NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

April 6, 2022

11:05 a.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR SHELLEY B. MAYER, Acting President

ALEJANDRA N. PAULINO, ESQ., Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: 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 MAYER: 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 MAYER: Reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Tuesday, April 5, 2022, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Monday, April 4, 2022, was read and approved. On motion, Senate adjourned.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: 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: Can we take up the reading of the calendar, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 501, Senate Print 973, by Senator Gaughran, an act to amend the Education Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 56.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number

625, Senate Print 192, by Senator Thomas, an act to amend the General Business Law.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside for the day.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is laid aside for the day.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 631, Senate Print 4733A, by Senator Reichlin-Melnick, an act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside for the day.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is laid aside for the day.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 637, Senate Print 6871A, by Senator Harckham, an act to amend the Tax Law and the State Finance Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Serino to explain her vote.

SENATOR SERINO: Thank you, Madam President.

I want to thank Senator Harckham sincerely for not only bringing this bill to the floor today, but for really being a real partner in the fight against Lyme and tick-borne diseases.

I always say that many of the issues that we deal with here really transcend politics, and combating the spread of Lyme and tick-borne diseases is an issue that's impacting every corner of our state, and it's certainly one that does transcend politics.

Lyme disease impacts thousands of New Yorkers every single year, with New York actually being home to the second-highest number of confirmed cases in the country. Combating the spread of these diseases is going to really take committed partners at every level -- but most importantly, it's going to take real resources.

This bill is an opportunity for New Yorkers themselves to play a role in supporting research, prevention and educational

initiatives by donating through a tax credit checkoff to a new fund that would be dedicated to bolstering research in this field.

And while this is an important step to ensure that we are doing everything we can to bolster resources for this cause, I would be remiss if I didn't take the opportunity to point out that the Governor's Executive Budget proposal, and both the Assembly and the Senate one-house budget proposals, all failed to include any new funding to help prevent the spread of Lyme and tick-borne diseases.

And the reason I mention this is because, as of right now, most of the budget bills have not even been printed, so there's still time to do right by the thousands of New Yorkers who have suffered the very real impacts of these diseases by ensuring that the state's final budget includes at least $1.5 million for research, education and prevention initiatives.

One-point-five million dollars represents far less than even 1 percent of the Governor's overall budget proposal. And this is pretty interesting: In fact, it represents

0.0007 percent of the overall Executive Budget proposal. So it's really a drop in the bucket to help better protect New Yorkers against a very real public health threat for generations to come.

And I think if there's one thing the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us, it's the importance of prevention preparedness. And when it comes to Lyme and tick-borne diseases, we must do better on this front.

I am incredibly proud to have drafted this bill and to vote in support of it today, and I thank Senator Harckham and Senator Stewart-Cousins for bringing the bill before the house for a vote.

So thank you, Madam President. I vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Senator Serino to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 59.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 646, Senate Print 4614A, by Senator Kaplan, an

act to authorize every governing body of an assessing unit and every local assessor in certain situations to accept a late application for certain tax exemptions.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar Number 646, voting in the negative: Senator Akshar.

Ayes, 58. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: The bill is passed.

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

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

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

SENATOR GIANARIS: Move to adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, April 7th, at 10:00 a.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT MAYER: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Thursday, April 7th, at 10:00 a.m.

(Whereupon, the Senate adjourned at 11:10 a.m.)