NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

March 13, 2024

3:10 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR JEREMY A. COONEY, Acting President

ALEJANDRA N. PAULINO, ESQ., Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

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

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Tuesday, March 12, 2024, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Monday, March 11, 2024, was read and approved. On motion, the Senate adjourned.

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

Presentation of petitions.

Messages from the Assembly.

The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Senator Jackson

moves to discharge, from the Committee on Cities, Assembly Bill Number 8876 and substitute it for the identical Senate Bill 8216A, Third Reading Calendar 378.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: So ordered.

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: Good afternoon, Mr. President. Let's begin by taking up previously adopted Resolution 1871, by Senator Kennedy, read its title and recognize Senator Kennedy.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 1871, by Senator Kennedy, honoring St. Patrick and all persons of Irish descent upon the occasion of the 2024 celebration of St. Patrick's Day on Sunday, March 17, 2024.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Kennedy to be heard on the resolution.

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

Good afternoon, everybody. It is a great day here in the Senate chamber. It's a great day to be Irish. And it's a great day to celebrate Irish Heritage Month here in the State of New York.

I want to thank our leader for bringing this resolution to be adopted. And I just want to say a few words about this month that we celebrate the great Irish Heritage. This weekend, Sunday, March 17th, we'll celebrate St. Patrick's Day. St. Patrick, one of the patron saints of Ireland. We all know what St. Patrick's Day means on that day and how all communities across the country -- really, across the globe -- that share in this wonderful Irish tradition come together in revelry and in spirit.

But St. Patrick's Day is much more than just celebrating being Irish on one day. Quite frankly, it's about celebrating Irish traditions that brought us here to America and to the tens of millions of Irish diaspora across the

globe.

And one word that I believe really encapsulates the Irish spirit more than any other is perseverance -- perseverance through the most difficult days of oppression, of injustice, and on to greater days of victory and celebration.

So when we think about celebrating together with family and friends and community in national recognition of this wonderful day -- as President Biden on Sunday will accept a traditional bowl of shamrocks from the Irish Taoiseach, the leader of Ireland, as he does on an annual basis going back decades here in this country -- we're reminded that this country's foundation is built on the leadership and the blood of the Irish, off the boat, hundreds of years ago, that helped to create this amazing democracy that shines as a beacon of hope and light of freedom across the world.

And you think about how these values we stand for as a nation and espouse to, and the incredible American tradition, are based in humanity. And one thing that I hold near and dear to my heart is oftentimes the reminder of where I come from. As we often say -- not just

myself and the folks that are of the Irish tradition, but I think each and every one of us, regardless of our own heritage -- is we're all immigrants and descendants of immigrants in this great country. You never forget where you come from.

Well, on St. Patrick's Day we're reminded that we, the Irish, come from just about 3200 miles across the Pond, over the Atlantic. You know, back in the 1840s there was a potato blight, An Gorta Mór, the Great Hunger, the famine that led to a third of the population of the island of Ireland starving to death; another third of the population of Ireland fleeing for opportunity and refuge elsewhere, and freedom elsewhere. At the same time that that Great Hunger took over the land, there were food -- fresh food and supplies that were sent out of the island of Ireland to other places.

It was a forced starvation. We were forced from our land. We came here to seek refuge on the shores of this incredible great Empire State of New York and other areas across the Eastern Seaboard, in every part of the country of the United States of America and up

into Canada and, again, all across the globe.

And that perseverance helped to bring us to where we are today. In the traditions of the Irish spirit through Irish enclaves in every corner of this state, from Long Island to Woodlawn in the Bronx to South Buffalo, New York, to Tipperary Hill in Syracuse, to Troy in the great Capital Region, to the Hudson Valley, to the Southern Tier, to the North Country, the Irish spread out and built this state and built this nation, both in the infrastructure and the foundation and in what we stand on today, the history we stand on today -- but also in the impact that we had on our people and the impact that we had on our laws.

So I mentioned the fight for democracy. When George Washington was fighting the English in the Revolutionary War, he was surrounded by the Irish. And when you fast forward to all of the wars that this country has fought, both foreign and domestic, the Irish stood as champions for what was right.

And as we all remember where we come from and we think about those that persevered through the most difficult days in human history,

to come to celebrate and champion what is right. In every facet of society, from government to law enforcement to public service to healthcare to human services in every aspect that we all depend upon to make society function, the Irish have been at the tip of the sword in doing what is right for this great nation and all of our communities.

So this weekend in Buffalo, I'll be at the Irish Luncheon at the Irish Center, celebrating our heritage. On Saturday I'll be in the Old First Ward in the Old Neighborhood parade, a parade that goes back over a century. And then on Sunday, people will revel in St. Patrick's and all the green and libations and pomp and circumstance and dancing and music and fun. And we say everybody's Irish today, everybody's Irish on St. Patrick's Day.

What I say to you, Mr. President Cooney, is everybody's a little bit Irish every day, because of who we are, where we come from, and the impact that we have had on the global community -- a small little island off the coast of Western Europe in the Atlantic that is the heartbeat of it all across the globe.

I'm proud to be Irish. I'm proud of where I come from. I'm proud of those whose shoulders I stand on, and we stand on, that have made our communities, our state and our nation, and the global community what it is today.

Now, I know many of you have been here for my long, prolonged, extensive speeches about the Irish.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR KENNEDY: I'm going to leave you with this today.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR KENNEDY: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you to each and every one of you for your indulgence, not just today but over the years.

Because I know all of you understand the importance of St. Patrick's Day and celebrating the Irish heritage as we do every single year in this auspicious chamber. And I'm proud to be a part of it.

And with that, Mr. President, God bless the Irish and God bless America.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you Senator Kennedy, who never forgets where he comes

from.

(Laughter.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: We now recognize Senator Weber to speak on the resolution.

SENATOR WEBER: Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, Senator Kennedy, for this great resolution today.

You know, you wouldn't think someone with the name William Weber whose baptismal cake actually had "Wilhelm Weber" on it would be Irish, but my mother's grandparents emigrated from Ireland in the early 1900s. My mother, last name McHugh {ph}, Patty McHugh, from Brooklyn.

Moved to Pearl River, New York, in 1969. I looked it up recently and don't think it's any surprise to anyone, but according to IrishCentral, Pearl River has the most Irish than any town in New York State. It's actually not a town, it's a hamlet, but it has the most Irish per capita of any town, hamlet, in New York State. An area where traditional Irish Catholic values are embraced, whether it's at the Rockland GAA, at the AOH, whether it's last weekend going

to the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick event where hundreds of proud Irishmen came together.

You know, my sister's husband is from Killarney, and I had the honor of going to Ireland a number of years ago to celebrate traditional Irish weddings. There was a funeral thrown in the middle. But it was a great country to visit, a country that was great to see where my mother's side of the family came from.

You know, back in the early 1980s my mother would take in two children every year from Belfast through Project Children, kids that weren't going through and weren't having that great childhood experience in at the time war-torn Belfast. And I remember keeping in touch with a lot of those kids, and they still keep in touch with my mother and are thrilled that they had the opportunity to come and spend a little time in at that time Pearl River, really getting out of an area that was in distress.

You know, St. Patrick's Day is a big day in Pearl River. I believe it's one of the largest parades on the East Coast. We average about 50,000 spectators at the parade. I'll be there marching on the Avenue with thousands of my

friends and neighbors this Sunday, down the Avenue. If you haven't been there, it starts at 1:30. We line up at the Pfizer Laboratory headquarters. Everyone's welcome. Everyone's Irish today.

Thank you, Senator Kennedy, for bringing the resolution.

Happy St. Patrick's Day, everyone.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Myrie on the resolution.

SENATOR MYRIE: Thank you, Mr. President.

And let me first thank Senator Kennedy for his steadfast dedication to introducing this resolution every single year.

I proudly represent Windsor Terrace in Brooklyn, a predominantly Irish neighborhood with a rich Irish history. And I only rise to bring up something that I get to talk about when I'm in Windsor Terrace, and that is the relationship in history between Black people and the Irish people.

In fact, I think it's a little known

fact that Frederick Douglass made a pilgrimage to Ireland, and there he met someone who was called the Irish Liberator, Daniel O'Connell, someone who was against slavery and the enslavement of human beings, and someone who Frederick Douglass looked up to and said that he was inspired by.

And so the relationship between our peoples goes back centuries. And I think it's important certainly in these times, where we find things to easily divide us, that we think about the things that unite us.

And so I am proud to represent Windsor Terrace in the State Senate, and I'm proud to have colleagues upholding the rich history that we share in this country.

I vote aye. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Myrie.

Senator Bailey on the resolution.

SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you, Mr. President.

I know what you're thinking. Last name Bailey: Irish. It's actually a Scottish last name. And within the ancestry DNA that I've done, I am sad to report that it did not find any

actual evidence of Irish blood. But I think that Senator Kennedy alluded to it; I think we all have a little bit of the Irish spirit in us.

And I represent the neighborhood of Woodlawn in the Bronx, which is a significantly Irish population. Incredible folks there that do incredible work.

But I rise to salute two members of our body who this will be their last St. Patrick's Day in this chamber, both by their own choosing. First you heard from Senator Kennedy, who at the end of the month of April will be going on to greener pastures. Greener, no pun intended. Or maybe it was intended.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BAILEY: But either way, we will miss your steadfast support and deference for your community, which is our community.

And Neil Breslin, a steadfast Irishman when it wasn't popular. He stood up for folks.

And the third, also going to be going on to greener pastures, the Mannion himself, John Mannion.

And so I don't know who's going to

carry this resolution next year, Mr. President.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BAILEY: I think it might have to be you.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BAILEY: It might have to be a Bailey.

But rest assured, gentlemen, that the work that you have done in your respective communities is not lost on us, and that it is appreciated.

And I know on Sunday, while I will not be outside in the street -- full disclosure, I'll be at home -- just know that my heart is with you celebrating.

Erin Go Bragh. Happy St. Patrick's Day.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Bailey.

Senator Sanders on the resolution.

SENATOR SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

I would be remiss if I did not speak up for the incredible Irish population that I have in The Rockaways, Queens, where we had one

of the greatest St. Patrick's Day marches, parades there. I was blessed to be part of that roughly two weeks, or so it seems. What a great population. What a great parade that we had.

Anyone who cannot make the later parade, I always invite them to the one in The Rockaways. We seem to do that first. Maybe it's because we're closer to Ireland than many other places, right across the water.

We too will miss Senators Kennedy and Breslin. But I assure both of them that the spirit that they have left here will be the talk for generations. We will be speaking of the great but brief speeches that our colleagues have been giving. All too brief. All too brief. But we'll be speaking of them in reverent tones that I cannot do justice to here today.

Thank you very much, Mr. President. Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Sanders.

Senator Breslin on the resolution.

SENATOR BRESLIN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

And after the comments by my dear

friend Senator Kennedy, I felt obligated to stand, as this might be one of the last times I will be able to do that.

And for some of you who don't know, I grew up in the heart of Albany in a very diverse neighborhood. My house -- next door was the Catholic grade school, and on the other side were the Breslins and then the Mannings, then the Quinns, then the Brennans, then the Hogans.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BRESLIN: And the wonderful Slattery family. And the McCloskeys. And we had -- and it gets more diverse as we go along.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BRESLIN: And we mentioned Dan O'Connell, the Great Liberator from Ireland. He was also a great liberator in Albany, as he was the Democratic chairman for almost 40 years.

And I might add, again, there was that ethnic and political diversity. From 1921 to 1960, there was never anyone but a Democrat elected in the City of Albany. And there was never a primary. That's the diversity we're all looking for.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BRESLIN: But fortunately it's a diversity neither party will have any time in the near future.

So I will miss this place. I will miss being reduced -- reducing the number of Irish that speak in this hall. And before I say any more, I don't want to catch up to the time that's been allotted to me -- part of which I gave to Senator Kennedy --

(Laughter.)

SENATOR BRESLIN: -- but I wish you a wonderful Happy St. Patrick's Day.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Breslin.

Senator Liu on the resolution.

SENATOR LIU: Mr. President -- Senator Cooney -- Happy St. Patrick's Day to you and to all fellow New Yorkers.

Oh, and Senator Sanders wanted to mention he would miss John Mannion also.

(Laughter.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Liu.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all.

The resolution was adopted on

March 5th.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Thank you, Mr. President.

Lest anyone be concerned about this resolution next year, I think Senator Brian Kavanagh and Senator Sean Ryan can figure out which of them wants to carry it. I know Gallivan's going to get it in on it too. We have plenty of Irish remaining in the Senate chamber.

Can we now move on to previously adopted Resolution 1841, by Senator Hinchey, read that resolution's title and recognize Senator Hinchey.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Resolution 1841, by Senator Hinchey, commending New York Maple Producers during the Annual Maple Weekends on March 16 and 17, 2024, and March 23 and 24, 2024.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Hinchey on the resolution.

SENATOR HINCHEY: Thank you, Mr. President.

New York has a rich agricultural

history, and farmers love to share their traditions and their products. From farm tours to agritourism to "pick your own" and tastings, there are great ways to visit with local agriculture.

Another one is statewide Maple Day. The first ever Maple Day was a single day in 1995 known as Maple Sunday. Since then, it has grown tremendously. And now in 2024, in its 28th year, the event spans two weekends and four days, which is an incredible show and testament to the support that our maple producers have across the State of New York.

New York is the second-largest maple producer in the country. We are also the fastest-growing in specialty crops for maple. And we are home to more than 2,000 maple sugar makers.

If you happen to be across the Hudson Valley during Maple Weekends, if you happen to find yourself in Ulster County, make sure to check out Platte Creek Maple Farm in Saugerties or New Beginnings Farmstead in Kingston, or even Corey's Sugar Shack in Highland.

If you find yourself in Columbia County, Maple Leaf Sugaring in Ghent is a great place to visit.

And in Dutchess County, Soukup Farms in Dover Plains will be celebrating these weekends.

I know I am incredibly excited to celebrate Maple Day over these two weekends, and knowing that it is St. Patrick's Day, maybe we should all grab a Guinness and celebrate maple in the State of New York as we celebrate Maple Weekends.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Hinchey.

Senator Borrello on the resolution.

SENATOR BORRELLO: Thank you, Mr. President. I want to thank Senator Hinchey for bringing this resolution and recognizing that New York State is one of the largest -- the second-largest maple producer in the nation.

But it's not just about maple syrup. There are many other products produced with maple: Maple candy, maple ice cream. I know you're nodding your head; we've all tried it. So

many other things. Even coffee that is made with maple.

Experience it. This is the time. These weekends are the time to do this. You can go to Mapleweekend.com and find all locations throughout New York State, including the 57th Senate District, where we have many places and lots of maple trees. Experience one of the best products, one of the best agricultural products that comes out of New York State. These two weekends are the time to do it.

I am proud to be the ranking member of the Ag Committee and proud to represent thousands of farmers in my district and throughout New York State. New York State is an ag state, and this is your time to see how sweet it is.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Borrello.

Senator May on the resolution.

SENATOR MAY: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to just make sure that my colleagues understand what maple syrup is.

Because the sap that comes out of a maple tree is 96 percent water, and you have to boil off almost all of that water in order to get something that tastes like maple syrup.

When I was in my twenties, I had a friend who had a farm and I used to go and help with the maple sugaring. And it involved lugging heavy buckets of sap and then lots and lots and lots of wood to burn to burn off the water in the maple sap to get down to maple syrup. It was fun, but it was really hard work.

Well, I visited Dutch Hill Maple Farm in my district last week, and they now use reverse osmosis that takes about 90 percent of the water out. And so it's made it far more efficient in terms of the amount of wood or fuel you have to burn in order to get it down to actual maple syrup. And they've also maintained the delicious flavor and the high quality of maple syrup in the process.

So maple syruping is not what it used to be, but maple syrup is what it used to be. And I hope people will be able to enjoy it this weekend.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator May.

Senator Oberacker on the resolution.

SENATOR OBERACKER: Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you to Senator Hinchey for bringing this resolution to the floor.

You know, I think many maybe know or don't know about my background in food and food production, being a food scientist and a chef by trade. We've heard how maple is produced. We've heard all the other products that maple goes into. And I would just like to expand upon some of that, uses for maple that some may or may not know.

And for those of my colleagues that I know I'm intriguing at this moment across the aisle, I am always open to recipes. And I would be more than happy to extend that during this maple fest that we are seeing. And to that end: A barbecue sauce with maple that I actually have in possession. A recipe for a soft maple Manhattan. In light of it being really close to St. Paddy's Day, it kind of fits in. Or more appropriately, a habanero maple old-fashioned.

And if any of you would care to want to address me on that, I'd be more than happy to -- as we say, in this light of being the Irish of giving, I would be more than happy to extend that to my colleagues from both sides of the aisle.

So thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Hinchey. And let's all -- as the Senator said, the sweetness of maple not to be undone. So thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Thank you, Senator Oberacker. Bipartisanship abound!

(Laughter.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The resolution was adopted on February 27th.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: I would like to add to Senator Oberacker's list the maple brown sugar oatmeal I had this morning. It was quite good.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President, please recognize Senator Lanza for a motion.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Lanza.

SENATOR LANZA: Yes, Mr. President.

On behalf of Senator Stec, I move to recommit Senate Print Number 23, Calendar Number 658 on the order of first report, to the Committee on Civil Service and Pensions, with instructions to strike out the enacting clause.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: So ordered.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President, I neglected to indicate that the sponsors wanted the resolutions we took up today open for cosponsorship.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The resolutions are open for cosponsorship. Should you choose not to be a cosponsor on the resolutions, please notify the desk.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Now let's take up the calendar, please.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 109, Senate Print 362, by Senator Thomas, an act to amend the General Business Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the

last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 6. This act shall take effect on the 60th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 109, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Borrello, Helming, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Stec and Tedisco.

Ayes, 51. Nays, 7.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 136, Senate Print 1305, by Senator Comrie, an act to amend the Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the

roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 136, voting in the negative:

Senator Lanza.

Ayes, 57. Nays, 1.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 159, Senate Print 3236, by Senator Sepúlveda, an act to amend the Executive Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 58.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 166, Senate Print 3283, by Senator Rivera, an act to amend the Public Health Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 14. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick to explain her vote.

SENATOR CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK: Thank you, Mr. President.

The current state of the law right now is that if a hospital can with reasonable efforts ascertain the identity of a parent or a guardian of an emancipated minor, the hospital shall notify the family. It requires them to do so.

Public Health Law Section 2994A defines what an emancipated minor patient is. A minor patient is either, number one, the parent of a child -- which in essence is a teenage

parent -- or, number two, a 16-year-old or older who is living independently of his or her parents.

The current bill before us will prevent -- it does not -- excuse me. It does not require a hospital to seek out and find the parent. It says they need to use diligent efforts. What does that mean? It's not defined.

The current law says that with reasonable efforts, if they can find them, they must notify them.

In my opinion, this bill is anti-family. It is not supporting -- that if a teenager is a parent of a child, that now the hospital's not required to notify their parent. And we can all think of a fact pattern where a teenager who might not be living at home or is an early parent, that they're not required to find that family. Think about it. A child who's been shot on the street, maybe is on life support, and they don't require them to find that family before they take them off life support.

This, to me, is terrible legislation. For that reason, it's anti-family. As a mom of four, I cannot support this because

it's just not the way we should be doing things. It should have been considered very strongly that this definition could have disastrous effects.

For that reason, Mr. President, I vote nay.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick to be recorded in the negative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 166, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Ashby, Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Felder, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martinez, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads, Rolison, Skoufis, Stec, Tedisco, Weber and Weik.

Ayes, 36. Nays, 22.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 378, Assembly Bill Number 8876, by Assemblymember Pheffer Amato, an act to amend the Civil Service Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 58.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 388, Senate Print 261, by Senator Serrano, an act to amend the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 58.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill

is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 509, Senate Print 8557, by Senator Jackson, an act to amend the Civil Service Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 58.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 515, Senate Print 260, by Senator Serrano, an act to amend the Education Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

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

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Serrano to explain his vote.

SENATOR SERRANO: Thank you, Mr. President.

The arts provide a multitude of benefits to our society. The arts, music, really are transformational in so many different ways, but especially when it comes to education. Arts music, theater, dance education has shown to be of tremendous benefit to students across the State of New York and everywhere.

But sadly, a lot of data shows that we are not reaching the minimum threshold for arts education in our schools. This bill, S260, will direct the Commissioner of Education to conduct a statewide audit of school districts to ensure that we are at least reaching our minimum standards for arts, music and theater education in our schools.

This is an important step in ensuring that we have a robust arts education program in the State of New York. I vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator Serrano to be recorded in the affirmative.

Senator May to explain her vote.

SENATOR MAY: Thank you, Mr. President.

I want to applaud Senator Serrano for this bill and his concern for making sure that all of our children get the arts and music education that they deserve.

We know that arts and music education help to build character, build whole people, build the whole brain. We find kids who study art and music in school are less likely to have disciplinary problems. They're more likely to graduate, they're more likely to do well on the SATs and get into college.

And arts and music education is in regulation in the state, but it is not in statute. And I hope that this is a first step toward getting this in statute. Because we know that when school districts feel the need to cut somewhere, the first thing that goes is arts and music education. And that is not serving our children well.

So thank you, Senator Serrano. I vote aye.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Senator

May to be recorded in the affirmative.

Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 58.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 590, Senate Print 485A, by Senator Comrie, an act to amend the Public Authorities Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2024.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 58.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 595, Senate Print 6921, by Senator Chu, an act to amend the Railroad Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: 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 COONEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 595, voting in the negative: Senator Oberacker.

Ayes, 57. Nays, 1.

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

SENATOR GIANARIS: Move to adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, March 14th, at 11:00 a.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT COONEY: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until

Thursday, March 14th, at 11:00 a.m.

(Whereupon, at 3:48 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)