me talking. If you check, the  
14 Department of Health on both the city, state, and  
15 the federal level will tell you that, the  
16 Department of Aging will tell you that, that the  
17 quality -- and not just having housing, but  
18 having good-quality housing is critical for the  
19 longevity of our senior citizen population.

20 Again, being an aspiring senior  
21 citizen, I'm looking for longevity. You know, we  
22 start talking about, you know, the fountain of  
23 youth, we can literally here in the State of  
24 New York in Albany create the fountain of youth  
25 by in fact investing in our senior citizens.

1 That's the real fountain.

2           You know, but if we do want an  
3 exploratory committee to Florida to actually look  
4 for the original one, I'm happy to participate in  
5 that committee as well for a couple of weeks.

6 But in the meantime, we ought to be doing public  
7 hearings that examine these externalities.

8           We also know that in the context of  
9 senior citizens, if they're living longer, they  
10 also, many of them, have a lot more disposable  
11 income. That disposable income goes to undergird  
12 families that they may be supporting. New York  
13 City being a large mecca of immigrants, those  
14 seniors also have a significant impact on  
15 remittances that go to other countries,  
16 particularly Caribbean countries. Right? Places  
17 that are represented in my district and Senator  
18 Alcantara's district, like the Dominican  
19 Republic, like Haiti, like Jamaica, like  
20 Trinidad, like Barbados, places like Guyana.  
21 Right?

22           And so, you know, providing housing  
23 and making sure that those senior citizens in our  
24 communities are able to age in place helps them  
25 with their healthcare, helps them in the context

1 of their personal happiness, helps them with  
2 their ability to help their families  
3 economically, continues to actually broaden out  
4 in the context of helping people in other  
5 countries and their families here that may or may  
6 not be either in New York City proper, New York  
7 State, or the country, right, because they're in  
8 fact supporting families wherever they are.

9           We also find that senior citizens  
10 who are allowed to age in place are safer. They  
11 have a connection to the community. They have  
12 not just family members, oftentimes, but many  
13 times neighbors and community organizations that  
14 know where they are, know who they are, look in  
15 on them, and are able to protect them from  
16 dangers. And there's a significant issue in  
17 terms of people preying on our senior citizens,  
18 and that's certainly a concern.

19           I think that we need to go further  
20 in the context of, you know, public hearings --  
21 not just looking at externalities, but looking at  
22 other areas in which SCRIE can be applied. What  
23 do I mean by that? We might want to even lower  
24 the age of the members in terms of SCRIE, because  
25 we're having so many people being pushed out.

1                   This bill is a great bill because it  
2 looks forward, right -- sorry, it looks back.  
3 Right? But we ought to be looking forward and  
4 saying, where is our next population? So many of  
5 or seniors are actually retiring early. Why?  
6 Sometimes because they belong to great bargaining  
7 units. Sometimes because, you know, they simply  
8 are being pushed out of their companies earlier.  
9 Right? And so they're being -- they're out in  
10 the world on fixed incomes earlier than they had  
11 been 10, 20, 30 years ago.

12                   And so we ought to be at least  
13 examining that, getting the data, Mr. President,  
14 and having public hearings to kind of talk about  
15 where we are with our senior citizen population  
16 as it relates to housing.

17                   We really ought to be also joining  
18 this in the context of, again, public protection  
19 to make sure that as we are looking at SCRIE that  
20 we're looking at our ability to build senior  
21 housing, period. I have not seen a bill the  
22 entire session that in fact addresses the issues  
23 of senior housing specifically as a program. We  
24 passed 421-a, like it or love it. We passed some  
25 other bills as relates to, you know, providing

1 housing for certain groups. But, you know,  
2 where's our 421-a for seniors?

3           Where's everybody stepping forward  
4 to say we need to take care of those who took  
5 care of so much for us and build housing  
6 facilities in the City of New York and other  
7 places that need them for senior citizens.  
8 Right? That we haven't provided enough of an  
9 economic incentive here in the State of New York  
10 for our senior citizens who are trying to age and  
11 again, you know, age in place.

12           And so that doesn't necessarily mean  
13 that we have to take them out of the community.  
14 But maybe as we are looking at where there is,  
15 you know, lots open, that we ought to be looking  
16 in those places.

17           During the budget process the  
18 Governor, in a great stroke of vision, created  
19 the Vital Brooklyn program in which he is  
20 building around 3,000 units of housing. And I  
21 commend the Governor for that very appropriate  
22 use of state funds. You know, I'm arguing to him  
23 that a large portion of those 3,000 units, at  
24 least a third of it, should be used just for  
25 seniors. Senior citizens really ought to not

1 just get a third, but they ought to get the first  
2 third.

3 That we ought to be looking at where  
4 our senior citizens are and making sure that they  
5 have appropriate housing, safe housing,  
6 comfortable housing, affordable housing so that  
7 they can continue to live in our great city, in  
8 the great borough of Brooklyn, but again  
9 throughout the state.

10 So again, even though this bill  
11 specifically speaks to New York City, I do  
12 certainly recognize and want to acknowledge in my  
13 comments that every place from Buffalo to  
14 Brookhaven, from Binghamton to Utica, all are  
15 getting, you know, the senior housing that they  
16 need. I think that it's critically important  
17 that we do that, but we also do that within the  
18 context of a process that makes sense.

19 We don't nearly have enough  
20 information about what our seniors are going  
21 through. So when we have this public hearing, we  
22 ought to bring in not just people who are experts  
23 on housing, not just people who are experts on  
24 the budget, but we ought to bring forward people  
25 who are actual senior citizens, people who are

1 actually in our communities. We need to hear  
2 from them. We need to hear their stories. We  
3 need to understand what they're going through  
4 every single day so that we can properly address  
5 their issues here in this august chamber.

6 I think that it's important that we  
7 work together. You know, we have differences in  
8 this chamber -- upstate, downstate, you know,  
9 eastern part of the state, western part of the  
10 state, Hudson Valley, Long Island, urban areas,  
11 rural areas, suburbs, exurbs, hinterlands -- I  
12 know some people liked my use of the word  
13 hinterlands in the last debate. But, you know,  
14 we have all of these regions here in the State of  
15 New York.

16 But there's not one of those areas  
17 that is without senior citizens, not one in which  
18 senior citizens fail to be an important part of  
19 the vitality and the vibrancy of these varied  
20 communities which we all represent proudly here  
21 in the State Senate.

22 And so, Mr. President, I'm asking us  
23 to come forward and to have public hearings and  
24 to bring forward a real important conversation  
25 that has not been had yet. In most countries

1 outside of the United States, being a senior  
2 citizen is an exalted position. To have somebody  
3 whose hair is white, someone who has some years  
4 under their belt. Usually, you know, in other  
5 places they don't really call them seniors, they  
6 actually call them elders. Right? They become  
7 an important fabric, not just in the body politic  
8 within those particular nations, but they also  
9 become a part of the actual governance. Right?

10           And so that when you look at, you  
11 know, the traditional community governing  
12 structures, there are not really a lot of young  
13 people. They don't have these young  
14 whippersnappers like Senator Bailey here. A lot  
15 of them -- most of the time they are people of  
16 advanced age, people who have had some years  
17 under their belts, some people who have worked  
18 and had families and had children and have gone  
19 through the full circle of life, if we can call  
20 it that, and have -- and are ready to contribute.

21           We really ought to bring forward a  
22 bill -- and let me while I'm here, if Senator  
23 Alcantara will humor me, I'd like to offer a  
24 friendly amendment to this bill that would add a  
25 statewide council of elders to the State of

1 New York, a set of senior citizens that will help  
2 advise us on every single aspect of every single  
3 state policy that we do. I think in a bit of a  
4 reversal, we'll have seven people on the board;  
5 the Governor will get to pick three, the  
6 Legislature will pick four.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator,  
8 could you have an offline conversation with the  
9 sponsor about your suggestion and come back to  
10 the bill, please.

11 SENATOR PARKER: I certainly will.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank  
13 you, sir.

14 SENATOR PARKER: I will certainly  
15 talk offline with Senator Alcantara about the  
16 amendment. If the bill doesn't pass today, then  
17 we'll have an opportunity. If not, maybe we'll  
18 do a stand-alone bill.

19 Mr. President, may I continue on the  
20 bill?

21 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Go ahead.

22 SENATOR PARKER: Thank you very  
23 much, Mr. President.

24 I think that as relates to the  
25 specific bill, our lookback date is a good period

1 of time, but I frankly think that we ought to be  
2 looking back longer. I think we ought to be  
3 looking back five years. Why do I say that we  
4 should be looking back five years? I'm glad you  
5 asked.

6           When you look at a two-year time  
7 period, that is a very short amount of time for a  
8 senior citizen who may not have known that they  
9 were in a program and may have just caught up to  
10 the fact that there was a great benefit within  
11 the context of SCRIE for them to avail themselves  
12 of. And so here they are, you know, 25 months,  
13 26 months out, and they've just missed it.

14           I think a five-year period is a more  
15 reasonable amount of time to make sure that we  
16 avail -- that senior citizens have the ability to  
17 avail themselves of this important program.  
18 Again, nothing is more important, even in places  
19 like Staten Island, than having good affordable  
20 housing for our senior citizens. And so we want  
21 to make sure that we give them every single  
22 opportunity to participate in this program.

23           It seems to me that if we're rolling  
24 back and we're looking at this and there's so  
25 many senior citizens who aren't availing

1 themselves of this program, there must be money  
2 left in the program. And I'm looking forward to  
3 hearing the comptroller's report on how much  
4 we're spending each year on SCRIE, how much money  
5 is available, left. What is happening with all  
6 this extra SCRIE money? Is it going into  
7 unclaimed funds? Can senior citizens look  
8 back -- maybe this is another way for us to  
9 address the bill, is to have an ability for  
10 senior citizens to address this in the context of  
11 unclaimed funds through the New York State  
12 Comptroller's office and be able to draw the  
13 money down that way in order to pay for their  
14 rent.

15                   Regardless of how we do it, it's  
16 critical that we make sure that we provide every  
17 opportunity for the senior citizens in our  
18 community to participate in this important  
19 program. I think that we have a long time to  
20 think about this, as we have about six days left  
21 in the session. We can, you know, withdraw this  
22 bill now, make some of the amendments, you know,  
23 schedule some public hearings and maybe bring it  
24 back in five or six days. Certainly it becomes  
25 an option for us in the context of a process that

1 makes sense for our senior citizens.

2           We haven't even invited senior  
3 citizens to the gallery today to in fact see this  
4 auspicious occasion. I'm certainly sure that  
5 they would love to have been here to participate  
6 in the revelry around passing a bill that was so  
7 important for their communities.

8           I'm sure that almost every member of  
9 this body could stand up and talk about senior  
10 citizens who are important in their communities,  
11 whether they're members of their community boards  
12 or members of their precinct councils. You know,  
13 we have senior citizens who obviously lead our  
14 block associations, our civic associations, our  
15 tenant associations.

16           You know, I had even a senior --  
17 I've had actually two seniors win Senior of the  
18 Year from the State Department of the Aging. One  
19 of my favorites, Ms. Hazel Foster, a great, great  
20 lady, lives on East 25th Street. Which has, by  
21 the way, parenthetically, been named Greenest  
22 Block in Brooklyn over 10 times. But that  
23 Greenest Block in Brooklyn happens exactly  
24 because of Ms. Hazel Foster, one of our senior  
25 citizens who steadfastly works with other members

1 on the block to make sure their lawns are  
2 properly taken care of and the plants, flowers --  
3 she actually is what they called a master  
4 composter. I didn't even know we had this.

5 We have a great program at the  
6 Brooklyn Botanical Gardens -- which by the way is  
7 also in my district, the 21st District in  
8 Brooklyn, in which they have composting classes.  
9 She has not only gone to these composting  
10 classes, she has become a master of those  
11 composting classes and goes around the district  
12 teaching people how to compost.

13 Composting is not very easy. It's  
14 not as easy as it sounds. It takes a lot of hard  
15 work. But this senior citizen, Hazel Foster in  
16 my district, has really, you know, made that part  
17 of her life's work to beautify our community.

18 This just is one example of somebody  
19 who's contributed. And I was so proud to  
20 celebrate her when she was named Senior of the  
21 Year by the New York State Office of Aging.

22 Also I had a great young man -- I'm  
23 going to call him a young man, because when I  
24 came up and heard he had won Senior of the Year  
25 by the Department of Aging in the state, George

1 Tate -- and Mr. George Tate is going to be very  
2 embarrassed that I mentioned his name on the  
3 floor of the Senate. He's a very, very humble  
4 man. I kind of fancy myself after him.

5 (Laughter.)

6 SENATOR PARKER: You know, Mr. Tate  
7 is a father and a grandfather. His wife Donna is  
8 a teacher. You know, he's given a great deal.  
9 To this day he is a member of the community  
10 board, a member of his block association, a  
11 member of the precinct council. I don't think  
12 there's any major, you know, civic activity that  
13 we're doing in Flatbush or East Flatbush that  
14 Mr. George Tate is not engaged in in some way.

15 But he's not a loud voice, he's  
16 really quiet hands. You know, sometimes there's  
17 loud voices but we also need, Brian, those quiet  
18 hands. You need people to put their hands to it  
19 and make it work. Right? Because we know that  
20 it's the -- when you pray, you've got to move  
21 your feet. Some people are praying loud and  
22 praying hard, but they're not moving their feet  
23 the way they need to be. Right?

24 So we got hands, we got feet, and  
25 now you can get some stuff actually done in your

1 community. And I think George Tate is one of  
2 those people who helps us get things done. He's  
3 particularly active with helping our young  
4 people. He certainly sees the importance for  
5 intergenerational activities. Without housing  
6 for our seniors, how do we in fact talk about  
7 intergenerational programming. Right?

8           And so, you know, we just celebrated  
9 Gun Violence Awareness Month. Right? How much  
10 less gun violence would we have in the State of  
11 New York if we had more intergenerational  
12 programs in which our senior citizens were  
13 engaging day to day, minute to minute, hour to  
14 hour with our young people to give them that  
15 steady hand that they need, to make sure that the  
16 word of encouragement to finish school was there,  
17 to give them ideas about, you know, alternatives  
18 to violence, to give them some ideas about how to  
19 move with their career path.

20           I know that some of the seniors in  
21 my community have been a guide and a steady hand  
22 for me as I have one or two times strayed off the  
23 path. You know, they gently -- well, sometimes  
24 not too gently --

25                           (Laughter.)

1                   SENATOR PARKER:    -- but sometimes  
2    just gently push me back onto the straight and  
3    narrow.  Even some of the more -- I'm not going  
4    to call them senior citizens, but the senior  
5    members of this august body here have had their  
6    hand in that development.

7                   And so, you know, this bill becomes  
8    important because we need that kind of work.  And  
9    certainly one of my constituents, former  
10   senior -- last year's Senior of the Year, George  
11   Tate, is one of those hands that certainly works  
12   with our young people very directly, but also is  
13   oftentimes finding public policy ideas and civic  
14   activities that engage our young people more.

15                  We certainly want to see a lot more  
16   work by senior citizens.  We think that this is  
17   going to happen not just because of this bill,  
18   but certainly if we take up my idea of hearings  
19   on the issues of SCRIE and then using that as a  
20   kind of conduit to talk about some of these other  
21   issues, that we'll be surprised at how many  
22   issues are connected and how well we can work  
23   together on these things of commonality.

24                  Because certainly I know that there  
25   is nobody in this chamber who does not want to

1 see our senior citizens doing better, don't want  
2 to -- you know, everybody wants to see them  
3 having an opportunity to live someplace that's  
4 safe, that is protected, someplace where they are  
5 able to continue to contribute to their last --  
6 you know, till they don't want to contribute  
7 anymore. Not because we're forcing them out;  
8 because they decided that they no longer wanted  
9 to contribute.

10 I always think of, when I deal with  
11 senior issues, my own grandmother, Fanny Mae  
12 Olds, Fanny Mae Galloway Olds. We used to  
13 lovingly refer to her as "Mother." And Mother,  
14 she actually I think was in Senator Velmanette  
15 Montgomery's district over in Kings Walk. Is  
16 that your district? Kings Walk, yeah. In the  
17 Kings housing, yeah.

18 And she was a faithful member of the  
19 Cornerstone Baptist Church on Lewis and Madison  
20 Avenue -- Madison Street, sorry, in Brooklyn,  
21 New York. She was a praying woman, and she was  
22 somebody who made sure that the family, you know,  
23 really stayed together. She had 10 children.

24 She was one of 12 herself, coming  
25 from a place call Fentress, Virginia. Moved from

1 Fentress when she was a young woman to Norfolk,  
2 Virginia, in a little town outside of Norfolk  
3 called Campostella, where she met my grandfather,  
4 Julius Butler Olds.

5                   And together they brought forth a  
6 family of 10 children, and my mother was the  
7 second of those children. They came to New York  
8 in -- I want to say in the 1940s, 1944 or so. My  
9 mother was 10 or 12 at the time. And so she  
10 really lived on Madison Street, and then she  
11 actually took care of my aunts and uncles before  
12 my grandmother, this wonderful senior citizen,  
13 you know, came up.

14                   But even then housing was important.  
15 And they stayed with one of my grandmother's  
16 friends for a little while. My grandmother came  
17 up here, was a member of 32BJ. Used to clean  
18 people's houses. She was a domestic in Virginia,  
19 came here and did a lot of that domestic work  
20 here, and late in her life worked in a bank where  
21 she actually used to clean this one bank top to  
22 bottom every night. And that was her job. I  
23 used to ask her for samples from the bank; she  
24 never brought none.

25                   (Laughter.)

1                   SENATOR PARKER:     But I know that  
2 she worked hard and was very proud of her family.  
3 She raised all of her children in the Cornerstone  
4 Baptist Church, where actually my mother and  
5 father met, met at the church, sometime -- I  
6 don't know. I always asked them how long they  
7 were married; they used to tell me forever. I  
8 didn't know what that really meant. But  
9 apparently they knew each other a very, very long  
10 time.

11                   But my grandmother was an acolyte of  
12 the great Dr. Sandy F. Ray. Lewis Avenue is now  
13 co-named Sandy F. Ray Boulevard. Those of you  
14 who are familiar with Brooklyn would know Sandy  
15 F. Ray, a man of great esteem, also a senior  
16 citizen. And one of the things that the  
17 Cornerstone Baptist Church always did was take  
18 care of its parishioners. And housing was one of  
19 the issues that they continued to talk about.  
20 Even under the great leadership now of Reverend  
21 Lawrence Aker III, they continue to talk about  
22 housing as being an important part of their  
23 mission, not just for all of their parishioners  
24 but also for their senior citizens, understanding  
25 that the backbone of many particularly black

1 churches are seniors, and particularly senior  
2 women.

3           And we know just statistically that  
4 women outlive men. And so statistically, when we  
5 talk about senior populations, we're talking  
6 about older women who are oftentimes alone or  
7 sometimes, you know, even if they're estranged  
8 from their families, again, dealing with all of  
9 these struggles.

10           My grandmother was one of these  
11 women, who luckily we had one of my cousins -- my  
12 cousin Towana Washington went and lived with my  
13 grandmother when she was very young, just --  
14 really just so my grandmother would have  
15 something to do, give her some company, get her  
16 involved.

17           You know, we shouldn't be putting  
18 our elders out to pasture just simply because  
19 they no longer work in the traditional economy  
20 anymore. That we need to be finding better  
21 opportunities to incorporate the senior citizens,  
22 the elders in our communities, these people in  
23 their golden years that have pearls of wisdom.  
24 We ought to be incorporating them into the things  
25 that we do every single day. And so we ought

1 to -- you know, that's an example again I got  
2 from my grandmother, Fanny Mae Galloway Olds.  
3 Who again, you know, I would not be here if it  
4 wasn't for her example. I wouldn't be here and  
5 have an opportunity to address you in this  
6 important body if it wasn't for her sacrifice and  
7 her work and all the things that she instilled  
8 into my mother and myself.

9           And so I'm sure we all have our  
10 stories. In fact, I want to encourage my  
11 colleagues one by one this afternoon to stand up  
12 and talk about your grandparents and talk about  
13 their impact on your life. I think that would be  
14 an important -- I think that would be an addition  
15 to this great conversation that we're having here  
16 this afternoon, because I think that only by  
17 understanding these myriad of stories -- they add  
18 to the tapestry of the diversity that we have  
19 here in the great State of New York and our  
20 understanding of our legislative missions here.

21           I certainly want to continue to have  
22 this conversation, Mr. President, but for now I'm  
23 going to pause in the interest of giving some of  
24 my colleagues an opportunity to share their  
25 vignettes. Thank you.

1                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Thank  
2    you, Senator Parker.

3                   Senator Díaz --

4                   SENATOR DÍAZ:    Thank you,  
5    Mr. President.

6                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    -- why do  
7    you rise?

8                   SENATOR DÍAZ:    On the bill.

9                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    Senator  
10   Díaz on the bill.

11                  SENATOR DÍAZ:    I'm trying to -- no,  
12   Mr. President, I am not planning to equalize the  
13   time that my colleague took.

14                  ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    I thank  
15   you on behalf of everyone in the room.

16                  (Laughter.)

17                  SENATOR DÍAZ:    Yes, and I think  
18   that my colleague has proven to be better than  
19   Senator Liz Krueger in speaking for a long time.  
20   Ms. Krueger, there's a new champion in the house.

21                  SENATOR KRUEGER:    You're exactly  
22   right.

23                  SENATOR DÍAZ:    So you're no longer  
24   the champion.

25                  Mr. President, on the bill, I'm

1 standing here today to congratulate my colleague  
2 Marisol Alcantara.

3 I am a senior citizen, 74 years old.  
4 I have always been -- since I got elected, I have  
5 always been trying to get in the Senior Citizen  
6 Committee. When I was in the City Council I was  
7 the chairman of the Senior Citizen Committee, and  
8 here in Albany I've always been in the Senior  
9 Citizen Committee.

10 Because in my district that I  
11 represent, I serve 22 senior citizen centers, and  
12 I know the problems they're facing -- rent, some  
13 of them have to decide if they eat or pay rent,  
14 if they buy their medicine or die, or if they  
15 have to pay their utilities. So they have no  
16 money to live.

17 When Marisol Alcantara, Senator  
18 Alcantara comes here and presents a law like  
19 that, a piece of legislation to be helpful to the  
20 seniors, to go retroactive, I have to tip my hat  
21 to Senator Alcantara. I have to tip my hat to  
22 her and congratulate her, because that -- we  
23 serve black and Hispanic senior citizens in our  
24 districts. The majority of our districts are  
25 black and Hispanic senior citizens. And we know

1 how -- the things that they're going through. We  
2 know how are they -- how they suffer every day.

3           So if we could help them to go  
4 retroactive two years at least in SCRIE, I think  
5 that is something very dignified. And we  
6 shouldn't be asking what will be the financial  
7 consequences to the city. We shouldn't be asking  
8 those kinds of questions. Senior citizens have  
9 given all their lives for our city and our state.  
10 Senior citizens have worked hard.

11           Now we all, as Democrats, we always  
12 say that we Democrats are the champions of the  
13 poor and the needy. So we have one Democrat  
14 here, Marisol Alcantara, championing for the  
15 needy and the senior citizens.

16           So, Mr. President and ladies and  
17 gentlemen, I'm proud to vote yes and I'm proud to  
18 congratulate Marisol Alcantara on this  
19 magnificent, beautiful, excellent piece of  
20 legislation. Thank you very much.

21           ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank  
22 you, Senator Díaz.

23           Senator Rivera.

24           SENATOR RIVERA: Mr. President, I  
25 only stand to talk for just a few minutes about

1 how great this program is.

2 SCRIE and DRIE not only -- you  
3 forgot DRIE, Senator Parker. SCRIE is actually  
4 one of the golden standards as far as public  
5 policy is concerned. We do it in our office all  
6 the time, we have dozens of seniors who sign up.

7 I'm very thankful to Senator  
8 Alcantara for bringing this to the floor, and I'm  
9 voting in the affirmative.

10 Thank you, Mr. President.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Thank  
12 you, Senator Rivera.

13 Senator Bailey.

14 SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you,  
15 Mr. President. I will speak briefly on this.

16 I want to speak to what Senator  
17 Alcantara said earlier about awareness. And I  
18 think this is an excellent bill, Senator. I  
19 think that what we should be doing is making sure  
20 that -- you said, I think, less than half of the  
21 seniors in the district that are eligible don't  
22 apply. So I think that we need to make sure that  
23 we're making more of an effort to reach more  
24 seniors that are eligible for this great program.

25 I vote in the affirmative,

1 Mr. President.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Senator  
3 Hamilton.

4 SENATOR HAMILTON: I just want to  
5 commend State Senator Alcantara for this bill.  
6 It's a fabulous bill.

7 In my office, full-time and  
8 part-time employees have training in DRIE and  
9 SCRIE. At least once a week I have a senior  
10 coming into my office crying because they can't  
11 pay their rent. And a lot of times SCRIE and  
12 DRIE is the difference between someone having  
13 money for food or not eating a particular week.

14 So it's a great idea. It's a great  
15 law. You know, my office, we have so many senior  
16 citizens coming in I have to bring in Brooklyn  
17 Legal Services to handle the volume of seniors  
18 who are feeling the crunch for housing in Central  
19 Brooklyn.

20 So we need to do more for our  
21 seniors in their golden years, and I think this  
22 is a great bill. And I'm sure Senator Alcantara  
23 will introduce more great bills for our seniors.

24 Thank you. I'm voting yes.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Seeing no

1 other members wishing to be heard, the debate is  
2 closed.

3 The Secretary will ring the bell.

4 Read the last section.

5 THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This  
6 act shall take effect immediately.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Call the  
8 roll.

9 (The Secretary called the roll.)

10 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: Announce  
11 the results.

12 THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 61.

13 Absent from voting: Senators Hannon  
14 and Larkin.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: The bill  
16 is passed.

17 Senator Flanagan.

18 SENATOR FLANAGAN: Mr. President,  
19 any of the bills that are on the calendar, lay  
20 them aside for the balance of the day.

21 Is there any further business before  
22 the house?

23 ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR: There is  
24 no further business at the desk.

25 SENATOR FLANAGAN: We will

1 reconvene tomorrow in session at 12:00 clock.

2                   ACTING PRESIDENT AKSHAR:    On

3 motion, the Senate stands adjourned until

4 Tuesday, June 13th, at 12:00 p.m.

5                   (Whereupon, at 6:07 p.m., the Senate

6 adjourned.)

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