NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

March 2, 2021

3:12 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR BRIAN A. BENJAMIN, Acting President

ALEJANDRA N. PAULINO, ESQ., Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The Senate will come to order.

I ask everyone present to please rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: In the absence of clergy, let us bow our heads in a moment of silent reflection or prayer.

(Whereupon, the assemblage respected a moment of silence.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Monday, March 1, 2021, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Sunday, February 28, 2021, was read and approved. On motion, Senate adjourned.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Without objection, the Journal stands approved as read.

Presentation of petitions.

Messages from the Assembly.

Messages from the Governor.

Reports of standing committees.

Reports of select committees.

Communications and reports from state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President, can we adopt the Resolution Calendar, with the exception of Resolution 437.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: All in favor of adopting the Resolution Calendar, with the exception of Resolution 437, please signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Opposed, nay.

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The Resolution Calendar is adopted.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Can we now take up Resolution 437, by Senator Kennedy, read its title only, and recognize Senator Kennedy.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number

437, by Senator Kennedy, celebrating the life and legacy of the Honorable Hugh B. Scott, United States Magistrate Judge for the Western District of New York, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Kennedy on the resolution.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Today I rise to honor a Buffalo legend, a legend in our state and nation, a true trailblazer that we heartbreakingly lost earlier this month, the Honorable United States Magistrate Judge Hugh B. Scott.

Judge Scott was born and raised in Buffalo and Western New York, attending Buffalo and Amherst public schools, and later receiving a degree from Niagara University, where he met his wife, Trudy, as well as being a graduate of the University of Buffalo.

Over the years he served as an Assistant Erie County Attorney and an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Buffalo. He later became the first black Assistant U.S. Attorney with the U.S. Attorney's office for the

Western District of New York.

He was nothing short of ambitious, working in the State Attorney General's office, becoming a Buffalo City Court Judge in the '80s, and ultimately earning the title of United States Magistrate Judge, where he made history yet again as the first African-American to serve as a Federal Court judge in the Western District of New York.

Judge Scott believed deeply in justice, but he also believed deeply in people. He was responsible for creating the U.S. District Court's Reentry Court, designed to help people who had served sentences with job training and other skill development, in order to support their transition back into society, because that's who he was. Judge Hugh Scott was invested in creating a better path forward for New Yorkers.

For more than 30 years, he returned to his alma mater, the University at Buffalo Law School, to teach trial technique. He served on the Board of Trustees of Niagara University, Canisius College, and the Catholic Health System. And he was an active member of transformative

community and cultural organizations like the NAACP, the Buffalo Urban League, and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, just to name a few of dozens.

But above all, Judge Hugh B. Scott was a family man. He was a husband, a father, and in recent years a grandfather. When you spoke with Judge Scott, his family would inevitably always come up in conversation because they were his ultimate source of pride. Although his community commitments were plenty, his family always came first. That was Judge Scott, a tremendous man of honor and integrity.

We laid Judge Hugh Scott to rest this past Sunday, and so many people lovingly shared their own memories of him -- a Buffalo icon with an enormous heart. His legacy will live on with his children and the city he dedicated his life to, and for that we are forever grateful.

As a Legislature we send our deepest condolences to his family; his wife, Trudy -- his wife of 47 years, mind you -- his sons, Hugh Jr. and Everett; his daughter-in-law and grandson. May Judge Hugh B. Scott rest in peace.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Mayer on the resolution.

SENATOR MAYER: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to speak about this resolution and, more fundamentally, to speak about the kind of man that Judge Hugh Scott was and how important he was to hundreds of young lawyers, myself included.

In 1982, as a young lawyer in Buffalo with an infant child, I applied for a position as an assistant attorney general in the Buffalo office of then Attorney General Bob Abrams. The AAG in charge of the office was Hugh Scott, a smart, principled and strong lawyer with a great reputation.

Before him was the newly elected Attorney General's charge to change the office from purely a defensive law office to one that promoted public advocacy and cases on behalf of the public interest.

They had created a new job, an attorney for public advocacy. I applied for the position and wasn't sure I would make it, for

right before I applied I had sued the Chief Clerk of the Federal District Court for pregnancy discrimination and taken on a person with power and influence.

Having been an Assistant U.S. Attorney, Judge Scott knew that the Chief Clerk wielded enormous power over the District Court, a court of great importance to the office. I was afraid he would be cautious and risk-averse, as some in government have the tendency to be. But to my surprise at the time, he openly admired my courage and persistence for openly challenging a discriminatory practice.

He hired me, encouraged me, and was a mentor to me personally. He set me on a path of advocacy and legal courage that I owe in large part to his willingness to take a chance to help and propel me on a journey that led me to this chamber here today.

As Senator Kennedy said, Judge Scott had extraordinary accomplishments -- the first African-American Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District; the first African-American to head the second-largest office of the Attorney General, reelected twice to the Buffalo City

Court, 20 years an esteemed U.S. Magistrate Judge, leader in his community, law professor, and justice seeker.

But we should not leave out he touched the lives of many that are not so public and that should be acknowledged, mine included.

Thank you, Judge Scott for all you did for the community, the legal profession, and all who interacted with you.

Thank you, Senator Kennedy, for bringing this resolution to the floor to honor his memory.

I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Trudy; his sons, Hugh Jr. and Everett; and to his whole family. May his memory be a blessing.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The question is on the resolution. All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Response of "Aye.")

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Opposed?

(No response.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: At the request of Senator Kennedy, this resolution is open for cosponsorship.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The resolution is open for cosponsorship. Should you choose not to be a cosponsor of the resolution, please notify the desk.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President, there is a privileged resolution at the desk. Please take that resolution up, read its title, and recognize Senator Mayer.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: There is a privileged resolution at the desk.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senate Resolution 438, by Senator Mayer, Concurrent Resolution of the Senate and Assembly providing for the election of four Regents of the University of the State of New York.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Mayer on the resolution.

SENATOR MAYER: Thank you, Mr. President.

It's truly my honor to speak on behalf of this Concurrent Resolution of the Senate and Assembly providing for the election of four Regents of the University of the State of New York.

These are four outstanding individuals who came before an assembled committee of Assemblymembers and Senators. We had the opportunity to question them at length, to review their resumes, and to collectively determine who would best serve the children and the adults of the State of New York that are subject to the jurisdiction and the regulations of the State Education Department.

I'm very pleased these four individuals are subject to this resolution:

That Elizabeth Hakanson, of the County of Onondaga, be reelected Regent of the University of the State of New York from the 5th Judicial District, for a term of five years.

That Ruth B. Turner, of the County of Monroe, be elected as Regent of the University of the State of New York from the 7th Judicial District, for a term of one year.

That Dr. Aramina Vega Ferrer, of the

County of the Bronx, be elected as Regent of the University of the State of New York from the 12th Judicial District, for a term of two years.

And that Dr. Luis O. Reyes, of the County of New York, be reelected At Large a Regent of the University of the State of New York, for a term of five years.

Each of these individuals has agreed to serve as a volunteer in one of the most important positions in this state, which is a Regent that determines the educational policy and other issues that come before the State Education Department.

I commend my colleagues to be voting in the affirmative on this very important step forward. We look forward to working closely with these Regents, as we do with the others, and we thank them for their service, their willingness to volunteer and, most importantly, their willingness to share their experience and knowledge with all the people of New York.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Cooney on the resolution.

SENATOR COONEY: Thank you,

Mr. President.

I rise in support of Ruth B. Turner's appointment to the New York State Board of Regents, on behalf of Senator Brouk and myself.

Ms. Turner has nearly two decades of service in education in large urban school settings. Most recently she's provided critical leadership within the Department of Student Support Services within the Rochester City School District, my alma mater.

Ms. Turner is a licensed clinical social worker who brings her experience and restorative practices in implicit bias and social and emotional learning to this work at the time when these practices are so greatly needed for our students who are seeking to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Turner understands these unique needs of our diverse student population across the 7th Judicial District, and she will be a passionate advocate for our school-age children.

On behalf of the educators, administrators, students and families, we are so confident that Ms. Turner will bring a trusted

community voice to the Board of Regents, and I strongly support her appointment.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The question is on the resolution. The Secretary will call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The resolution is adopted.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President, can we now take up the calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 88, Senate Print 1463A, by Senator Addabbo, an act to amend Chapter 473 of the Laws of 2010 amending the Racing, Pari-Mutuel Wagering and Breeding Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This

act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 145, Senate Print 238, by Senator Thomas, an act to amend the Social Services Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside for the day, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill will be laid aside for the day.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 150, Senate Print 1592, by Senator Rivera, an act to amend the Public Health Law.

SENATOR LANZA: Lay it aside.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Lay it aside.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number

196, Senate Print 1765, by Senator Mannion, an act to amend the Mental Hygiene Law and the Executive Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 5. This act shall take effect on the 30th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Reichlin-Melnick to explain his vote.

SENATOR REICHLIN-MELNICK: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise in strong support of this legislation. I think this is a long overdue bill that we're taking up here, and it frankly will have a significant impact even in my district, where the Office of Mental Health is looking to close the Rockland Children's Psychiatric Center.

And this is a very misguided proposal. It will cost the jobs of many of our employees of CSEA and PEF. It will really risk the mental health of children in Rockland and the

Greater Lower Hudson Valley area, closing the only inpatient facility between the Bronx and, you know, I believe Utica and Albany.

And so I think this is an excellent bill. The Legislature needs to have a role in making these decisions that are going to impact local communities and impact some of our most vulnerable citizens in this state. So I thank Senator Mannion for introducing this bill, and I'm proud to vote in favor of it.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Martucci to explain his vote.

SENATOR MARTUCCI: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to begin by thanking my colleague Senator Mannion for bringing this bill to the floor. I was proud to join Senator Mannion as a cosponsor.

This bill is also important to my district and directly impacts my district. In the Governor's Executive Budget proposal, our Governor proposes the closure of an OCFS facility, the Goshen Secure Center, which is home not only to some of the state's most at-risk youth, but also over a hundred union members,

members of CSEA and PEF.

This bill requires one year's notice for a facility closure and leaves the final decision about those closures to the Legislature, which is where it belongs.

It's never been more clear than right now that this Legislature should have a voice in important matters like this, and that it should not be left only to the Governor. We see what the Governor has done with his powers.

Finally, besides this being good government, this is a good bill for people. Last week I met a young man named Jesus who spent five years as a resident of the Goshen Secure facility. At 14 years old, he went to Goshen Secure because his life was headed in the wrong direction: He was a member of a gang and he was involved in and committed violent crimes.

And today, because of the great work and the great people employed at Goshen Secure, he has his own family and he's licensed as a master barber.

This bill puts jobs first, it puts people first, and I'm proud to vote in favor.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator

Reichlin-Melnick to be recorded in the affirmative.

Senator Martucci to be recorded in the affirmative.

Senator Mannion to explain his vote.

SENATOR MANNION: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to speak in support of this bill, and I thank my colleagues Senator Martucci and Senator Reichlin-Melnick for their support as well.

As chair of the Disabilities Committee, I believe strongly in fighting for IDD New Yorkers with real action and real policy, and I believe this bill achieves that.

Keeping vulnerable New Yorkers in a familiar setting -- in some cases, where they've lived for many years or decades -- is the right thing to do for them and their families. The current closure process is only 90 days, and this bill would extend it to one year.

This will provide the time needed to properly study a potential closure with input from families, staff, and the community. The people who provide the care to these individuals

and have developed relationships with them cannot be quickly repurposed without a negative impact to both those individuals that provide the care and the residents of the facility.

This bill strengthens our oversight as a Legislature of OPWDD, OMH, and OCFS, which is necessary and is our responsibility as a coequal branch of government.

This bill is impactful as a memory to my aunt, a woman with Down syndrome who lived in residential facilities, and I saw the excellent care that was provided for her and could speculate as to what would happen if one of her facilities was closed in a rapid manner many years ago.

I watched as my father advocated for her to make sure that she was in a sound facility with quality care providers, and we saw the fruition of that.

I'm proud to sponsor this bill for individuals and families across New York State, and I proudly cast my vote in the affirmative.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Mannion to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 204, Senate Print 290, by Senator Myrie, an act to amend the Debtor and Creditor Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 204, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Akshar, Borrello, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Jordan, Martucci, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rath, Ritchie, Serino, Tedisco and Weik.

Ayes, 46. Nays, 16.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 381, Senate Print 210A, by Senator Persaud, an act to amend the Public Health Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 382, Senate Print 3209, by Senator Salazar, an act to amend the Public Health Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 120th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call

the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Pardon me. Excuse me. Actually, in relation to Calendar 382, voting in the negative: Senator Lanza.

Ayes, 61. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 383, Senate Print 3474, by Senator Cooney, an act to amend the Public Health Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This act shall take effect on the 30th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator

Cooney to explain his vote.

SENATOR COONEY: Thank you, Mr. President.

Lian Gravelle was a young mother, an attorney, a resident of the Town of Greece, and a passionate volunteer for maternal health.

A few weeks after she spoke at an event for me about her own struggles, Lian unfortunately died at the age of 38, due to complications from preeclampsia. Preeclampsia is a pregnancy complication characterized by high blood pressure and stress on a mother's organs. If left untreated, preeclampsia can lead to organ damage, strokes and seizures, premature birth, and in Lian's case, death.

However, there is hope. Education can lead to early detection and prevention. Lian's Law will help increase awareness of preeclampsia to those who are most at risk.

The CDC reported in 2019 that black women are two to three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white mothers. Increasing access to education about maternal health challenges like preeclampsia is not only addressing healthcare challenges and

accessibility, but also a matter of equity.

In closing, I rise to support this legislation in honor of Lian Gravelle, a fierce advocate for those most at risk. This bill honors her family, including her sons, Enzo and Charlie, and carries her spirit and will save the lives of mothers across New York.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Cooney to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 384, Senate Print 4827, by Senator Salazar, an act to direct the Department of Financial Services to review covered benefits related to childbirth offered by health insurance policies.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 402, Senate Print 3178, by Senator Sanders, an act to amend the Social Services Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

Senator Gianaris, that completes the reading of today's calendar.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Let us now move

to the controversial calendar, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The Secretary will ring the bell.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 150, Senate Print 1592, by Senator Rivera, an act to amend the Public Health Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Senator Lanza, why do you rise?

SENATOR LANZA: Mr. President, I believe there's an amendment at the desk. I waive the reading of that amendment and ask that you recognize Senator Weik to be heard.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Thank you, Senator Lanza.

Upon review of the amendment, in accordance with Rule 6, Section 4B, I rule it nongermane and out of order at this time.

SENATOR LANZA: Accordingly, Mr. President, I appeal the ruling of the chair and ask that Senator Weik be recognized.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The appeal has been made and recognized, and Senator Weik may be heard.

SENATOR WEIK: Mr. President, I

rise to appeal the ruling of the chair.

I propose the amendment is germane to the bill at hand because the bill amends the Public Health Law.

Over the course of the last year, the Governor has issued dozens of orders amending the Public Health Law; specifically, orders related to one of the most vulnerable populations, our seniors. And for months, our conference has been calling for an independent top-to-bottom investigation of Governor Cuomo and his administration's disastrous mishandling of COVID-19 in our nursing homes.

This past week additional information has come to light with not one but two former staffers and a private citizen coming forward with disturbing allegations of sexual harassment. When these allegations were made, myself and members of our conference were the first to call on Attorney General James to appoint a special prosecutor.

I applaud Attorney General James for not accepting the Governor's proposal. I cannot stress enough the importance that the investigation must be completed independently.

That cannot happen if anyone in the Governor's orbit is involved.

We've seen the chapters of the Governor's mismanagement unravel week by week. His deadly March 25th order sent more than 9,000 COVID-positive patients into nursing homes and contributed to the deaths of 15,000 seniors.

He has never once taken the blame or even apologized. In fact, his administration covered it up, and they are currently under federal investigation as a result.

Under his administration, the vaccine rollout has been an unmitigated disaster, and millions of New Yorkers are still unable to get shots or even information for appointments.

In the midst of a global pandemic, top staffers left the Department of Health with no explanation.

The Commissioner of Health and the administration refused a request by the Legislature to make data about nursing homes available both to us and the public. He was supposed to appear at the Health budget hearing in the beginning of February but postponed it three weeks in another attempt to stonewall us.

It was only after the Attorney General's report, and under court order, that they finally released the information. And just this week, he continued to stonewall myself and my colleagues when he finally appeared at the Health hearing. He refused to say why those decisions were made, who made them, and who decided to withhold the information.

We deserve answers. The families deserve answers.

Throughout it all, the Governor continues to have unchecked power, as our Democrat colleagues have repeatedly blocked our efforts to rescind his emergency powers and restore much-needed checks and balances. My colleague, Senator Helming, introduced a bill to remove the Governor's executive powers and restore the Legislature as a coequal branch of the government last May.

We voted on it 18 -- today is the 19th time this year, and not one member of the Democratic Majority joined us.

We are all still in the midst of a pandemic. We have an upcoming budget deadline, with a huge deficit to address, and a looming

financial crisis that affects all New Yorkers. This Governor has broken the public trust over and over at a time when what this state needs is true leadership.

Tomorrow is going to be one year that we granted these powers. We need to have our voice back as a Legislature. I call on my colleagues across the aisle -- hopefully for the last time, as I hear there may be good news on the horizon -- to please join us in taking this step. It is your duty to the people of New York. This man should not have this power.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Thank you, Senator Weik.

I want to remind the house that the vote is on the procedures of the house and the ruling of the chair.

Those in favor of overruling the chair signify by saying aye.

SENATOR LANZA: Request a show of hands.

SENATOR GIANARIS: We have agreed to waive the showing of hands, Mr. President, and record every member of the Minority in the

affirmative.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Without objection, so ordered.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 20.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The ruling of the chair stands, and the bill-in-chief is before the house.

Are there any other Senators wishing to be heard?

Seeing and hearing none, debate is closed. The Secretary will ring the bell.

Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 62.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: The bill is passed.

Senator Gianaris, that completes the reading of the controversial calendar.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Is there any further business at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: There is no further business at the desk.

SENATOR GIANARIS: In that case, I move to adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 3rd, at 3:00 p.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT BENJAMIN: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 3rd, at 3:00 p.m.

(Whereupon, at 3:40 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)