



Journal of the Senate

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CALL TO ORDER

The Senate was called to order by President Simpson at 10:00 a.m. A quorum present—37:

Mr. President	Cruz	Perry
Albritton	Diaz	Polsky
Ausley	Farmer	Powell
Baxley	Gainer	Rodriguez
Bean	Garcia	Rodriguez
Berman	Gibson	Rouson
Book	Gruters	Stargel
Boyd	Harrell	Stewart
Bracy	Hooper	Taddeo
Bradley	Hutson	Torres
Brandes	Jones	Wright
Brodeur	Mayfield	
Broxson	Passidomo	

PRAYER

The following prayer was offered by Reverend Kyle Peddie, Corinth Baptist Church, Hosford:

Good morning, Lord. As our Florida Senate begins another week of decision-making for our great state, we pause just a moment and remember our neighbors in Bay and Calhoun Counties that are continuing to deal with wildfires this morning. We humbly ask for protection and provision for those in harm's way and a very special blessing for those on the ground and in the sky, fighting those fires around the clock. May each firefighter make it home after the fires are extinguished.

We are grateful today for the opportunity to call on you for great discernment as this session winds down. I am personally grateful for our leadership in this great chamber today who have taken the time to listen to the needs of the people they represent. Help us always to remember your word says to set up the governments and institutions of man. Help us always to never forget about your divine presence in this process today. I ask a special blessing upon each Senator, their families, and their homes while they are here serving their constituents and

servicing our state. Please grant them the wisdom and discernment they desire to make those most important decisions regarding laws and the state budget. We are also told in scripture to pray for those in leadership over us, so help us to always be found faithful in that endeavor. So today, we pray for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. We pray for Senators Rick Scott and Marco Rubio. We pray for Governor Ron DeSantis and Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez. We pray for Speaker of the House, Chris Sprowls, and we pray for Senate President, Wilton Simpson. Give them the wisdom of your son in making decisions today as they serve the great people of our state and nation.

Father, we ask for a lot of things every time we pray. You tell us in your word to ask. But I just want to stop and say, "Thank you." Thank you for your love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. May we demonstrate these fruits in our daily lives of leadership and citizenship. Thank you for allowing us the breath of life as we acknowledge today that you do not owe us one thing. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me; bless his holy name, the wonderful, matchless name of Jesus in whose name I pray. Amen.

PLEDGE

Senate Pages, Macie Butcher of Jacksonville; Hannah Dyal of Macclenny; and Matthew Mitchell of Middleburg, led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

BILLS ON THIRD READING

SB 7044—A bill to be entitled An act relating to postsecondary education; amending s. 1001.706, F.S.; authorizing the Board of Governors to adopt a regulation regarding post-tenure reviews for state university faculty; specifying requirements for the regulation; amending s. 1004.085, F.S.; providing requirements for lists of required and recommended textbooks and instructional materials for Florida College System institution and state university courses; amending s. 1007.24, F.S.; revising the maintenance requirements of, and information that must be included in, the statewide course numbering system; requiring certain postsecondary educational institutions' registration processes to include specified information; requiring certain postsecondary educational institutions to accept and apply general education courses and credit in a specified manner; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules; providing requirements for such rules; creating s. 1008.47, F.S.; defining the term "postsecondary education institution"; requiring the Board of Governors and State Board of Education to identify and determine accrediting agencies or associations best suited for public postsecondary institutions by a specified date; providing requirements for such accrediting agencies or associations; prohibiting public postsecondary institutions from being accredited by the same agency or association for consecutive accreditation cycles; requiring public postsecondary institutions to obtain accreditation from accrediting agencies or associations identified by the Board of Governors or State Board of Education, respectively; providing that specified academic programs are exempt from such requirements; requiring institutions to provide specified reports to the Board of Governors or the State Board of Education; requiring institutions to seek specified accreditation; authorizing institutions to remain with current accreditors under certain circumstances; creating a cause of action for postsecondary education institutions; authorizing the award of specified damages, court costs, and attorney fees; providing for the future expiration of specified provisions; amending ss. 1009.23 and 1009.24, F.S.; requiring Florida College System institutions and state universities, respectively, to post specified information relating to tuition and fee rates and proposed

changes to such rates on their websites; revising the information that must be included in a required notice to students; requiring a specific press release to be e-mailed to enrolled students; providing requirements for a Florida College System institution or a state university, respectively, to raise, impose, or authorize certain fees; providing a directive to the Division of Law Revision; providing effective dates.

—as amended March 4, was read the third time by title.

On motion by Senator Diaz, **SB 7044**, as amended, was passed and certified to the House. The vote on passage was:

Yeas—22

Mr. President	Diaz	Passidomo
Albritton	Gainer	Perry
Baxley	Garcia	Rodrigues
Bean	Gruters	Rodriguez
Boyd	Harrell	Stargel
Bradley	Hooper	Wright
Brodeur	Hutson	
Broxson	Mayfield	

Nays—15

Ausley	Cruz	Powell
Berman	Farmer	Rouson
Book	Gibson	Stewart
Bracy	Jones	Taddeo
Brandes	Polsky	Torres

CS for HB 7029—A bill to be entitled An act relating to time limitations for preadjudicatory juvenile detention care; amending s. 985.24, F.S.; authorizing a court to order a child on supervised release detention care to comply with specified conditions; authorizing a dependent child with an allegation of delinquency to be placed in secure detention care; amending s. 985.26, F.S.; authorizing a court to place a child on supervised release detention care for any time period; providing an exception; specifying the time period for which a court may order a child to be held in secure detention care under certain circumstances; authorizing a court to extend the time period for secure detention care under certain circumstances; requiring a court to make specified findings; requiring a court to conduct a hearing to determine the continued need for secure detention care in certain circumstances; revising time limitations resulting from a continuance; removing provisions relating to supervised release detention care and its exclusion from specified time limitations; authorizing specified entities to conduct electronic monitoring; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title.

Pursuant to Rule 7.1, there being no objection, consideration of the following late-filed amendments was allowed:

Senator Brandes moved the following amendments which failed to receive the required two-thirds vote:

Amendment 1 (849842) (with title amendment)—Delete lines 83-148 and insert:

involving a weapon used violence against another any individual. The court may continue to extend the period of secure detention care in increments of up to 21 days each by conducting a hearing before the expiration of the current period to determine the need for continued secure detention of the child. At the hearing, the court shall make the required findings in writing to extend the period of secure detention. If the court extends the time period for secure detention care, it must ensure an adjudicatory hearing for the case commences as soon as is reasonably possible considering the totality of the circumstances. The court shall prioritize the efficient disposition of cases in which the child has served 60 or more days in secure detention care.

(c) A prolific juvenile offender under s. 985.255(1)(f) shall be placed on supervised release detention care with electronic monitoring or in secure detention care under a special detention order until disposition. If secure detention care is ordered by the court, it must be authorized under this part and may not exceed:

1. Twenty-one days unless an adjudicatory hearing for the case has been commenced in good faith by the court or the period is extended by the court pursuant to paragraph (b); or
2. Fifteen days after the entry of an order of adjudication.

As used in this paragraph, the term “disposition” means a declination to file under s. 985.15(1)(h), the entry of nolle prosequi for the charges, the filing of an indictment under s. 985.56 or an information under s. 985.557, a dismissal of the case, or an order of final disposition by the court.

(d) A prolific juvenile offender under s. 985.255(1)(f) who is taken into custody for a violation of the conditions of his or her supervised release detention must be held in secure detention until a detention hearing is held.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (2), a child may not be held in detention care for more than 15 days *after following* the entry of an order of adjudication.

~~(4)(a) The time limits in subparagraph (2)(a)2. subsections (2) and subsection (3) do not include periods of delay resulting from a continuance granted by the court for cause on motion of the child or his or her counsel or of the state. Upon the issuance of an order granting a continuance for cause on a motion by either the child, the child’s counsel, or the state, the court shall conduct a hearing at the end of each 72-hour period, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, to determine the need for continued secure detention of the child and the need for further continuance of proceedings for the child or the state.~~

~~(b) The period for supervised release detention care under this section is tolled on the date that the department or a law enforcement officer alleges that the child has violated a condition of the child’s supervised release detention care until the court enters a ruling on the violation. Notwithstanding the tolling of supervised release detention care, the court retains jurisdiction over the child for a violation of a condition of supervised release detention care during the tolling period. If the court finds that a child has violated his or her supervised release detention care, the number of days that the child served in any type of detention care before commission of the violation shall be excluded from the time limits under subsections (2) and (3).~~

(7) *Any electronic monitoring ordered by a court as a condition of supervised release detention care under this section may be supervised by the department, a law enforcement agency, or the department and a law enforcement agency working in partnership. However, this subsection does not require a law enforcement agency to supervise a child placed on electronic monitoring, and it does not authorize a law enforcement agency to charge a child, or a child’s parent or guardian, for electronic*

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete line 23 and insert: *electronic monitoring; providing construction; providing an effective date.*

Amendment 2 (469898) (with title amendment)—Delete lines 147-148 and insert:

in partnership. However, this subsection does not require a law enforcement agency to supervise a child placed on electronic monitoring, and it does not authorize a law enforcement agency to charge a child, or a child’s parent or guardian, for electronic

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete line 23 and insert: *electronic monitoring; providing construction; providing an effective date.*

On motion by Senator Perry, **CS for HB 7029** was passed and certified to the House. The vote on passage was:

Yeas—27

Mr. President	Bradley	Gainer
Albritton	Brandes	Garcia
Baxley	Brodeur	Gibson
Bean	Broxson	Gruters
Boyd	Diaz	Harrell

Hooper	Perry	Rouson
Hutson	Powell	Stargel
Mayfield	Rodrigues	Stewart
Passidomo	Rodriguez	Wright

Nays—10

Ausley	Cruz	Taddeo
Berman	Farmer	Torres
Book	Jones	
Bracy	Polsky	

CS for CS for HB 741—A bill to be entitled An act relating to net metering; amending s. 366.91, F.S.; providing the terms for public utility net metering programs after a specified date; providing a schedule of reductions to net metering rate designs that apply to customers with net metering applications that are approved after specified dates; authorizing certain customers who own or lease renewable generation to remain under the net metering rules that initially applied to those customers for a specified time; authorizing public utilities to petition for approval of certain fixed charges designed to meet specified purposes; providing conditions under which rules must be initiated if the penetration rate of customer-owned or leased renewable generation meets a specified threshold; authorizing public utilities to recover specified lost revenues upon meeting certain requirements; providing applicability; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title.

Senator Brandes moved the following amendment which failed to receive the required two-thirds vote:

Amendment 4 (487084) (with title amendment)—Before line 23 insert:

Section 1. Section 366.945, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

366.945 Electric vehicle charging stations.—An investor-owned electric utility may provide electric vehicle charging stations directly to the public through a separate, unregulated entity or corporate affiliate, in a fair and reasonable manner, on the same terms and conditions as any other provider of electric vehicle charging stations. An investor-owned electric utility may not use rate base investments in the provision of electric vehicle charging stations directly to the public or in the ownership and operation of electric vehicle charging stations.

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete line 2 and insert: An act relating to renewable energy regulation; creating s. 366.945, F.S.; authorizing investor-owned electric utilities to provide electric vehicle charging stations directly to the public; prohibiting the use of rate base investments for such stations; amending s. 366.91,

On motion by Senator Bradley, **CS for CS for HB 741** was passed and certified to the House. The vote on passage was:

Yeas—24

Mr. President	Burgess	Passidomo
Albritton	Diaz	Perry
Baxley	Garcia	Powell
Bean	Gruters	Rodrigues
Boyd	Harrell	Rodriguez
Bracy	Hooper	Stargel
Bradley	Hutson	Torres
Brodeur	Mayfield	Wright

Nays—15

Ausley	Cruz	Pizzo
Berman	Farmer	Polsky
Book	Gainer	Rouson
Brandes	Gibson	Stewart
Broxson	Jones	Taddeo

HB 873—A bill to be entitled An act relating to public records; amending s. 945.10, F.S.; providing an exemption from public records requirements for information or records that identify or could reasonably lead to the identification of any person or entity that participates in an execution; providing for retroactive application; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of public necessity; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title.

On motion by Senator Broxson, **HB 873** was passed by the required constitutional two-thirds vote of the members present and voting and certified to the House. The vote on passage was:

Yeas—28

Mr. President	Cruz	Polsky
Albritton	Diaz	Rodrigues
Ausley	Gainer	Rodriguez
Baxley	Gruters	Rouson
Bean	Harrell	Stargel
Boyd	Hooper	Stewart
Bradley	Hutson	Torres
Brodeur	Mayfield	Wright
Broxson	Passidomo	
Burgess	Perry	

Nays—10

Berman	Farmer	Powell
Book	Gibson	Taddeo
Bracy	Jones	
Brandes	Pizzo	

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE BEAN

At the direction of the President, the Senate proceeded to the recognition of Senator Aaron Bean, honoring his years of service to the Senate as he approaches the completion of his term for the 4th Senate District.

SPECIAL GUESTS

President Simpson introduced Senator Bean's wife, Abby; sons, Gray Bean, Fernandina Beach City Commissioner Bradley Bean and his fiancée, Alexia Dawes; and nephew and godson, Davis Bean, who were present in the chamber.

President Simpson introduced Senator Bean's current staff, Dee Alexander, Chad Corcoran, and Henry Mahler; former staff James Kotas and Austin Nicklas, who were present in the gallery.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A video tribute was played honoring Senator Bean.

REMARKS

On motion by Senator Passidomo, by two-thirds vote, the following remarks were ordered spread upon the Journal.

Senator Burgess: Energy. Energy. One word to describe you, sir. Energy. It's contagious. We've spoken a lot about contagions lately in the last couple of years. Let me tell you about a good contagion—it's that man. He impacts all of us with that infectious smile, with his love, and with his genuine heart. You listen. You help. Every time we recognize somebody on the floor—I don't know if you've noticed—Senator Bean goes around and pats them on the back. He's like, "You did a great job. You made that person feel special today." You make every single person you come into contact with feel good and feel special. My wife reminds me all the time, she's like, "Danny, I know you've met with 15 people and you're really tired but this person here, this is their one meeting for the day so you need to make sure you make them feel special." I don't think you've ever had to be reminded of that. You always take time for

people, and that's something that we all notice, we all see, we all watch, and we all love about you and your family. And boy, what a void there's going to be without you here, sir. We love you so much. Thank you for bringing your passion, your energy, your love, and your heart to these chambers and to this process.

Senator Harrell: A-A-Ron Bean—oh my God. How do you describe A-A-Ron Bean? Some of you may know that I have a bit of a propensity for alliteration. Senator Passidomo—President Passidomo—and the P's of the process and her passion for it. So, I'm going to use that technique just a little bit today to describe Aaron Bean. I've been so blessed to know you, Aaron, for 22 years. You saw the pictures up there. We were elected together in 2000 in the largest class—63 of us. Had we known our power, we could have elected our own Speaker. But, we didn't. However, the Bean presence was always there. When I first saw him, I saw that beaming smile, that boyish face. If you want to see the boyish face, there it is, and of course, that was sans the bushy beard that he has now and the bright eyes that never missed a thing. That whole month-long orientation we spent in Tallahassee, as you remember, and we were all captivated with his big-hearted nature and his bubbly personality and his boundless energy. He certainly was never bashful and rarely brief. We were all bewitched, bewildered, and besmitten with Aaron Bean. But you also have to note that Senator Bean has some big, brilliant, bodacious ideas. He was very much a part of brainstorming the program for Medicaid Reform if you remember back in 2004 and 2005 and he was truly the big boss of the Health and Human Services Council, which combined both Healthcare Committee and Appropriations Committee under Speaker Rubio, as we just saw. He was a very bold part of the implementation of Medicaid Reform and where we were in 2012 and 2013 as we moved forward. So, he was truly the big boss of the whole Medicaid Reform movement. But, did you know that some people may consider him a bully? When he brainstormed The Biggest Loser Contest so that everybody could become as buff as he is. However, there were some who subconsciously felt bugged by that, especially when they were given these big Bean bars of chocolate candy. They were concerned that they may have to become bulimic to counter the Bean bars. In honor of your Biggest Loser, I have a Beanie Baby named Buff for you, and I wish you the very best, A-A-Ron. I am so blessed to have you as part of my life for 22 years. You are certainly the best there is daily.

Senator Jones: I call him A.B.—to Aaron Bean: First, I want to start off with Abby. Abby, I'll never forget last year. We talked for two hours in Orlando and that's how you and I connected even before I really just sat down and got to know who Aaron Bean was, realizing I knew Senator Bean prior to him coming over to the House. To the Bean Sprouts—I think that is a good name to call you all. Let me tell you, your dad is amazing. You have an amazing dad and thank you for sharing him with us. My first time meeting Senator Bean was when I was a freshman. He was over here in the Senate, and he came over to do The Biggest Loser. Never having met him, I just knew he had all this energy. I said, "Hell, I wonder what this guy's drinking?" He was just so full of life. Just come to find out, when I asked, "Who is this guy?" everyone was like, "This is Aaron Bean—he's always like this." It's true. You have been consistent since 2012, and so that's how I know, when Aaron Bean comes in the room, that's who you are. When I had the opportunity to come here to the Senate and was placed over on Health Policy Appropriations, just to know you were the Chair of that committee. You were consistent. You were the same. I don't care how I was or the committee was, you had that same type of energy when you walked over here. You will be missed. Not just in this chamber, but you will definitely be missed in this building because even if we had a dull day within the chambers, when you get to the rostrum, you always seem to neutralize the spirits here within this room. Abby, thank you for sharing him with us. We'll definitely miss you, brother, but I'm sure we'll see you sprouting up somewhere else. Thank you so much.

Senator Cruz: BLAB BLAB BLAB BLAB—that is what I learned! "Be Like Aaron Bean!" That's what BLAB is about, Aaron. I want you to know that my first encounter, too, with Senator Bean was in 2010 in the House. Along comes this man with more energy than I've ever seen, walking down the aisle of the House talking about who lost the most pounds and who the winner was. Then, I looked forward every year to your chocolate bars. Because what you do, what you've done, and what you will always do is add levity to this process. I want to thank you for always making me feel like I counted. I want to thank you for your respect towards the process. I also want to thank you for your ability to make everyone love you so much. You're such a special man and I want

to Be Like Aaron Bean—BLAB. I want you to move forward for the next 30 years and make this the time of your life. I want you to know that these halls will not be the same without Aaron Bean, so I'm going to do my best to "Be Like Aaron Bean." Thank you.

Senator Farmer: Abby, please stop, because you're going to make me cry. I wanted to get up early because I know this is going to be really hard. You know, making a difference is what it's all about. It's what it's all about. It's, I think, what drives us. I've talked about it before. Why do you want to run for office? You want to help people. You want to make a difference, and I can't think of anybody who has exemplified that more than Aaron Bean. There's a special gift to make people feel special, and what Senator Burgess said is so right. For us, it's meeting after meeting after meeting. It's encounter after encounter after encounter. It's repetitive. We say some of the same things over and over again. But for that person, that constituent, that advocate that maybe drove hours to get here, took time off of work to get here, it means so much to them. Aaron would remind people of that. But he didn't have to remind them of it because he lived it. You guys know what I'm talking about. We have this special blessing and honor of being Senators that can kind of inherently make us feel special. But even we have bad days, and Aaron would come along and he would make you feel special, maybe, when you needed it. He did that for me recently and it meant the world to me. And it's personified in what we saw a couple of times, "I'll be your host." He wasn't just a chair. He wasn't just somebody leading a meeting. He was your host. The host with the most—the most compassion. Look what he has done in the field of health care in particular. It has been a life's mission. We worked on some things together this year that I will never forget, that mean so much to me. The host with the most energy—we've all talked about that. That's going to be the theme of this thing. Red Bull tried to patent this guy and sneak in and get some genetics out of him to make their energy drink better. But really the most love for everyone he came in touch with, everyone he worked with, making you feel special and making you feel important. Look at these galleries—all these people here, all these lives that you've helped in some way or another. Diverse groups, diverse interests, diverse anything, but there's one common thread—how special you are. You may have compiled also—well I assume you or your family had some say in it—that may have been the best musical compilation we've ever had in a going away video. Abby, if that was you, gosh, you hit it. The Green Day song is one that's always been special for myself and my daughter, Abby. There's one verse, "So take the photographs and still frames in your mind, hang it on a shelf in good health and good time, tattoos of memories and dead skin on trial, for what it's worth it was worth all the while." Man, it's been a long "all the while for you," Senator Bean, and every minute was so impactful and so special to everyone around you. And yeah, you don't have to go home, but you can't stay here. I know you're going to do something special because you are special. In closing, I'm just going to say, "Farmer loves Bean." Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Albritton: You know, when we get elected, we're given an opportunity, and that opportunity is to do something with the influence and the authority—or some would call the power—that we have. It's been very interesting to me. Some of you, sometimes you'll catch me—and over the years you'll continue to do this—I like to just sit and watch people. You can learn so much about somebody the way they respond after something happens or who they go to when something encouraging happens to them and who they go to to share that. I have paid close attention to you. I would expect everybody in this room and everybody within the sound of my voice would say this would be true of you, and that is one of your superpowers—authenticity. What I mean by that is that you're Aaron Bean every minute of every day. We've all seen people who will behave differently around different crowds. They'll say one thing over here to make this group happy and one thing over here to make this group happy, even though they're in conflict. And you, you don't do that. I would say your greatest strength is authenticity because in the world, to make an impact, what you know, and we all know, that's a necessary first step. The second thing that I've noticed about you—it has been mentioned a little bit here on the floor here today—but how you have an impact on other people's lives. I think that's because, at least for me, I think it's because you're a known quantity, and what I mean by that is, in this process, it's always difficult to fully let your guard down. Let's be honest, right? Somebody telling me the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. How's my action going to be perceived or how's it going to impact my ability to influence others or is this going to hurt me? Is this going to help me? What's this going to do? But with you, what I have found is it's exceptionally easy to let my

guard down because I know your second superpower is that you have my best interest at heart every day. You're about goodness; you're about truth; you're about others. You are the epitome of what love with skin on looks like. That's the greatest compliment that I can come up with to share with you and to thank you, Aaron Bean. I'm better because of you. Love you.

Senator Book: I'm going to go real quick here because I don't want to ugly cry on the floor any more because A-A-Ron says that's not a good look for me. I call him A-A-Ron because Leader Braynon taught me that's how you refer to A-A-Ron. You're the heart and soul of this place. When things go real bad, we look to you to bring it up. What you don't know about Aaron Bean—I'm gonna tell you something you don't know—okay, cool. You know how to tell when Aaron Bean is mad—do you know? Does any one of you know how to tell when Aaron Bean is mad? How? Do you know? No? You gotta look at his tie; you gotta look at his tie, members. Let me tell you, there are only two times I've seen Aaron Bean mad. He was wearing his skull and crossbones tie and his spider tie. Those are the only two times. I looked at him that day, and I said, "Aaron, what's going on, what is wrong?" And he goes, "How do you know?" I said, "It's the tie—it is a black tie with skull and crossbones." That's how you know. Because the truth is, Aaron is always happy, and you're always bringing everybody up. Not only do you make Senator Albritton better, you make all of us better. I have enjoyed learning from you. I have enjoyed getting to spend time with you. You give so much of yourself. One of my favorite memories with Aaron was when we did this crazy thing where we walked for 42 hours straight in the Capitol—I don't advise it—on a treadmill all night. Who came at one o'clock in the morning when I was tired? Aaron Bean. He walked for an hour on that treadmill, put on his clothes, and came and did it. Nobody was around—nobody knew. But you care. You care about each and every one of us. You care about this process, and we're all better for you. You are my friend. You always will be, and you are the heart and soul of this place.

Senator Boyd: So many things have been said, Mr. President Pro Tempore, that I agree with you and I think everyone in here agrees with you. Senator Jones said he remembers you from the House when you used to come up on the floor and do The Biggest Loser. That's probably my first memory of you. I didn't know who this guy was and what the heck was going on here, but that grew to be my favorite day on the floor of the Florida House. You would come over, and it was just like, don't stop, this is so much fun. You came across, as a young freshman over there to me in the House, as a guy that was just about the process, about doing what's right, but having fun as well. Two quick things I want to say. One—you have time for everyone. You never act busy, you never act like you're in a hurry, and you never push a freshman off because you got bigger, and probably more important, things to do. I appreciate that, and I know my colleagues do as well. I don't want to presume to speak for the freshman class, but I think everyone in our class would agree—you took us under your wing when we got here. We had those Monday night meetings that were informative—very helpful—but also a lot fun. We even had graduation—you gave out gifts. It was a time that meant a lot to me and meant a lot to our class and just kind of helping us get acclimated to the Senate way. Forever we will be indebted to you for that, but so happy to have shared a part of my legislative life with you and what you meant to me and others. I'll never forget. Thank you so much.

Senator Bradley: Now I have had the pleasure—oh, this is off to a good start—of having Aaron in my life and my family for such a long time. I hit the brother-in-law jackpot. I remember the very first time that I met you. Rob and I were at UF. Almost 35 years ago, it doesn't seem possible, but Rob and I were at UF. We were driving home for the day to meet his parents and his sister, Abby, and her then boyfriend, Aaron. We pulled in to the house and on the front lawn were Abby and Aaron, both cheerleaders—not surprising—from JU. They were on the front lawn, and they were doing lifts. Aaron had Abby up in the air, and they were doing lifts. Before long, Rob and I had gotten out and joined them, and they were encouraging us to try the same lifts that we had no business doing. And thank goodness, there was no cell phone video. I might have been inclined to think that was just a one off particularly fun day, and then I realized that's every time we're together with the Beans. A few years later, your public service started. I remember waving signs for you on the corner of 14th Street when you ran for City Commission, and your rise in public service has been meteoric. You've gone from City Council, to the State House, to the Senate, to Pro Tempore, and I will tell you that you are the same man today that I met all those years ago. Relentlessly positive, never about power, always

about people, and never a cynic because you live by a simple truth—kindness matters. It matters even when you don't agree; it always matters. That was the heart of your public service. It was making sure that you lift up your community and lift up the state. You've been the state's cheerleader for the last 25 years. They say that you really know a person's heart, not by looking at a person's checkbook, but by looking at their calendar. I've never known anyone whose calendar looks the way Aaron Bean's does. It's every weekend. It's every night of every weekend. And it may be the local football banquet, emceeding the Rotary dinner, doing the business club, or hosting some of the state's largest fundraising galas for wonderful causes. Your generosity with your time is unmatched, and I admire it so, so much. That doesn't happen without a team, and you crisscrossing the state with three special boys, always including a half of the day to stop at a state park or an arcade or a go-kart track in a minivan with Abby packing snacks and making it fun. Abby has been your biggest cheerleader. We don't know what the future is, but I know that it will be fun. I know that it will be meaningful. I know that your family is so ready for you to be home to love you.

Senator Hooper: It dawns on me this morning that, when the video came on, there are people in the gallery and in this chamber that had never seen you without a beard. You're a pretty handsome dude, and you still are. It also was interesting—the video opened with an exchange between Speaker, now Senator Rubio and yourself. For those of you who weren't here in 2007 and 2008 in the House, no matter how hectic—well, the House is always hectic, let me rephrase that—at its most hectic times, at the end of the session, there was always the Thought of the Day, presented by Representative Aaron Bean. As bad as an issue that we ever debated, we ever argued about, we got mad about, even reading the bills in full, we ended that session with something that made everybody feel better, because of you. So that was a reflection to me that, there's something wrong with this guy. He's not right. I was going to say "As a young freshman," but I can't. As an old freshman in the House, I was punished by being put on the Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee chaired by Representative Bean. I thought at the time that was punishment. Those of you that have ever served on that subcommittee know that you're going to be a failure every session. You cannot meet the needs of the most frail. We could never meet the needs that we needed to do and it's like, "How depressing!" some days, to me. I feel like a failure because I know the needs are great and the solutions are not going to come. Maybe next session. But somebody's got to lead that parade. You got the short straw in both chambers, obviously. There were days like, how is Representative or Senator and President Bean going to make this tolerable? I'm going to give you one example in the House that, in the tough times, the tough discussions, the tough decisions, we sit down and call the meeting to order and in front of the dais is this giant bowl. Representative Bean's instructions to the audience were like, "Here's the deal—if you keep your comments under three minutes, we've got a free Moon Pie in this bowl and you're welcome to come on down, get yourself a Moon Pie, enjoy it. As long as you keep your comments under three minutes." It's just something so simple. One day it was giving away toothbrushes. Aaron Bean made Health and Human Services Appropriations tolerable—a pretty tough skill, my friend. You will be missed. I appreciate you and I appreciate Abby. My wife has gotten to know Abby very well. They're probably watching you on TV. She's way somewhere—they're back there. We love you guys and we will see each other after this session is over. Thank you for everything you've helped me do.

Senator Perry: I was a sophomore in the House and this guy comes in on The Biggest Loser and you're sitting back there. I'd never met Senator Bean at the time, but you're thinking, "Who is this larger-than-life person? Who is this person that kind of dominates and takes over just by speaking about this thing?" But then you get to know him and you really understand who he is. He's genuine. He's thoughtful. He's skilled—a skilled negotiator. He understands what he's doing, although he does have one fault. We have a little group that we play cards with—it's called the Fight Club. I don't know why we call it the Fight Club. Someone raises 25 cents and it's all this moaning going on, but we still call it the Fight Club. One thing that Bean doesn't have—he doesn't have a poker face. You can tell when he's smiling. You're saying, "You can't get away with that." One skill—you've got a lot of other skills—that's one you don't have. They say imitation is the best form of flattery. I tried. You know, I gave it a chance. I gave it a shot, but there's no one like Aaron Bean. You've been a blessing. It's great to get to know you on a personal level and your family. He's just a great guy to be around. You've blessed this institution. You've blessed the Senate. You've bles-

sed everybody around here and it doesn't mean that you're going to stop blessing—it just means you're moving on to another group to bless them. Thank you.

Senator Stargel: Aaron and Abby Bean are probably our oldest, longest friends in this process. My husband was elected and he got the honor of sitting next to Aaron Bean on the floor. He came home every day telling me about how Aaron Bean this, Aaron Bean that. So Aaron Bean was a legend before I even got here. Plus, I had the chance of watching and hanging out with Abby. There's a saying that says people will often forget what you've said, but they'll never forget how you made them feel, and I would say that you're the feeling of this chamber and you will be missed. There are going to be pages for years who served this time and they sat back there and didn't do anything, but you always go around and push the buttons. Because you weren't sitting here thinking about—I mean you were thinking about the things we were doing that were heavy—but you were thinking about these kids that are in the back who, this was their day up here and they wanted to have an opportunity to stand up. Every time you go to the guard shack, when you're going in the evening after hours, you're just loading them up with candy to the point that they're having a hard time doing their job because they've got all these candies and snacks in their hands. Because you're thinking about the person in the guard shack more than what was coming and going. There are so many people in this process who say, "Do you know who I am?" But for you, when you leave this process, they are going to know who you were and they are going to remember the things that you've done. They will have forgotten me and probably most of us in this room. But looking back, people will be telling Aaron Bean stories of what you've done, how you've impacted, how you made them feel. I just think that's a legacy bigger than any other legacy we've got going on. I know, Senator Book, you said you can tell when he's having a bad day. Aaron Bean does have bad days. But the difference between Aaron Bean's bad days and my bad days or others' bad days is that he doesn't let his bad day affect my day. You've never done that. You're right beside us. Things are tough; things are challenging. I will say, most of all, when we had COVID, this was a tough time for our state. Things we had never done before—closing down the Capitol, people couldn't be here. There was a lot of uncertainty, a lot of anxiety and having you in that rostrum with your levity and your excitement and your enthusiasm was the perfect thing at the perfect time and you were the perfect one to do it. I know, previous time, people would say you didn't take it seriously enough or you would kind of get chastised for that—you were perfect. You were the perfect man to do that job in that time and I think our chamber is better, our state is better, and you are absolutely going to be missed.

Senator Broxson: Aaron came over to the Panhandle, and one of my constituents said—because Aaron can be shocking when you first meet him—said, "Who is this guy? Can you describe him?" I said, "He is indescribable." Too extraordinary to be described. Aaron, I cannot think of any person that God shined down on more than you to give you a ninth and tenth year in this chamber because your star came out and it shined brightly. We will miss you greatly, my friend. God bless you.

Senator Ausley: As Senator Harrell has said, there were four of us in here that started in that class of 63 and others who were connected with us. If you think about it, this is when term limits first took effect. This is the first time that so many of us were coming in. We didn't know our power, clearly—where some of us have gone: four presidents of the Florida Senate, a United States Senator, a former lieutenant governor, and a CFO in that class, multiple mayors, and members of Congress. But, there is only one Aaron Bean in that class. So, I know you've been looking at the tapes, and the video was amazing. We were really good friends back then. I remember that—maybe you don't. We've been to your house. I've seen Travis—we did a triathlon. You all had made meals for a huge number of us. You all have been to our home many times, and Bill and I consider y'all great personal friends. What we haven't talked about today, though, is some of these hard policy decisions that you've had to make. We really got to know each other when I was the ranking Democrat on the Healthcare Council. I think we called it back then. We're swimming in money right now. There were some years where it was really, really, really rough. When you're starting to make the type of cuts that we were making in health care, we are really impacting people's lives. That's not to say that everything we do in here doesn't impact people's lives, but when you remember the rally of probably thousands of families of people with disabilities with umbrellas, it's a rainy day, telling us to use that rainy day fund. That's a memory I won't forget. And all of the debates and battles we had around

Kid Care, but through all of that—the cuts, the hard, tough decisions—you never lost a heart for the people of Florida. That's what shines through—you have a heart for the people of Florida. You have a heart for your community. You have a heart for the State of Florida. So to the one Aaron Bean, I am so grateful I had the chance to work with you for those eight years. What a special privilege for me to have been able to spend my first two years in the Senate with you, and to see the culmination of the work for the State of Florida and your heart for the State of Florida. Thank you.

Senator Rouson: Aaron Bean. A-A-Ron. A-B-Bean. Many different little nicknames, but one human being. Chair Stargel said moments ago that people will never forget how you make them feel. This can be a tough process. Votes can be excruciating. The preparation leading up to the votes can be excruciating. But you made me feel like a respected human being in this process. Last year, on the day of my anniversary, March 17th, the day I celebrated 23 years of sobriety, we were hearing a bill in your committee, and you acknowledged that publicly. You had everybody on the committee stand up and give me a standing ovation. What you didn't realize, and what I didn't realize, is that we weren't doing that for me. We were doing it for those that were struggling with addictions, those who were struggling with recovery. The text messages that came after that—I should have shown them to you—thanked me for standing up for them, but I had to thank you for making us feel like we were a part of and not separated. You have spiced this process with humor and with passion. Your body language gives you away. You were presenting a bill one day in committee, and I noticed that you looked burdened—and it touched me. I came up to you afterward and said, "Bean, are you feeling this?" and you thanked me for recognizing that you too get burdened in the process. But you come back another day to fight on and that's what I've learned from you in this process. I want to thank you for being who you are to me, to every other Senator, and to those we represent because we are not here by accident. We're not here by chance. We're here because it was a part of the design to give back and help others, and I'll never forget how you make me feel. Thank you.

Senator Wright: I became a Senator, as you all know that are in this body, in very short order. Three weeks after Dorothy Hukil passed away, I was nominated to be the Senator. I came to this body like a deer in the headlights not knowing anybody. I mentioned it the other day when we were honoring Chair Stargel, that the first event I went to was at The Moon, I believe it was called. Aaron and Abby Bean asked me to sit with them, and I thought, "Things are going to be alright. These are great people." You two made it happen. So I watched you, as Senator Albritton has said, I've been watching you and thinking, "I just need to do what he does and I'm going to get every bill passed." But Senator Perry has already taken that role and is doing a fine job at it, if I have to say so myself. One thing I like to kid you about a little bit is when I was growing up, as the oldest of four boys, if my mother used my name, Tom Wright, I knew I was in trouble. So who comes into the breakroom and I'm in there—Senator Bean. And what do I hear? "Tom Wright!" You don't know the chills that went down my back. I thought, "What have I done now?" You made me feel so special and I appreciate you. I hope to be anywhere as half as good as you as a Senator. Thank you, sir.

Senator Pizzo: Everyone has made appropriate mention of what a larger-than-life personality you are. But, I do want to draw attention to something you'll all know and you'll all acknowledge. It's not just the power and how jovial you are and the energy that you bring—it's also what you're able to absorb. You absorb a lot of people's pain and discomfort, anxiety, and as much energy as your project, it's what you absorb. Four days after the collapse at Surfside, you said, "Hey, I want to come down. I don't want to get in the way. I don't want to bother anybody. I don't want any fanfare. I don't want anything. Is there anything I can do?" I said, "Come." Because I know that power of not just, you know, IDFs here. You're like, "Hey, Pizz, who's this guy?" I'm like, "That's the Consulate General of Israel." You're like, "Okay, all right. Cool." And you and Abby came, it was June 28th, four days after. I took you up to the sixth floor at 8701 to look down. I brought you up there, selfishly, for me, because you can absorb people's pain as well. I also wanted to bear witness to that pile that you were staring at, and you were blown away—you were, my goodness. I don't know how much time you'll ever need. I don't know how you exercise cathartic behavior, but what I appreciate about you most is, even when your mom passed away, you reached out to tell me what a great job I was doing on constituent services and unemployment. Your energy is matched only by your power, also, to quietly assume others' pain, and that's what I'm most appreciative about. And to know you.

Senator Diaz: President Bean, like others have mentioned, the first time I kind of met you was when you walked into the House Chamber and the first thought that came to my mind was, “Where did they get this crazy guy? Where did he come from and what is he selling?” Somehow along the way, after being over here, you wrangled me into being your co-sponsor on *The Biggest Loser*. I don’t even know how that happened. I will tell you, we’re going to miss you for all the reasons that have been mentioned. I’m sure some of the Chairs, and I’m sure President Designate Passidomo, are thinking right now, who are we going to put in when we need to speed up an agenda, cut people off, and not have them feel like they’re cut off? Who are we going to put in at these committee meetings that is going to present the bill, basically, for the sponsors without them even knowing that you’re doing that? It’s been an incredible honor to serve with you, and everything that’s been said is true. I thank you for being available. On days when things get rough here, all you have to do is have a conversation with Aaron Bean and somehow, somehow, he just makes you feel better about the day. I know you care. Thank you for your service. Thank you for what you have brought to this body. We will be looking for you in Miami so we can have some pan con tomate, you and Abby. Thank you.

Senator Baxley: Wow, what a ride! I was on that original bus. The Bean family knows we didn’t know what we were getting into, really, when 62 freshmen showed up. You’ve heard some of that recap, and it is exciting to think what’s happened in your world and mine, and in our world over that period of time. You know, when I see Beanman, I always think of one thing—fun! Let’s make it fun! He makes anything fun, even if his house just burned down, even if his mother died, he makes life fun for everybody that comes around him. He chooses joy, and much of that, I know, is Abby. Abby is the secret sauce, the weapon of how to hold all this together. Once I discovered the Bean/Bradley cabal and realized people really care. Whole families care what happens in this place and in this state. You’re an inspiration that we could do more than we ever thought we could do, and yet he has this humility as he does great accomplishments. One of the things that was so precious to me—and he’ll probably kill me for even telling this story—but when we came, it was chaos! They weren’t used to having 62 new freshmen in the Florida House. Some time later he said, “You know, the whole first week I was here, I parked at Kleman Dome. I didn’t realize I had a reserved parking place in the building!” That’s how selfless he was. He didn’t think he deserved a special parking place. He’s over there parking at Kleman with all the folks. That just typified that innocence and joy of engaging people, and that he would even tell that story on himself because most of us are too prideful to even share something like that. Yet, it was funny because it showed you how down to earth he is, how reachable he is, and how he wants to be that encourager to someone else. We had a great experience of having a study together here. It started here in the Florida House and I’m not sure who all was combined in that—but it was Rick Warren’s book about *The Purpose Driven Life*. Why am I here? Even on the planet. We even had Rick Warren come, and he was in the Capitol and talked to all kinds of people. We had this little meet-up. We called it “Forty Days of Purpose in Sixty Days of Chaos” and we made it through and it strengthened us. We had this follow-up and came together to debrief and I just said, “What happened here?” It was quiet. I mean, it was so serious you could have heard a pin drop in that room and finally, Bean says, “It’s not about me. It’s not about me.” Everything here will tell you it’s all about you, and he had his feet on the ground. This experience reminded him that the purpose-driven life is not about me—it’s about others. I want to thank you for giving that example to all of us and choosing joy—that we don’t have to wallow in our sorrows and that we can take on tough tasks if we but follow the path God has for us. Thank you, Beanman.

Senator Brodeur: So I’m starting to run for the House in 2010, and prior to that, friends had said, “What do you want to do with your service?” I said, “I would love to do health policy and health appropriations.” They said, “There’s only one guy in history who’s ever done that. His name is Representative Bean—you should look to emulate that guy. But he’s on a little bit of a gap now so if you get elected you’ll get to meet him in the future.” Then 2012 rolls around, President Bean makes it into the Senate, and like everybody else, he comes bounding down the hallway doing *The Biggest Loser*, and I was like, “I got to follow that guy? How on earth am I going to have any kind of career following that? That’s how you do it?” As we’ve gone through the years, you start to think, “Man, this has got to be an act; this can’t be real.” As we go through the process, we start to meet family members and we go, “Hey, is he like this all the time?” And family members go, “Yes, he is.” I

said, “What’s it like in the morning? Before I have my first cup of coffee I’m a little bit grumpy.” And they said, “No, no. He comes right down.” [Impersonating Bean] “A good morning to you! Who wants a cup of orange juice? It’s fresh from Florida. It’s traveled a long way to be here. It is delicious!” Abby, bless you. Bless you for loaning him to us and for letting him be a part of this process. I wish you all the best of luck when he comes back. I will tell you—from the beginnings of the health care policies, to our freshman orientation, to the tips that he’s given, to the career he’s had. I’ve gotten the chance to work with a lot of members in this process—House and Senate, a lot of leadership—but I think the member whose career and spirit I would be most honored to emulate is President Bean. If I got out of here and somebody said, “You did it a lot like Bean,” that would be a full career for me, sincerely. Although he’s number four in your district handbook, he’s number one in your heart—Senator Bean!

Senator Gibson: Turnabout is fair play, and I’m pretty sure I saw a couple of hairstyles or haircuts in that video. Natural or unnatural, your hair was different. People in the gallery missed it because they weren’t here last year. I came into the House in 2002. I still didn’t really get to know Aaron then. I don’t know why that is, but he was still telling the same jokes and energizing at the end of our session. I’m just excited to have had the opportunity to get to know you better in the Senate and build a relationship. I personally don’t think you’ve ever had a bad day—if you have, it’s very much disguised. Your energy level is really therapeutic in my opinion. It takes the air out of the chamber—the bad air—when we’re having those controversial bills. I don’t know if you all noticed—you probably didn’t—last week in the video, the food bank event that was on the video, Senator Bean was there too. We partnered doing that food distribution. Democrats and Republicans can partner and can be friends and work in the same direction, and I appreciate that. I appreciate your leadership. I was so excited for you when I learned that you were going to be President Pro Tempore and very proud for the home boy to be in leadership. I’ve appreciated you very much. I know we’re going to do some other things back in Jacksonville too, and I look forward to our continued relationships. Abby, you’ve always been such a sweetheart—always welcoming and hugging, and I appreciate you. I think you’re the Steady Eddie in the relationship, in the marriage, or Steady Earlene or whatever your name needs to be. I don’t know how you live every day with Aaron. I don’t know how you do it. I’m not even sure he sleeps at night—does he? Oh, okay, I got that answer. Thank you so much Senator Bean. You don’t really say no, you say, “Mm, not sure.” So I appreciate that too. Thank you for being a friend and a colleague.

Senator Gruters: Obviously, listening to all of these people today—all of our colleagues—you could tell there is a lot of love for you, a lot of love for Abby, and a lot of love for your family. Thank you, on behalf of Florida and everybody, for your service. When I first came up to this process, I saw this car driving around in the parking lot and I said, “Who is this guy with a ‘Choose Life’ license plate instead of a legislative tag?” Small things like a license plate, you would think, “What’s going on?” But to me, that told me you were committed. You were committed to the issue. Senator Perry talked a little bit about our weekly get together and being in the Fight Club. The worst thing about you leaving is that I won’t have gas money every week ever again. He is literally the worst poker player. Now his wife, Abby, is probably the best player. She came in this last year and started cleaning everybody’s clock and did a real good job. What I want to say about you, Bean—we’ve had so many discussions about the process. I always see you in the morning, first thing at breakfast—you bring everybody up. You’re one of the nicest people that I know in the process. You’re committed to the issues you care about. You’re committed to everybody in this room, and that’s why you can feel the love with what everybody is saying. I love you as a person. I love you, Abby. I love your whole family. You guys are absolutely incredible people. I know that no matter where you go after this, the sky is the limit. Thank you so much for your service.

Senator Rodrigues: I’ll be brief because I’m sure there are still others that wish to speak. One of the things I most appreciate about President Bean was the orientation he put together for the freshmen coming into the Senate. A lot of us come over here from the House and we think we’ve been in this process for eight years—we know what we’re doing. But the Senate is a whole different animal than the House is. To have someone like Senator Bean put together an orientation that brought us together—it was the Democrat and the Republican freshmen who went through that orientation and learned what it means to be a Senator in the Florida State Senate. It’s something that I will always

treasure, and I've kept the materials that you'd given us and still refer to them. The other thing that I think really sets you apart, and others have alluded to this, is how you make each of us feel special. I remember in my first session as a Senator. I got an envelope on my desk and I opened it up and it was a newspaper clipping. It was a clipping of me in other areas of the state reporting on a bill I'd presented, and it was from you. You said, "Congratulations, you've done something I haven't been able to do in twenty years—you've gotten covered in my local paper." A. You took the time to find that and send it to me speaks to the fact that you make us feel special, and B. You have the confidence to be so self-deprecating it speaks to your character. You—and I've heard others say this, but they haven't said it on the floor so I'm going to be the first—are the poster child for why term limits are a bad thing. We're going to miss you.

Senator Berman: I met you through *The Biggest Loser* like everyone else and you gave us those candy bars to sabotage all of us. Everything everybody said is so true. What I love about you is I would see you with constituents or on a Zoom call, and you would always make sure to compliment me, and that was so appreciated and often doesn't happen here in this process. That's what makes you so special because you do care about other people. The other thing I want to say as someone who doesn't get to be on the rostrum, but we get to see you on the rostrum and you're amazing and I know that the staff—and some of us even—take bets how long it'll take to finish the session. The over/under is always good when you're up there. Thank you so much for everything. You will leave a big hole here.

Senator Passidomo: I actually wrote some notes down here because I didn't think I could get through it. Aaron Bean would give you the shirt off his back, and actually, when you see the photos, that might not have been bad 20 years ago. Aaron's sincerity combined with his larger-than-life personality are unique in this chamber. He's been a great partner to the shy and retiring President—taking on such important issues and time-consuming tasks as *The Biggest Loser*, new member training, the ought-to-be-a-bill Page Mock Session training. Any of you who walk behind the chamber when Senator Bean was doing that training, it's just a joy to see the pages presenting bills and Aaron Bean acting as President during that process is unbelievable. He's done so much more. I got to sit next to him for two years and it was just two of the best years that I've had in this body because we talked about every bill. Everything that was being presented and the people presenting them. It was just a really unique experience for me to be next to Senator Bean. Your departure will leave a huge hole in the heart of the Senate family. And I personally, will miss your wit, your humor, your enthusiasm, and your style. There will be no replacement for Aaron Bean. However, I am interviewing, right now, for my Aaron Bean. All applications are welcome, and I noticed several of you were trying out today. Aaron, thank you so much. Abby, thank you for sharing Aaron with us. You may be gone, but you will not be forgotten.

Senator Mayfield: There's really not a whole lot that I can add to what people have said, Aaron. You know they say behind every successful man is a dedicated wife and partner, and you could not have had a better dedicated partner and wife than Abby Bean. We all love you and we all love Abby more. You know, I do remember, it was the Class of 2000, you guys came in and you were so kind to my family when Stan was diagnosed. You invited us to your house. My kids still talk about that. We did a tour of a nuclear sub, which has never happened again, and we did paintballing in your yard. My kids still talk about that. "Let's go back to Aaron Bean's house!" I have said this before and I don't think we really realize that we all grow up in this process. Our kids grow up in this process, and when you look at how young your children were when you started this process, and you look at them now as grown men—the time just goes by so fast. You are loved by so many. To have Governor Bush do a piece for you and then to have Speaker, now Senator Rubio, do a piece for you, that is just a testament to how much you are loved and thought about. I could just go on and on of things you have done for us, but I am not going to do that. We probably should have taken an intermission in this presentation, Mr. President.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

On behalf of the Senate, Majority Leader Mayfield presented President Pro Tempore Bean with a plaque and a photo album covering his years of service in the Senate and the House.

On behalf of the Senate, the President presented Senator Bean with a framed ceremonial copy of CS for SB 60 (2017) Children Obtaining Driver Licenses, ch. 2017-8, Laws of Florida, which he sponsored that became law during his legislative career.

Senator Bean: Mr. President, thank you, and the Florida Senate, you are way too kind. Abby did that video. I didn't call Jeb Bush. I didn't call Marco Rubio, and so, thank you, Abby. That was spectacular. Thank you, so much, for your kind remarks, Florida Senate. I'm no good at goodbyes. I'm no good at all. I thought about getting Senator Perry to do this speech for me. I also thought about the Irish goodbye, where you just disappear, but President Simpson said both of those were not options for me. The Beans have a code that if we're ever at a party or an event and we want to politely tell the others in our family that we're out, we'll say, "I've got to get something out of my car," or, "I need to get something out of my car." If a family member says that, "I need to get something out of my car," they can say anything else—"I'll be right back," or, "I'll be" whatever it is—we know they're not coming back.

I want to thank the voters of Senate District 4 who gave me this opportunity. Ten years ago, many did not know me at all, and our last poll says 46 percent still don't, but it has been a great honor of my life. You see, I was never supposed to win. I was never supposed to reach any political mountain. Every first time climbing elected office, I was always told there was no pathway—no way I could win. When I ran for local office in the City of Fernandina Beach, I was told I was way too young and needed to wait four or five years at least. I became the youngest mayor in our city's history. When I ran for the Florida House, it was, "Can't win," because the other party's registration was twice that of my own, but I became the first Republican to win that House seat since the Civil War. When I ran for the Senate it was, "Can't win," because you come from little teeny tiny Nassau County which only has 14 percent of the seats. And yet now, here we are. Thank goodness, I didn't listen to naysayers. I listened to cheerleaders—my mom, Speaker Allan Bense, and Marco Rubio were early cheerleaders. Senators Jim King and Don Gaetz were too. Senator Rob Bradley and Senator Jenn Bradley, or as we know them, Uncle Rob and Aunt Jenn, cheered us on from the very beginning. Sherpa D.J. Johnson, Peret Pass, Scott Dick, Buddy Jacobs, John and Kelli Stargel, and President Simpson all encouraged me along the way and many still are. We all need to be cheerleaders as much as we can.

Senators, I'm so fanatical about cheerleaders I married one. You all know my wife Abby, and as Aunt Jenn already told you, we were cheerleading partners at Jacksonville University. I am so blessed to have her as my life partner and my biggest cheerleader ever since. Abby, I love you. Thank you. Thank you for getting us here, Abby. That's what I want to say. As important as all the work we do here, it pales in comparison to raising a child. Abby and I have three sons. When we were elected to the House, two were in diapers and our oldest was six and they were known as the Bean Sprouts. Although today all of them are taller than I am now. Our youngest, Walker, is a senior at the University of Florida and is part of the—Senator Burgess, you'll like this—R.O.T.C. Fighting Gator Battalion. He graduates this year with a degree in Construction Management and will serve in the United States Army as did Senator Brandes. Our other sons, Gray and Bradley, are here today. Gray, stand up my friend. He's a UF graduate, lives in Miami, and, how about this, is recruiting foster care families and is a comedian. I think he gets that from his mom. But Gray Bean, welcome, my friend. Commissioner Bradley Bean, please stand, is a UF graduate and current Fernandina Beach City Commissioner. He's an engineer at one of our pulp mills. He has a chance this fall to beat his old man's record. How about that? To become the youngest mayor of Fernandina Beach. So Bradley, we're encouraged and we wish you well. Bradley, stay standing because there's more. Wait, there's more. That is because we're going to have a wedding this fall. How about that? Bradley is engaged to Alexia Dawes. Alexia, please stand. We couldn't be more excited. Thank you. Thank you. As many of you know, I'm one of nine kids. I'm the baby of nine. My sister, who was supposed to join me today, is watching right now on The Florida Channel. She'll tell you that she was my second mom and she's absolutely right. So Diane, I love you. I know you're watching. I also want to salute my godson and nephew, Davis Bean. Davis, you can stand, my friend. Davis is a former, how about this, President of the UF Student Senate. So Davis, we're glad to have you here, my friend. Proud of you. Proud of you.

Senators, things go fast here in the Florida Senate and the Legislature. You can spend your session wondering, "What just happened?"

as it already ended. I took a chance and just went back for the last ten years and compiled some numbers. Bean and the Senate for the last ten years and here are the numbers. Two Senate chambers. Five Senate presidents; 23 sessions—eight Regular, five Organization, and eight Special Sessions; 27 talks with Senate pages; 44 mock sessions; 102 chaired committees; over ten years, 229 bills filed, or about what Senator Gruters files every session. 186 and one half round trips from Fernandina Beach to Tallahassee. 5,758 Bean candy bars. \$26,500 raised for local Tallahassee charities via The Biggest Loser Contest. And speaking of which, we've lost, so far—we still haven't released this week's results—but 3,675 pounds lost. It became bigger than just us. You know it started out being just a fun little contest among legislators, but now every year, I get people that stop me in the hallway, or will send me a letter or text, "Senator Bean, I played along with you and I lost fifty, sixty, seventy pounds." Congrats this year, Noah, Terri, and Peter.

It's been quite a journey, but one thing the numbers don't convey is the relationships that we have. Like many of you, and you've already heard, I started out in the House. We had the largest class with Senator Ausley and Mayfield, Senator Baxley, and then there was Senator Mayfield's husband, Stan. We've had so many things in that class happen, and as already mentioned, four Senate presidents, a lieutenant governor, two Senate pro tempores, that's the one I like, several congressmen and a U.S. senator so far, but who knows where that class is going in twelve years. I came in a much smaller class. We had Stargel and Brandes and Simpson. Hukill was also there with us, and thanks to a special election, Senator Gibson beat us by a session. We all took Senate orientation together that year. One presenter actually said to us, "The Senate is not a place to have fun. It's the saucer and no fun shall be had here as we have very serious business to do." I wish I would have paid attention to the rest of the stuff he said because it was my responsibility eight years later to lead the freshman class orientation of 2020 and boy, what a great privilege it was. Thank you, Passidomo and President Simpson. We did a lot. And those Senators, Ausley, Boyd, Bradley, Brodeur, Burgess, Garcia, Jones, Polsky, Rodrigues, and Rodriguez—I just couldn't be more proud of them. We did a lot. I watched each of you—I still do—I watch and I'm just so proud of you. We did a little thing we never told you about, but we had a bottle of champagne ready to go so when they passed their very first bill on the floor or their first floor amendment on the floor, we snuck in a bottle of champagne and had a little celebration right at their desk three times. Senators, did you see me do it? Three times I did it from the rostrum. Got the Sergeant, "I need Senator Jones at the rostrum," and "Whoa! What did I do?" We came out there and we presented—that was just a tremendous honor. I'm proud of you, and I know that, going forward, our body is in just great hands.

I want to thank you all for the privilege of being your Pro Tempore. You make me feel like Number 1 by being your Number 2. Ten years later I still have the same feeling of awe every time I walk on this floor, every time the quorum call is made, and especially every time you trust me with the gavel. I get excited when Albritton, Broxson, Wright, Hooper, or Gainer asks, "When are you going up there?" It gets my heart beating when Hutson and Diaz give the signal of, "We need warm up in the bullpen" to get ready to go to the rostrum. And yes, I still get scared up there, but only when I get that look from Mayfield or Passidomo. That's what really gets me scared up there. You know we have fun but we never lose sight of the important work we have to do before us each and every day with the awesome responsibility we have serving our State of Florida. Let me tell you what happened two weeks ago. Two weeks ago I was called a name, a bad name, in committee by an angry constituent. I'm not going to lie to you, it's a hard moment—but let me tell you what happened. What happened right after that was Senator Pizzo. Senator Pizzo said, immediately, "For the record, Senator Bean is a lot of things, but that bad word you just said, he is not one of them." It was one of my proud moments of the bond that we all share here in the Senate. Even on the other side of the aisle, Leader Book, Taddeo, Berman, Farmer, Bracy, Stewart, Rouson, Cruz, Torres, and Powell—I'm honored to call each of you my friend. And I know this—I know if I broke down in any of your districts, anyone here would recommend a very good hotel that I could stay in, in your district.

Over the last decade I've been blessed with great staff. We say in our office, in our office we say this: Every day here is a big day. We started ten years ago with James Kotas. James, are you here? James, thank you for coming. James flew in from Atlanta this morning to be with us. James, it's so good to see you. Ten years ago. Where did it go? Where did it go? I started, also, with Dee Alexander. Dee, I need you to stand as

well. Dee has stayed with me for ten years. Dee, thank you for ten great years. We've had so many others—Henry Mahler is there, Chad Corcoran, and now Austin Nicklas, Joe Endicott, Meghan Tarsitano have been great assets along the way on the Bean Team and help make every day big. Senators, we've also had great committee staff, a team of professionals behind the scenes making us all look good. I want to thank Kathy Mears and the President's team. They just do a tremendous job. Sergeant Kelly and the entire Sergeant's Office—there's nothing they can't do. A button came off my jacket. Where do I go? Sergeant's Office. They have a sewing kit—put it right back on, no problem. The Appropriations teams—Tonya Money, Tim Sadberry. There are none better. None better in our state. Secretary Brown and her team up here. The magic happens. Secretary Brown, you're going to be leaving. We're going to miss you tremendously. And then there's, in the corner, keeping us going, John Phelps. John Phelps and the Rules team keeping us on track. We're going to miss you, John Phelps, too. Hopefully, we'll see you somewhere down the road on the other side. And then to all those advocates, many are in the gallery right now. The great team of professionals who advocate, as Senator Gibson said, advocate, lobby, and are passionate for what they're doing. I just want you to know you play a critical role in the process. Raise your hand if I have a relationship with you or if we've crossed paths. I appreciate you more than you know. The information—you know, sometimes you get a bad rap—but the information that you provide us, let me tell you, helps make hard choices, sometimes, a little bit easier. I want to apologize to each of you because in the last week I haven't been able to meet with many of you. But, I've got good news. Good news. Next week my calendar is wide open! So hey, call me.

I want to leave you, Senators, I want to leave you with this. This is one of my favorite quotes. It's by Marion Williamson, and it is this: "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are more powerful beyond measure. It's our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. You're playing small. When you play small it doesn't serve the world. We're all meant to shine as children do. As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same." Every minute on this floor and in this process has been a gift. I'll forever cherish it. I'll look forward to seeing each of you, each of you, watching as a private citizen. You'll find me climbing another mountain. It will be scary because it will be steep and I've never climbed it before, and I'm sure along the way—you know what they're going to say? They'll say I'm too old. I'm not credentialed enough or I'm too slow. But Senators, I'm going to be okay because I'll have a cheerleader with me.

Mr. President, I need to get something out of my car.

President Simpson: Okay, A-A-Ron, now I've got to follow that. At one o'clock today, I think the Irish exit—I've got to get something out of my car. I'm not joking on that one. Okay, A-A-Ron. We've been roommates for at least seven years, maybe eight. That's interesting. We told a lot of fact patterns about that last time. What we didn't say is the victim in Homosassa, Gray? [Senator Bean: It's Walker.] Walker! I had to tell this story. If you really want to get to know folks, you generally spend time with them outside of this process. This has been at least six years ago, when they were Bean Sprouts and we had some Bradley Sprouts there, also. We went to Homosassa, went out in the springs, and we got a lot of scallops and came in. We had scallops and all kinds of things back at the camp. We got to the springs that day and it was 100 degrees out on the water and we're coming in, and in the springs it's 70 degrees year-round. It's about 68 but we call it 70. So the Beans are there, the Bradleys were there, and one of the Bradley kids almost got in the way—Sweet Caroline did. And Walker says, "Hey, look at that steam coming off that water." You know, we'd been out on the ocean and it was hot. So we get there and I said, "Oh yeah, that's steam because it's like a bath there. It's probably 95 degrees." Caroline, sweet Caroline jumps up and, "No, no..." She was going to tell him that it was cold and I'm like, "Zip it, kid!" It's not time for science or chemistry or whatever you're studying in Clay County! Walker cannonballs off the front of the boat at about the time Senator Bean says, "Hey, he hates cold water." When he hit that water he was like in the cartoons—he only had his feet in the water a second later. He was all hanging on the side of the boat. Anyway, that was a fun time but it was a good time to be with the Bean Sprouts and the Simpsons in Homosassa. We had a great time.

We've talked about the wolfpack and we've talked about accomplishments and all kinds of numbers. At the very first meeting with

Senator Bradley, myself, and Aaron Bean we said, “Hey, we’re going to make this wolfpack.” We weren’t even elected to the Senate yet. Then we added members of the wolfpack and out of that—here’s some statistics for you—two presidents, a president pro tempore, and two budget chairs. Think about that combination that started ten years ago. It’s been a real honor to be a part of that. I’ve made foolish notes because I don’t prepare anything, but I do better this way. Aaron Bean, besides, you know, we cannot ever find the Mean Bean. We say, “Aaron Bean, you’ve got to be mean on this one.” He comes in and tells me in the morning, “I’m going to be the Mean Bean today.” I’m like, “Great, this is going to turn out really well for us. That means Kelli Stargel won’t have to do what she does!” About six hours later, the Mean Bean is back in the office and saying, “You know, I think Senator Stargel is going to have to take care of some of this—I may have said…” What was the comment? “This may not have been the right time.” So there’s no Mean Bean. We try to have him show up sometimes but he does not exist. The first time Senator Bean came up here I said, “Hey,” this was last year, in the middle of the pandemic and about my third or fourth day up here, I was just getting used to this because this is nerve-wracking when you first come up here. And by the way, everybody that’s out there that’s sniffing around, I have to do this after I’m watching y’all do that, so be careful a little more for me. I tell Bean, “Come on up here,” and I show him where we are and get started and he said he almost passed out. Am I right? You almost fainted that day. It’s that way. It’s the pleasure of serving with the Senate and the extreme honor that it is to be a President Pro Tempore and run the meetings. For me, it’s kind of like I go out there and everybody gets happy. “Good morning, Senators! We have an amendment that we’re going to take up today! Are we going to pass this amendment or no?” I cannot imitate Bean. The first time we came here together, I had never served anywhere. That’s how Bean started that morning. He gets up, and I think President Gaetz—one of them was here—and he was introducing the freshman class and you know how he does. “Good morning, Senators!” And loud, and I thought, “Oh, that’s different than I thought it would be.” It’s the infectious personality that is Aaron Bean. Not to keep going, we’re probably going to do the “Wild Thing” one more time out of the bullpen. Not today, we’ve got a lot of serious work, but it’s been a real honor to serve with you, Wingman. Congratulations.

RECESS

The President declared the Senate in recess at 12:48 p.m. to reconvene at 1:30 p.m. or upon his call.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The Senate was called to order by Senator Bean at 1:30 p.m. A quorum present—26:

Mr. President	Cruz	Perry
Ausley	Diaz	Polsky
Baxley	Gainer	Powell
Bean	Garcia	Rodriguez
Berman	Gruters	Rodriguez
Book	Hooper	Stargel
Boyd	Hutson	Torres
Bradley	Mayfield	Wright
Brodeur	Passidomo	

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF PRESIDENT SIMPSON

At the direction of Senator Bean, the Senate proceeded to the recognition of President Wilton Simpson, honoring his years of service to the Senate as he approaches the completion of his term for the 10th Senate District and President of the Senate.

SPECIAL GUESTS

Senator Bean introduced President Simpson’s wife, Kathy; son, Wilton Simpson, Jr. and his wife, Caroline and her parents, Jerry and Ginger Storch; daughter, Lauran Monbarren and her husband, Kenten; and grandchildren, Addy and Emy Monbarren, who were present in the chamber.

Senator Bean introduced President Simpson’s friends, Tim Yaeger and Bonnie Bell Yaeger, who were present in the gallery.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A video tribute was played honoring President Simpson.

On behalf of the Senate, Majority Leader Mayfield and Minority Leader Book, having previously given the President tickets to a George Strait concert in Las Vegas, presented President Simpson with a guitar signed by George Strait, King of Country, and a photo album covering his years of service in the Senate and the House.

REMARKS

On motion by Senator Passidomo, by two-thirds vote, the following remarks were ordered spread upon the Journal.

Senator Mayfield: You know, the song, Mr. President, “Stand for Something” is exactly what you have done in this process. You have stood for something. I have seen a lot of Speakers. I’ve seen a lot of Presidents during my time in Legislature. I’ve had the opportunity to watch you up close and personal. You are a man of integrity, you are a man of principle and, more so, you’re a man of your honor. I cannot tell you how much it meant to me to be a part of your leadership team. And you’re not going to say what else you called us, but we were “the women” in those meetings. It was truly just a blessing to us, and we are going to miss you. We are going to miss you tremendously. With your humor, sometimes we couldn’t tell if you were serious or not, but we’re going to miss it. We wish you luck in your next venture. I will tell you, the kids—as you saw one of the grandchildren come over and sit in their Paw-Paw’s lap—he loves you more than anything, and he is so proud of you guys. Now he gets to come home, maybe for a little while, and spend time with you. Mr. President, we love you dearly and good luck.

Senator Book: I’m going to make this very fast because the President told me I had to. Darth—let me tell you—you’ve taught me a lot. This process means a lot, but the most important thing is your family. You have taught me that from the very beginning, when I was pregnant and we were sitting in Goodies. You also taught me hakuna matata when things are very stressful. One of the most important things that I think about is something I gave you, and it’s on your wall. “Don’t mistake my kindness for weakness.” I’m kind to everybody, everyone, but when someone is unkind to me, weak is not what you’re going to remember about me. I think about the times you have stood up for the members of this body when people weren’t so kind to some of the members. You always do the right thing. I want to thank you. I want to thank you for being a man of your word, and I want to thank you for standing up for each and every one of us. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Polsky: President Simpson, I’m sorry I’ve only known you for these two years that I’ve been in the Senate, and I’ve only seen you up there. It’s funny to see you in a committee, presenting a bill, because I didn’t know you then. But in the short time I’ve known you, I’ve really come to respect you and appreciate our relationship. You called me when I won my primary, which was a really classy thing to do because I still had a general to get through. You welcomed me to the Senate, and you’ve been nothing but welcoming. I know on behalf of the freshman class, that setting us up with Bean and what you did for us really helped usher us into the Senate and make us feel very welcome. I really appreciate it. I will never forget what you did for me when I needed you the most, and you supported me, and I will always appreciate that. I look forward to continuing to work with you in this process. Thank you.

Senator Albritton: Mr. President, I’ve had the opportunity now to serve in this process for six presiding officers. It’s interesting, the differences between each one, right? There’s been some that were maybe a bit more intellectual than others or some that are more process driven than others and some—they just handled themselves differently or their priorities are different and the way they deal with people. But, you’re exceptional. I’m going to give you a reason why. I’m going to give you a couple of reasons why. I’ve never served underneath a presiding officer that had an interest in solving problems more than treating symptoms more than you. You know, there are symptoms that go on in this process all the time, and treating symptoms actually is popular. But, getting to fully understand the core of a problem and actually understanding what you’re doing, knowing why you’re doing it, knowing what you’re doing

and why that matters—you're a problem solver like I've never seen, like I've never seen. I hope to emulate. The second thing that is profound about you. You couldn't give a red rat's butt about power or status. Not at all. Anybody that believes for a second that either of those two things motivate you to do anything that you do, they don't understand you at all, not at all—which would be incredibly sad. But it's been refreshing to have somebody that has as much authority and power as a Senate President that instead of hoarding that up—instead of just using it for whatever you believe to be right or wrong, you took the opportunity to show value in all of us—I've never seen a presiding officer share power like you've shared it. Sometimes, to the most liberal of our Democratic colleagues and sometimes to the most conservative of our Republican colleagues. But that, to me, in my observations, show me that those two things don't matter to you. You understand—which may be your superpower—you understand that when you are dealing with people, letting them have a voice when it's your choice, showing them deference or showing them what sharing power looks like—is a big deal. You care about every one of us, every single one of us. And you've shown us all, every single one, that we matter to you. That's just a huge deal. The last thing I'm going to say to you is this, Mr. President. Tell me where the train's coming from, tell me when it's going to be here, and I'm standing in front of it for you.

Senator Perry: What an honor I tell you. I got to know Wilton—I may have mentioned this before to some of you guys—we have similar backgrounds in a lot of areas. I'm not quite as successful, I'm not quite as smart, but it was an honor—you asked me to nominate, second your nomination, and it was such an honor after getting to know you. I looked up a quote. If you remember that quote I looked up—you know, what would be appropriate—and it was a quote by Aristotle that says, "We are what we repeatedly do; therefore excellence is not an act but a habit." You are what you repeatedly do; therefore, excellence is not an act but a habit. I looked it up, and I remembered it because that's who you are—your dedication to every single thing you do. If you know his background, giving up a scholarship to play D1 football program in the SEC. Why? For his business, his plans that he had. You do that with everything. You make a commitment and you give it your all. We are blessed for that. I know I am. May God bless you in all your future endeavors.

Senator Jones: Mr. President, the first time that you and I connected with each other was after my election. Just like Senator Polsky made mention of, you made that phone call and you said, "Welcome to the Florida Senate." I thought that was just the ceremonial thing to do for the President to call and congratulate you. But you continued that same graciousness even once we got here when we started the freshman orientation with Senator Bean. You came into the room with all the freshmen, and you said something that stuck with me even to this day. You said, "Now you're in the Florida Senate. This is the place where you respect each other, respect each other's ideas, respect each other's values." You stuck to that. And it continued even after that. When I came and shared with you a bill that I had and you said, "Is it important to you?" I said, "It is." And he said, "Go see Kathy." I did go see Kathy. Everything is a "Go see Kathy." So I went to see Kathy and Kathy wrote a note and Mr. President just as sure the next week, it was off. It was up in committee. Then, I get a congratulations message from someone that said, "Congratulations Mr. Vice Chair." I said, "Vice Chair of what?" And they said, "Oh, you're the Vice Chair of the Education Committee." I said, "Let me go look." I went to look on my email—that would have never happened in the House. Then I called you and I said, "Can you give me 120 seconds?" and you called me. You said, "About me is not about politics. It's about who knows it best. I've heard about you, and I've placed you in that position." So, Mr. President, I want to tell you that it has been a pleasure to be in this body. You put us before yourself. I know your family is very proud of you. Every last one of us in this chamber is proud of you. I know as you are climbing higher, wherever that is, I know the same values that you have instilled in this chamber, you will do it elsewhere. Wherever you go, wherever you land, they will be lucky to have you. Also, the State of Florida will be too. Thank you.

Senator Harrell: Continuing my love for alliteration, I think we'll play with some S's today. I'd like to say a few sentences today about President Simpson. I only had the opportunity to serve with you and really get to know you here in the Senate. During my time in the House, I really did not know you. But it has been an incredible experience as I really have learned so much about you. I soon learned that you were not just a small town farmer—you were actually a very self-confident and successful entrepreneur. I've also seen the solidarity that you've built in

the Senate. I think Senator Polsky alluded to that. I've also come to admire your very straightforward approach to everything, that savvy approach; in Senator Albritton's terms, your solving of problems. You are solution oriented. You are a very strategic thinker who can probably outsmart just about anybody in the process. But you know, I just saw those little children come across here—you can also be very sentimental. When those little sweetie pies come and jump in your lap, that smile across your face is just truly amazing. Speaking of that smile, that spontaneous smile is contagious. When you come up to me and you smile, and I know exactly what you're going to say, "You wearing red for Ed again today, Senator Harrell?" And of course I say, "Yes sir, of course." In fact, today, in your honor, I am wearing my red sparkle shoes given to me by President Simpson. Thank you so much. But you have also really challenged me to stretch myself, to stretch what I do and what I know. Making me Chair of the Transportation Committee when having no background—never served on a transportation committee in 16 years or 20 years—to make me Chair, I've certainly had to study a lot in order to be successful. But you have given me that spark to do what I needed to do to be successful. I just know that as you move on to the next stage, you are going to make that song that we just heard "Stand for Something" very much happen. Continue to be the star that you are—the superstar of the Senate. Thank you for everything you do.

Senator Stargel: I'm going to go quick because I have a feeling that Senator Simpson is going to shut this down at some point and say, "Nobody talk about me." So I wanted to hurry and jump in early. We were flagging down Senator Bean, going, "Please pick me so I can get what I wanted to say out." I think it needs to be said. As I said the other day, when you come into this, as Senator Bean had said, you're underestimated. You can't do it; you won't achieve. I'm not going to cry, but, sorry, I am going to cry. There's not a person in this process who has catapulted me, stood behind me, and supported me in this process more than Senator Simpson. A lot of people say that they'll have a woman on the team, and they joke about me being the token woman in the wolfpack. If he's not teasing you, by the way, that means he probably doesn't like you, so you want to be teased by President Simpson. Sometimes it's a little interesting where he teases and the things that he says. Some people don't know him, know the relationships, and know what's been developed as friendships. Well, here's something to go, "Oh my gosh, I can't believe he just said that." All of us know Senator Simpson and we know the heart of who he is, and we know what he means by those comments. I remember when I was first in the wolfpack, and I saw Kathy and I talked to her at some point. I said, "I'm a woman with these guys. It's going to be interesting, but I will make sure to keep them honest, keep them proud, and do everything that I can as a woman in that group." I can tell you, Kathy, I've never been around him when he's ever behaved in any way that would make you not proud to be his wife and stand beside him. He's always very respectful. He may say weird things, but trust me, he is. One of the things that he said to me that was probably the most special—I wrote it in that book—is when he picked me to be the Appropriations Chair. I felt like I was the token woman on the team. He called me one day and he said, "You know if Senator Latvala, Senator Alexander, Senator Bradley, or Senator Lee were in this chamber, I would still pick you as my Appropriations Chair. You're qualified, you can do this job, and you're the person I want in the room to do it." You can hear similar things from Senator Passidomo; you could hear it from Senator Mayfield; and you can hear it from all the people that are around him. He doesn't just say that he's going to have you on the team—he empowers you on that team. You're an actual person on that team. Iron sharpens iron. Believe me, we all tell him what we think all day long. I'm just really honored to have served with you. I'm very honored for what you have done for me in my career. What you do for your children—I can go on and on and I don't want to go into all of that. I am so excited for what your future can hold. I think it's going to be great to see all that can be accomplished. All I have to say for people who underestimated this man—there were many of them who said he didn't know what he didn't know—we had an amazing session last year. We're having an amazing session this year. And I just ask you, how do you like him now?

Senator Gibson: I'm not going to talk about your hairstyles. I think it's still the same. I want to first say thank you, Mr. President. Anyone who hasn't really sat down and talked to you for a pretty good length of time—as long as Kathy allowed them to stay—would know that you're a gentleman who believes in your values. Your background is very diverse. We can talk about anything. It has nothing to do with party. It has nothing to do with race. It has everything to do with ex-

periences. The President is the President that he is because of his experiences. If you've never talked to him about growing up and family and the experiences that he went through, you wouldn't know how much he has in his heart. His presidency is all about his heart and helping people. I really appreciated our time. You've been extremely fair and caring. You have a wonderful, infectious smile, and then a little sinister one. I really have enjoyed serving with you. I wish I would've met you sooner actually. I've appreciated the time that you've taken to talk to me at length about others, and the process the way you wanted it to be. I know you'll be coming through Jacksonville so don't forget to call me when you're fundraising in my town. I wish you all the very best. Thank you so much for your passion and your compassion and standing for something. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Pizzo: Jeff Brandes likes to joke. Not joke, I think he actually means it. He says, "I sort of gauge individuals that we serve with by whether or not I would hire them in their profession." It's sort of an amazing litmus test, and the bottom line is that we came into 2020 in the most hyperpolarized, hyperpartisan atmosphere. I was up here for other reasons, and you asked if I was available to swing by. We had submitted our list of committee preferences of where we wanted to be. I was all set, not thinking of the man but thinking of the situation, the environment that we found ourselves in, the dynamic we found ourselves in—all prepared to make my case as to why I should not be removed from the Criminal Justice Committee, that I wanted to stay on. I go in his office and we sit down, and he said, "Hey, got your list, your preferences," and he's like, "I see you've been a member on Criminal Justice for two years. Yeah, I don't see you as a member anymore." I was like, "Wilton." He says, "No, I don't see you as a member." And he didn't let me come at him so hard before he said, "Congratulations, Mr. Chair." I stopped for a second, and I said, "I have a condition, and I have a question." He said, "Condition and question? I just made you the Chair." I said, "I have a condition and a question out of respect for you." He said, "Well what's the condition?" I said, "Please make sure that all members on both sides are prepared when they show up at that podium in that committee." He said, "Fair enough." He said, "What's the question?" I said, "Does the Governor know that you're appointing a Democrat, that you're appointing me?" He goes, "The Governor will find out when the public finds out, but you might want to call your wife and your father and tell them you're the Chair of Criminal Justice." I have ad nauseum used your line about how we should agree on the 85 percent. The 85 percent is that which is not controversial; which we can set aside our differences to the extreme left or the extreme right and just get the people's work done. Because the overwhelming majority of people are just worried about their home, their business, and their family, and those that they love—and we should work on that stuff. I've said it ad nauseum. You have always kept your word. The greatest compliment I can give you is that I would do business with you. My father would and my grandfather would, which is the biggest compliment I could give you. And to date, you've always kept your word, and you've always done the right thing. And to Senator Polsky's point, which I know you appreciate—I have a crazy sister. I'm the youngest of four, and she's a pain, man. I mean she is such a pain—even up until this morning, she is such a pain. My brother and I just rail on her—we come at her, we come at her, and we come at her. But no one outside my family is allowed to say a word about my sister. And that's how you treat us in the Senate. That's the insulation and feeling of family. I appreciate you.

Senator Cruz: Mr. President, I don't get emotional very often, but I want you to know that we are more alike, sir, than we are different. We both appreciate, and we stand up for, our great resolve for our party beliefs. We fought against each other, and we rose above the process because we respect it. But we've always made our priorities quite clear when we are more like each other than we are different. We are both—I'd like to think—honorable. I think of you as a man of great integrity. I know that you look for answers and don't accept excuses. I know that you put family above everything, as do I. You put family at home above everything, and you put your Senate family above everything. You told them clearly that they did not have permission to hurt us or to hurt her, and I thank you for that. We both come from working families—we've talked about that. We know the value of hard work—we knew that whether it's painting a house, working in the gypsum plant for ten hours a day, or running the Florida Senate. We know, and we were taught, that hard work is honorable. It's achieved through your preparation, putting your head down, and getting the work done. We also know that a good team makes us successful both here and at home. I know Mr. President, that this job doesn't define us. If it all went away

tomorrow, we would all be fine. What matters to me more than anything is the family that I've built, the husband that I love, and the children that I've raised. I just want you to know that you remind me that it's the person that you are when no one is watching that truly matters. Thank you, Mr. President, for all that you did for me. I will miss you greatly.

Senator Broxson: Mr. President, it's been an honor to serve with you. I think we all ask the question, why do we run for office? I'm not sure most of us could answer that. But why would a 44-year-old entrepreneur, who resurrected a family business to great success, plus created many other successful businesses? I think we find the answer—it's in your first election—without holding an office prior to this, you're one of two modern Senators who ever entered an open Senate race and had no opposition. That says volumes about who you are and who you are in your area. When you feel the urge to run for office, normally you need permission from at least one person. Normally that's your spouse, maybe your children and, in some cases, maybe your business. You see, we all know this. When we make a vow to someone like our spouse, and we make a big decision in our life, we have to get permission that we're getting ready to do something extraordinary. I would have liked to have been there when you explained to Kathy that you would be gone. You'd always get home on Thursday night; you were just going to be over here just three or four months during the year; that it was going to be fairly easy, and your life would continue. What you didn't tell her is that you would spend thousands of hours on the telephone, always returning every member's call almost instantly, or get back with them very quickly. What people have forgotten is—and I know that Senator Pasidomo was the major decision—because she knew she'd have to give up four years of her life in becoming the next President. But you gave up six years of your life—you and President Galvano co-ran elections, and you did that for four years. Really, if you consider what you've done in the last two years, you've done it six years. Then you went on serving and making public policy. You are a unique person. I'm glad. I'm glad for you, Kathy, that you gave him permission to adjust the vow that he gave you and give it to us and the State of Florida, because we are a better place because of Wilton Simpson. Thank you, sir.

Senator Rouson: Mr. President, thank you first of all, for your loyal warrior, Kathy Mears, who has a work ethic much like yours. I want to thank you for the respect and the dignity that you placed in each individual Senator to work with their issues, work with their visions, and to help them represent their constituents to the best of their ability and the best that this Senate can offer. I want to thank you for trusting me with leadership—elevating me to the Chair of not just any committee but the Agriculture Committee, a committee that is important to you—even though I had to be redirected once or twice. We always said in joke and jest for each other that we can disagree without being disagreeable. You've shown that. You've proven that. It's been an incredible experience. You found a way to make things that were important to me policy-wise happen with Ag—with the passage of the Urban Agriculture bill last session and with policy matters concerning food deserts and insecurities, this session—an issue very important to the African American community of folks that we all represent. I want to thank you for the trust of leadership. I want to thank you for being the President that you've been in standing up for each individual Senator and making each one of us feel respected and dignified as a human being and as a member of this Florida Senate. Thank you.

Senator Ausley: There is no secret for us to get here, we have to go through elections. Some of those elections are tougher than others. And after, I would say, a bruising election cycle, I also received one of those phone calls. It was before eight o'clock in the morning the day after the election. Much like Senator Polsky and Senator Jones, President Simpson said, "Welcome to the Florida Senate." From that moment forward, it has been a pleasure to work with you. As everyone has said, you have been a man of your word. You have stood up for every one of us. You have helped me be a better Senator for the eleven counties that I represent and, for that, I am so grateful. Thank you, sir.

Senator Boyd: President Simpson, I will try to be brief. I know everyone on the floor says that, but I will try. I remember the first part of 2019. I left the House in 2018. I watched you from across the rotunda and how successful you were and what a principled man you were. I was really wrestling with whether to run for the Senate or not. I didn't completely tell you that as you were talking to me. You started reaching out, "What are you going to do, Boyd? I want to help you and support you." I said, "We're about there, Mr. President." So that went through May, June, and July. About August you said, "Boyd, I'm moving on if

you don't give me an answer, so let's go." So that's the reason I decided at that point. I was really wrestling with it I can tell you. Most of my good friends here in the process know that. Not that the Senate wouldn't be the same without me, but the reason I decided in the end to run was because I would be able to serve under a leader like you. First of all, your commitment to God and your commitment to your family—I saw that and we all see that. What means the most to you in life are those two things. I thought, you know, I want to serve under that man. So I have absolute excitement about the two years that we've served together. You've been so helpful, so kind, and so selfless. One last story. I can remember like it was yesterday. I was just on the other side of Perry coming up here last session after we had a potential disaster at Piney Point. You called me and you said, "Senator Boyd." And I said, "Yes sir?" "I've got good news for you and great news for you." I said, "Well, let's go with either one; that sounds pretty good." And you said, "The good news is, we're going to fix Piney Point." The second thing you said was, "We're going to commit \$100 million to fixing Piney Point forever, and you're going to get the credit." Nobody does that. Nobody does that in this process. Myself and my community are forever grateful. I've really enjoyed these two years and I look forward to supporting you in whatever you do.

Senator Wright: Some of you have given some of your stories working with him in the House, and as you know, I was never in the House. On October 11th, 2018, I was nominated by six committee members to represent the Republican Party as hopefully the next Senator. They said to me, "Tomorrow you're going to be over in Tampa, and you're going to meet the President, Bill Galvano." I said, "How will I know what he looks like?" They said, "You don't know Bill Galvano?" I said, "I don't know anybody in the Senate." So I went over to that restaurant, and I'm sitting there and this nice gentleman approached me and said, "Are you Tom Wright?" I said, "Yes, sir. And you?" He said, "I'm Wilton Simpson, and the President will be with you shortly." I was like, oh, okay, this seems like a nice man. I calmed down immediately. So that was my first time meeting you, and the first person that I met that represented anything to do with Tallahassee. There have been a couple of times since you've been President that, you know, I have been way off the track, ready to pack up and say forget about it. Both times, you have brought me back to my senses, and I appreciate that; talked me through it. I'm at the point in my life—I'll be 70 in May—a self-made man. Like I don't need this. Thank God, you've taught me don't, because I'm proud of the achievements that we have all made. I look forward to hopefully being reelected and having four more years to make a difference in the State of Florida. When we had bad weather approaching in my side of the state in the Daytona Beach area, who calls more than once and says, "Things go bad, call me. We'll be there to take care of you." No one else does that but him. He's the real hero. The last thing I want to remind everyone—the door is always open with him. "You need something, call me, we'll get you in." So I can't thank you enough, sir, for all that you've meant to me. Thank you very much.

Senator Hooper: First of all, President Simpson, I want to thank you for making Senator Harrell wear red for me every day. I so much appreciate your encouragement to her. Second of all, you and I had a chat some years ago about when you were first contemplating running for this chamber. A former member told you in certain terms that you had no chance to get elected—you're from Trilby. Who the hell knows anybody from Trilby? Somehow, in spite of that good encouragement, you have squeaked through every election cycle since then. Congratulations for staying until the bitter end and pulling those close elections out without opposition—I might add all of them. Another thing that a lot of people in this chamber—they may not think it's important—but you've had some pretty darn nice events at Simpson Farms. I'll speak for me. I have enjoyed being invited to those events and met some incredible people and entertainers. I thought I saw Brooks Timmons eyeing that guitar very closely. Those of you that don't know much about guitars, that's a Taylor. That's the top of the line acoustic guitar that's made anywhere in the world. That did not come from Sears and Roebuck. Folks, that's a quality guitar. I'm kind of eyeing it myself now that I think about it. It would look good in my office. Senator Simpson, you have an incredible family. You're an incredible businessman. I know the spouses have extremely enjoyed these two years of getting to know Kathy. They have a whole lot more fun than we do, by the way. We should swap to let them do this and let's go to Thomasville, go shopping, and do some of that stuff. It would be a better day. I'll never forget your encouragement as I was running for this office. Your help and your advice—I'll never forget those words of

encouragement. Probably most important of all, thank you for allowing Senator Burgess and me to have all your former constituents—Senator Rodrigues' new drawings of districts. We are truly blessed, and we'll never uphold the level that they are accustomed to, but we'll do the best we can. I appreciate very much getting to serve with you for two years.

Senator Burgess: There is no limit to what you accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit. That's a trait that's kind of hard to come by in this process, and it's not something that you see very often. But it's something that Wilton Simpson lives by. Your heart has always been in Trilby, but your fingerprints are everywhere across the entire State of Florida. You're right. A lot of people probably didn't know Trilby outside of maybe you, me, and a couple of others—but I guarantee everybody in this darn state knows Trilby, Florida, now. And they're better for it. Wilton doesn't care who gets the credit—that's humility, and that's one of the most amazing character traits that an individual can have, especially one of his success and his background. Back home, there isn't a part of our community that he hasn't had a hand in shaping; there isn't a legislative accomplishment, if I'm being honest, that I've had, that he hasn't been a part of helping make happen. The reality is you make me look good. You've made me look good to the people back home, and I know it but you're quiet about it. You've been a mentor to me in more ways than just in this process. Your family is my family and vice versa. One of the greatest honors of my life was getting to officiate your namesake's wedding—Wilton Earl, Jr., right over there, and Caroline Storch Simpson—one of the brightest, greatest, most amazing moments. I retired after that because it's not going to get any better than that. I did one wedding; that was it. But I remember in the wedding, I sought advice from the two marriage experts in this room—Pastor Ben Albritton and Pastor Aaron Bean there. I asked them, "You know, what would you do? When you marry folks off, like what do you like to say, and what do you like to do?" I think it was you, Senator Albritton, who said, "Ask them to give you ten things that they like about the other person." That was a fun little game, and we had a lot of fun in that. But the one thing Caroline said about Wilton, Jr., that stuck out the most to me was selflessness. He's not selfish, he's selfless. I can tell you that's not a surprise. Obviously, the egg doesn't roll that far from the coop. It's very clever. You're right. You come by it honestly. There's somebody in this room that would give you the shirt off their back. It's pretty incredible that each and every one of us know that. You know, back home, your son-in-law over there, yeah Kevin, I'm going to mention you—he and my brother, Nick, are thick as thieves. They have been forever, since way back in baseball, and you know, they're "Smoking Bros Barbecue." They do barbecue competitions back home. If you haven't had their barbecue, you don't know barbecue. Sonny's is good, and we got that in the back right now. But you haven't had "Smoking Bros." You know, and then there's Luran, his daughter, and my wife, Courtney, and my sister-in-law, Cassidy. They're besties; they're thick as thieves. Then of course, there's the Addys—Addy squared, right? So your Addy and my Addy, they're going to rule the world one day. There's no question. Then there's Baby Danny and Emy. I mean, I think that wedding is already in the works so Baby Danny's got to take her on the second date when they get back home. So then there's Nora, and since Baby Danny stole Emy, my challenge now goes to Wilton, Jr. and Caroline. Can you hurry up already? No pressure, but Nora needs a friend. So bottom line is, Mrs. Kathy, we love you so much, and thank you for sharing the brilliance, the wit, the wisdom, the incredible nature, and selfless behavior of a man that I believe is the most effective legislator of our lifetime. And somebody that I cherish and couldn't love more. You've been an egg-cellent Senator, sir. But I know the best and greatest egg-venture is yet to come. We'll always be your biggest fans, and we'll always be your biggest cheerleaders. Your only fault—and one and only fault—you know where I'm going with this—is you're a Pasco Pirate. Now Josie may have something to say about that—Representative Tomkow—she'll come to your defense, but other than that, you're flawless, and we love you. Thank you for all you've done. Thank you for always being my biggest fan. I appreciate you.

SPECIAL GUESTS

Senator Bean recognized Representative Josie Tomkow and Speaker of the House of Representatives Chris Sprowls, who were present in the chamber.

Senator Brodeur: Senator Simpson and I got to work together his first year in the Senate. We were doing the Pension Reform bill together. That went so well that Senator Boyd got to do it the following

year. When I was lining up to go run for office, and I knew that Senator Simpson was the President Designate and would be helping folks run for office, I thought this would probably be a good time. I knew that I was going to run, unlike some other people—to remind him that we did a little bit better job than Senator Boyd did. Maybe it was, you know, we were a good team together. And as we have heard, Senator Simpson and I shared that there were times in our lives when our futures were a little bit uncertain, and we didn't know what the outcome was going to be. When I started running, he said, "I'm with you." I've heard that before, you're my fifth presiding officer. I've heard "I'm with you," but he meant it. I got to learn what his family already knows—that he's a man of his word and character. That means everything. The anxiety goes away—any of the uncertainty that you had about the decision you made. That carried on all the way through service under your presidency, sir. My wife had a pretty serious medical issue a little over a year ago, and he called all the time to check, just to make sure. It was about the family; it was about the principle; and it was about the character. I can't tell you, toward the end of this year having now known—I've seen it. I've seen it in the election process. I've seen it in the policy process. I've seen it in the budget process. When he says "I got you" or "I'm with you" or "We're going to make it happen," that's it. It's everything, and it's everything in this process. That example has been everything. So from one scrappy kid with an uncertain future to another, thank you so much. I'm certain we'll be working together in the future, my friend.

Senator Rodrigues: I'm gonna echo a few comments that have been made here but with a different experience. President Simpson and I had the opportunity to work together when I was in the House. During the term I served as Majority Leader, President Simpson was the Majority Leader of the Senate. In that first session, one of the most controversial things that was occurring was the implementing of the medical marijuana constitutional amendment. Those of you that were around will remember that 2017 Session ended without an implementing bill being passed. The Senate and the House just couldn't come to an agreement. Then, because of the other controversy that was going on, the Governor vetoed a portion of the budget, which necessitated a special session. Before that special session, the Speaker contacted me and said, "Hey, I've been speaking with the President. We want the two majority leaders to get together and see if we can work something out on this medical marijuana implementing bill. If we can work this out, we're going to stick it in the call and pass it during the special session." So, I was in Plant City visiting in-laws. I called Leader Simpson and said, "Hey, I'm here in Plant City. Do you want to get together?" We ended up meeting at Beef O'Brady's and in two hours, we had hammered out the medical marijuana implementing bill. What I'll remember is that when we finished, he said, "Don't tell anybody we did this. I don't want to Bigfoot the Senate bill sponsor." So I took it back to the Speaker and said, "Here's what we agreed on." He took it back to the President. The special session came, the bill came up, passed both chambers with no controversy, and I never read in a single blog how that deal came together. You never took the credit that you could have, and that's what is unusual about President Simpson. I can name literally dozens of former Representatives, some current Representatives, former Senators, maybe some current Senators who will claim credit for things they had nothing to do with. But to name a Senator or Representative who has major accomplishments and he says, "Don't give me the credit" is extremely rare. But that's President Simpson. I'm going to also echo a little bit of what Senator Pizzo said. You called me in and said "I'm interested in having you chair reapportionment. Here's the charge I'm going to give the committee. Do you want to do it?" From the very beginning, you were clear. "We're going to play this down the middle. We're going to follow the law. If that's a charge you can accept, then I'd like you to lead the committee." The only thing he asked was, "Tell me what you need to be successful." Because he's such a visionary, before we ever got here, he'd already hired the top staff, had already retained the top counsel, and at every step, we went to him and said, "This is what we need." We got it. That's why we were able to pass the maps, we were able to pass them together. That's why those maps—at least from the Senate and the House—haven't been challenged and don't look like they will be challenged. It would have been very tempting to not play it down the middle. But you are a man of integrity, and because you're a man of integrity, Florida is all the better. Thank you for your humility and your integrity. We are a better institution because you were President.

Senator Gainer: It is a real pleasure for me to say anything good about Wilton Simpson. I was in Panama City and had no idea that I

ever wanted to be a State Senator. But we had one of the biggest oil spills ever in the world. Nothing was happening. We couldn't get any help, we couldn't get any understanding. I said, "Hell with this—I'm going to run for the Senate." So I had two years left on the County Commission. I forfeited that, and then I found out that Senate leadership and some other folks had their own ideas about the Senate in the 2nd District. So I talked to my good friend, Allan Bense. He said, "What you need to do is call this chicken farmer in Trilby, and he probably knows more about what's going on than they do." I called the chicken farmer, and Wilton answered the phone. I explained to him what I was calling him about, and he said, "Well, gosh, I don't know. Those people don't usually change their minds." I said, "Well, I don't care who they get, I'll beat 'em." He said, "Well, you probably need to call whoever's making the decision," and he mentioned the name, which I won't mention. He said, "You need to tell him you're going to put up all the money that you're going to need to run in your account and if they still decide they want somebody else, you're going to put that money against him in his next election." That made sense to me so that's what I did. I didn't have opposition. So anyway, that was the start of our friendship. He helped me through an oil spill and probably one of the worst hurricanes that ever hit this part of the world. Now we got a wildfire going on over there, so the work's not completely finished. I'll tell you right now, if Wilton Simpson is your friend, you've got a friend. He may seem like the nicest little guy you ever met, but if you ever see him and a wildcat in a fight, help the wildcat. Wilton will be all right.

Senator Diaz: President Simpson, I want to thank you for your leadership. I think it's a testament from the comments you've heard, regardless of party from the Senators in this chamber. Whether it comes to personal issues or working on issues in this chamber, you have been helpful to everyone in here. Even if it's a priority of yours and something that you think is important, when we come as Senators to you with ideas or concerns about something, you've had nothing but an open door. So I want to thank you for that. I want to highlight something because it hasn't been mentioned. You prepared to be leader of this chamber and never took into account having to deal with COVID. I think it's important. I think all 39 Senators would share my comments on this. As we entered that last session not knowing what was going to happen, not knowing how it was going to be handled, your steady and calm leadership, your decisionmaking, and your ability to contact all of us and work through that was so we could have a successful session, be in here, and do the peoples' work. I think that's going to go down in the history of Florida, and we'll be remembered. At the top of that, in this chamber, is your leadership. I want to thank you for your leadership and your openness. Look forward and Godspeed to you and your family on what comes next. Thank you.

Senator Taddeo: That is Senator "Tad-ee-oh" to President Simpson. I want everyone to know, and I don't know if I've ever told President Simpson, but there were a lot of people that kept coming up to me and saying, "He is so rude. Why is he mispronouncing your name? That is so wrong." So that everybody knows, he found out about my brother who is the big Republican in my family and I love him very much—my brother pronounces it the Anglicized way which is "Tad-ee-oh," so he started calling me "Tad-ee-oh." Now we have this whole thing where every time he stands up and recognizes me, if he says Taddeo then he's good. If he says "Tad-ee-oh," then it means he's not happy that I am getting up to debate or ask a question. We got that little thing going between the two of us. I also want to thank you. You have been an amazing leader. I had that surprise when I found out that you had made me Vice Chair of Ethics and Elections and lo and behold, look at it. Look at the fact that we've been able to work and find ways—even when I hate the bills—to put things in the bills that will help everyone in a democracy and what the things are that are wrong going on. And I just can't thank you enough for giving me that opportunity. I'm sure a lot of people were shocked about that. I'm very excited about the fact that I'm sure you have a bright future ahead of you. You are a wonderful servant to all Floridians. You have done a really good job under difficult circumstances, and you've gotten some heat for it. I just want you to know that we have noticed. Like Senator Bean, I am somebody that has always been underestimated. So you never know, I might just get to serve with you again. Thank you.

Senator Rodriguez: I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank President Simpson for believing in me. I was just a lowly freshman House member. I'm just kidding, no offense to my freshman House members or sophomore House members now. I was very happy when I was elected in 2018 to the Florida House. I made very good bonds with

all the folks. Some of them are sitting here in the chamber with us. I had a lot of apprehension about leaving the House to come to the Senate. When I spoke with Senator Simpson personally the day he came to Miami to talk to me, I knew at that moment that this is where I needed to be. I just want to thank him for not only believing in me as a candidate when I ran, but after I got elected—all of the support that you've given me as a Senator and also to my district. District 39 has been blessed with all the support that you've given it. I know we're all better people and the state is a better place because of your leadership. Thank you.

Senator Baxley: Mr. President, I love you. That's what you're able to generate from people because that's who you are. From the day I met you, when you were a new Senator, I knew you were going to be the leader here one day. Matter of fact, when I went to visit him to talk about what I was attempting to do, about coming to the Senate, we sat down in his office and I said, "Do you have a pledge card? I don't know when or if it'll mean anything, but you need to be President of this Senate." I will never forget how he wasn't used to anybody talking about him. He's always about others. He's a selfless person. Selfless people don't put others first and themselves last. They don't really think of themselves at all. They're always on mission and it's always the other. You're the kind of man I could follow. I know when people care about core things—faith, family, freedom, opportunity, life itself. For people that don't need anything, I look at you, Mr. President, and say, "What does he need that's here?" Nothing. He came to give something away because America was great to him. This goes all the way back to he's an adopted child, and I'm an adoptive father. Every child deserves a family. Family means everything, and it can open up the future. Thank you for being that kind of person. The other one, I need somebody that'll be direct. I said, "Look, you don't have to figure out how to send me a message. Just tell me." Because I know, I've got some strong convictions. At the same time, it's so important when you can look at his life and see that being a team player and a team builder is the real pathway forward for the Senate. You've provided that. I embrace you and your entire family for what you've given to Florida and will give to Florida's future. I'm on that train. God bless you.

Senator Garcia: Mucho gracias, President Simpson. Forgive me. I'm very under the weather and very sentimental. It would take a couple of lifetimes to thank you for what you've done for me and my family. For always being encouraging. Very few people nourish your strengths versus your weaknesses. You knew how scared I was. And you, like Senator Bean, were always like, "You've got this." Thank you for allowing me to be Number 24, the Rooster! Thank you, sir.

Senator Passidomo: I actually sat down in the break, and I typed this up because if I didn't type it up I'd be here for hours. We've been here for a long time. I first met Wilton Simpson in the spring of 2016 when I was contemplating running for the Senate. I didn't know many people in the Senate, other than Senator Richter, and he said go and talk to Wilton Simpson. So, we had lunch. Do you remember this? We had lunch in the Governor's Club and in one hour—one hour—I knew with complete certainty that he was one special man—a man of conviction, honor, and integrity. I joined his team then and there. I said, "Where's your card." I didn't even know about the pledge card thing. "Give me your card," and I signed it. It was only later that I came to know his wit, his wisdom, and his unerring sense of what is right. What is the right thing to do and how to get there. As we all know, President Simpson is a betting man, and he doesn't like to lose. Frankly, I don't think he ever has lost—but he does it with humility, spice, with his "aw shucks" brand of humor. I remember one night, we were sitting around the table having dinner, and someone asked me to describe Wilton Simpson. It came to me immediately, in one word: inscrutable. Under the "I know nothing," Cheshire Cat smile, his mind is moving at 100 miles per hour calculating the odds, comparing the alternatives, searching for loopholes, and developing a solution that no one else could have thought of and no one saw coming. In the end, it is always the right thing to do. President Simpson will always do the right thing—for his family, for his constituents, for his colleagues in the Senate, and for the State of Florida. On a personal level, hanging out with Wilton Simpson and his family is such a pleasure. It's never a dull moment in the Simpson household. I honestly feel that I'm part of the family, and I will treasure all of the time I have spent with them. Lastly, Wilton, thank you so much for the hours and hours of conversations we've had about governance and how I can do what I need to do after you leave. You have given me so much time and effort. And you know what? I bet every single person in this chamber can talk about the hours of conversations

they've had with Wilton and what he has shared with them on things that he believes. Lastly, and perhaps this never happens, you gave me a seat at the table. Maybe at the end of the table and with, as always, "Zip it." For the past two years you have let me see into how it is that the Senate runs, and for that I'll be eternally grateful because then, I think, I'll be able to hit the ground running next fall. But you're not going yet. You've got to stay until next fall. Your office is going to be right there. I'm not going to move your furniture out or whatever. Thank you, Wilton Simpson, I love you.

Senator Bean: Senators, a leader gets more by seeing what can be in others than sometimes they can see in themselves. Such as Aaron Bean, who did not know what a Pro Tempore could be until President Simpson told me, "Bean, the role is made for you. I need a wingman. I need you." Of course you say, "Yes" to Wilton Simpson. I will always be grateful for that honor, my friend, of being your wingman. Many of you know that President Simpson and I have been session roommates for ten years. I'm grateful he bought a condo ten years ago. He was open to having a roommate, and I was the man for the job. I've updated the numbers and you've heard the Bean numbers. Now I want to give you the 'living the Simpson life in Tallahassee for the last ten years' numbers. When we moved in he said, "Bean, I've got big plans. I've got this newly-expanded, renovated patio. The parties we could have here are just going to be great. I've got this new jumbo TV. We can watch some ball games and have people over. I've got a whole refrigerator filled with beer. It's great." So let's go over those numbers for the past ten years: number of times we've had a party on that patio: zero; times we have watched ball games on the jumbotron in Simpson Manor: zero; number of beers consumed in ten years on the premises: four—it's only because Senator Rob Bradley came over for a visit—it's all him; times he has slept past 6:00 a.m. in Tallahassee: zero; times he gave the Pro Tempore advance notice he was leaving the rostrum: zero; times he has said, "No" to a child or our most vulnerable: zero. Leader Book has often told of when the Parkland kids came to our Capitol. It was Wilton Simpson, personally, who paid for their meals. When the Pace Girls were here, it was Senate President Wilton Simpson who took out his own checkbook to make sure they were covered. When the domestic violence shelter needed supplies or a church needed a new roof, you didn't know about it but his leadership team did because he took out his own money to make those things happen. Every cause, every time, Wilton is here and has been here. The funny thing about Wilton Simpson is he's happiest when his work is behind the scenes, and somebody else gets the credit. It's not just in his private life, it's right here in Tallahassee too. We can't put a number on the impact that you have made on this body and our state. President Simpson, I've already called you a cheerleader today, but it's not just for me, it's for all of us. Because in your decade of service, you have supported and uplifted each of us to bring our goals across the finish line.

If I could ask the Sergeant and his team to bring out a very special gift that this body would like to present to you—President Simpson, we all know that while your name has been on very few pieces of legislation, your fingerprints are on many. We had a hard time just getting it down to 15. What you see before you is a montage of 15 bills that your leadership team thought your fingerprints were pretty heavy on. They include making Florida's environment forever cleaner. Because of you, education has been made stronger. No one will make less than \$15 an hour working for our state. Florida's business climate will be more robust. Florida's prison system will be transforming. Now there's a compact between Florida and the Seminole Tribe. Maps for redrawing Florida's Senate districts were completed in a fair and transparent process. Going forward, Florida's foster care system will give every kid a chance to thrive because of you. In spite of coming into your presidential role during the pandemic, you have left Florida better than when you began. Mr. President, on behalf of the Senate, it is our honor to present you this montage that bears your fingerprints—fingerprints and the bills that have made Florida strong now and for generations to come. Congratulations, Wilton Earl Simpson, President of the Florida Senate.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

On behalf of the Senate, Senator Bean presented President Simpson with a framed montage of 15 ceremonial pieces of legislation passed by the President during his years of service in the legislature.

RETIRING OF PORTRAIT

Senator Bean: Senators, as is Senate tradition, the portrait on the west side of the chamber will be retired to the Historic Capitol. This is the time Senators, and for our new freshmen, that we pay tribute to the President who will be retired. Senate President Theodore Tiffany Turnbull, or as many called him, President “TT” Turnbull, served as Senate President during the 1923 Legislative Session. President Turnbull was born in Monticello, Florida, in 1881. He practiced law in Monticello and was elected to the Florida House in 1912, where he served two terms—one of which was as the Speaker Pro Tempore. I took note of that. He was elected to the Florida Senate in 1918 and, four years later, he became Senate President. He served until leaving in 1929. Now, in 1923, Senators, Florida had just crossed one million residents in total population. The largest city was Jacksonville with 91,000 residents. President Turnbull became known as “Father of University Extension” by pushing our universities to offer correspondence courses by mail. This initiative led to the creation of the state’s junior college or community college systems in the mid-1920s. President Turnbull continued to serve in a public role as attorney for the Florida Railroad Commission until his death of the flu in 1944 at the age of 62. Later today, President “TT” Turnbull will be escorted by Sergeant Kelly and his team to the Old Capitol for display. Florida Senators, please join me in waving goodbye to President “TT” Turnbull.

UNVEILING OF PORTRAIT

Senator Bean invited President Simpson and his wife, Kathy; their son, Wilton, and his wife, Caroline; and daughter, Lauran, and her husband, Kenton, to the front of the chamber where the President’s portrait was unveiled by Sergeant at Arms Damien Kelly. The portrait was created by artist Steve Davis of Leon Loard Commissioned Portraits.

President Simpson: Crazy town. I’ve got to go get something out of my car. So yeah, I like that. Thank you everybody. This morning, I decided I might better write a few things that I may say today at this point in time because I was trying to avoid it, because I assumed I might avoid the whole thing, right? So that would have been best. Anyway, I’m glad my family is here today. They’ve been recognized—my wife, Kathy, son, daughter, and their spouses. Thank y’all for being here. Addy and Emy—I think they’re asleep now somewhere upstairs?

You know it’s been a real honor to serve District 10 in the Florida Senate. Think about this. Senator Bean earlier today said, “There’s no way someone from Nassau County, in whatever city he’s from, with three percent of the population, could ever run for the Florida Senate and win.” And someone mentioned here today, think about that challenge and overcoming the quarter of one percent that lives in Trilby, Florida. So anybody that gets elected from Trilby, Florida, you know something’s going on in that district. Anyway, it’s been a real honor to serve in that area. I’ve got a lot of people to thank—this has been ten years. Back when I got started, talking about planning and doing—Patty Harrison is here somewhere I assume—Miss Patty comes, and I was introduced to her right in the beginning and I said, “Miss Patty, I don’t know why you would come to work in District 10 because you have options closer to home.” I said, “But if you’re willing to put up with me and all the trouble”—of course she probably didn’t know what she was getting into at the time—“I’m prepared to say yes. But if you say yes, you have to stay ten years. There’s none of this, ‘Oh, I’m getting older; I don’t know if I can stay ten more years. I’ve retired a couple of times already.’” I’m like, “Yeah, it’s a ten-year situation.” Here she is. So for ten years, Miss Patty has been here. Thank you. She knows what everybody’s got in the budget too, by the way.

Judy Parker could not be here today so y’all have not really met Judy Parker. I think she’s been here once or twice in the ten years. I was serving on the Pasco-Hernando County State Board of Colleges with her, and I said “Judy, hey, I’m running for the Senate. You know if I win, you should come run the office, and you can do whatever you want.” She’s lived in Florida most of her life and has very successful businesses, things that she’s done, and works very hard. She said, “Yeah, that might be interesting. I might do that.” I said, “Guess what? This is a ten-year deal if we do this.” She reminds me that, you know—I don’t want to say what age she is—but she’s probably retirement age. But guess what? She’s still with us today, and she would be here today except I know she had a little issue, and she couldn’t be here today.

She’s been wonderful because my constituents in District 10 have gotten all they deserve from our office. Anything they’ve gotten has been from Judy Parker. She’s done a great job for us.

Where’s Brooks Timmons? I know Brooks is here somewhere. If y’all don’t know Brooks, you can go on to Apple iTunes, whatever you do, and y’all can look him up. He’s got stuff out there, and he’s going to have more stuff out there soon with Cowboy Troy. Brooks has driven me around for the last eight years, and he’s served in my Senate office. He does everything that nobody else wants to do, right? Brooks is the last knot on the rope. It’s been an honor because sometimes we’ll be driving somewhere, and someone will say something that happened three or four years ago. They’ll say, “Oh you went here, you went here, and what did you do?” I can’t say the adjectives I normally think, but Brooks knows. He’ll say, “Senator Simpson, I’ve seen all this and done all this.” Now here’s the good part for Brooks—he’s been in all the rooms we’ve been in for the last six or eight years so you know, Brooks has got a lot of valuable information. He’s been a rock star for me. Thank you, Brooks.

Secretary Brown, we’re leaving together. When we started here, I didn’t know that at the time, but she had a ten-year commitment too, apparently. These are her last two years. We really appreciate your steadfastness that you bring to the Senate and the professionalism that you bring to the Senate. Thank you for staying with us.

Ronnie Whitaker—me and Ronnie got hooked together during Majority Leader Galvano’s tenure. He had hired Ronnie, I believe, and was with him in the Majority Office. I came behind President Galvano and really, he brings a lot of professionalism. I don’t know other adjectives that are more meaningful to me, but the professionalism that you’ve brought to the Majority Office, the way you’ve run that office, the way you handle our business, has been really extraordinary. I really appreciate all your support. You’ve been extraordinary—right on through with Leader Mayfield. I always say Leader Mayfield is the best Majority Leader we’ve had in a decade or so—at least a decade. Y’all do a tremendous job. Thank you.

Sergeant Kelly was a great find for the Florida Senate. You came to us two years ago, I think now. It was the beginning of my term, and you’ve done a tremendous job, Sergeant. Not only with the professionalism but the way you handle each individual Senator, the way you take care of our concerns and needs. Thank you for what you do for the entire Senate, Sergeant. It’s been an honor to see your work.

I’ve had several staff directors since I’ve been in the Senate. Tom Yeatman is here somewhere. Can you imagine my first year I get to the Florida Senate—think about this for a second—I get elected without opposition my first go-round. I go to my closet—I don’t have a suit in the closet that will fit. I mean, I have some from the 90s, but they’re not going to fit anymore. You can’t even take those out enough to put them on, and so I rush and get suits and come up and I meet Tom. You know I’ve never done this before, and we got all these books and procedures and things that you have to do to make it. Tom is a genius at that stuff, because he took an egg farmer and, in a matter of a few weeks, schooled me up enough to get me through my first committee meeting—and then continued to do so for the next four years. I served as the chair of Community Affairs my first four years, and Tom did an extraordinary job for me getting me through that time.

Jennifer Hrdlicka—I had one year with her. I was the Transportation Committee Chair that year—same for her. I was a little more on my toes then, so she didn’t probably get it as easy as Tom did, but she did a tremendous job. Then Booter Imhof, when I was Designate, he was my staff director and did a really good job and is just a professional.

All of our staff has done a tremendous job, and it’s been a real pleasure and honor to serve with such professionals. It’s something that’s really extraordinary for the things we’ve been able to accomplish. In the President’s office, Sam Williams? Has everybody met Sam? Sam’s the first person you see when you come in the door, right? Sam does a tremendous job for us in the Senate. He greets everyone coming in. I haven’t heard any complaints, so I assume that he’s really done a good job. I always tell him to you know, if he has a concealed carry, when people come in there rowdy, they know that. Just joking, just joking. Not really. But anyway, he hasn’t had to demonstrate those skills, but he’s done a good job for us. He’s been a welcome member of the team.

Christie Letarte has handled insurance and tort reform for us for the last two years. We have bills that have been passed off this Senate floor that have never gotten to the Senate floor, multiple bills. She's worked on those bills with our teams and done a tremendous job.

Kathy Mizereck has handled all our education in the President's Office—again, a real professional and understands this a lot better than I do. She will bring out granny law if necessary as she calls it, but she's done a great job. What we did last year—you know, our expansion of school choice—was extraordinary. When you talk about raising people out of poverty and giving parents choices, I think that's a big part of the puzzle. Thank you, Kathy, for all the things you've done for the Florida Senate.

Allie Cleary—same thing on our health care. We've done tremendous work in the health care policy the last two years. No one knows on our staff what I'm going to drag in next, right? Because any time a Senator says, "Hey, we should work on this policy," we drag it in. Curt Yan, my CPA, used to say, "Well, you'll drag in this 1,000-pound carcass, and you expect us to take it all apart in a matter of hours. It may take a few weeks." Unfortunately for our staff, that's sort of the same process, right? We bring in these big ideas, and they do a tremendous job. Allie, you've done a tremendous job for us.

Reynold Meyer—again Reynold, you've been just a professional. Reynold has done a tremendous job for the Florida Senate. He's the guy that—I think President Gardiner said, or the Chief of Staff—he's the guy that makes all the trains run on time. He's the conductor. He makes sure we're doing the things; he's looking at the clock right now thinking, I wish this could end. I was thinking that an hour and a half ago, but whatever. Again I mention Tom Yeatman who has been awesome in the President's office.

Jeremiah Hawkes, our general counsel, we always ask him, "Is anyone going to jail? Are we doing okay?" I remember President Galvano said, "I got my name put on 12 lawsuits when I first got to be President of the Florida Senate." I don't know if I have. If I have, he's done a good job of not letting me know that I have. Since I'm not a lawyer, it's kind of like I'm oblivious. Thank you, Jeremiah, for the work you've done for the Florida Senate.

If you've come to my office, you've met Megan Ramba. Megan has done a great job for us. She's sort of the conductor and either lets people in the door or not. She's very good at saying "no." It's kind of amazing. I'll add those two together—India was there my first year. I think Rob Bradley had a name for her, "the Death Star," where all good dreams go to die because you can't get into the President's Office. Megan has been a "Death Star" also when she needs to be, and I think that's probably the highest compliment for that area. You've both done it with such grace and understanding for what it takes for us to do our jobs. Thank you for what you've done there.

Jacqui Peters has been training our staff for the last two years and working with all of our staff and teams. If your staff has any problems or any issues, Jacqui Peters is our first line of defense for that. Thank you for the work you've done. Katie Betta—or I call her "Katie Red" all the time—she's really tremendous. So if you ever thought, man, Wilton did okay in that press avail. That's not always true, right? I may say anything as you know. But if I've done anything right, it's because Katie said, "No, don't say that!" She'll brief me on all these issues and it's kind of like, "Yeah, I don't think we should say it that way. I think we should go this route." She's very professional, timely, and considerate of all my crazy stuff. So the more considerate someone is to me, generally the harder I get on them, right—the more I keep amping it up until finally they say, "No, you can't do that." So a few times, I've probably gotten to Katie Betta that way, but you've done a tremendous job for me. If she can do this with an egg farmer, just think what she could do with a lawyer, right?

Andrew Mackintosh is the architect of a lot of these big ideas that we've had, and he's done a tremendous job. I always tell people on the compact, "Andrew did the compact." Andrew did many things. He's been a real steady leader for the Florida Senate. He's one of those folks that you have to have when one of those big ideas come in. How do you dissect this thing and make sure that you have all of the tools you need to do the job? That's Andrew. Thank you, Andrew, for the work you do.

I think last but not least is Kathy Mears. I was only going to describe her in a few words because I didn't want to mess around—mess myself up here. Loyal, confident, and caring; the work she does with kids here is just tremendous in this office. I know every one of you have engaged her 5,000 hours, and then me 1,000 hours, because she took the 5,000 hours. We couldn't operate the Senate without Kathy Mears. Thank you.

Speaker Sprowls, thank you for being such a great partner. Everything we've talked about, everything that we're proud of that we've done the last two years—it takes at least two to tango. Then we have to go back to the Governor. You've been a great partner and a great friend, and we've done great work—long-lasting legacy type work. What we didn't mention is future Speaker Danny Perez is here. Lawrence McClure, Anthony, and Josie Tomkow are here. I call her my niece because she grew up being my niece, but we love you. Thank y'all for coming over.

Now I'm going to wrap it up very quickly. We have made a difference. We've made a difference in the last nine years. I'm counting, and this is year number ten. We've made it in our environment. I could go on and on and on about these issues: Everglades' restoration, wildlife corridors, the EAA reservoirs, the C43 and 44 were done last year and this year. The springs' funding that we've done is tremendous. Everywhere there's not Everglades, there are springs. We talk about Everglades a lot but that's only a third of the State—or half. The other half of the state has springs. We've had tremendous leaders in the last nine years that have helped bolster these policies. I've been here for nine years and we're in pretty good shape. We've had historic funding. The Governor made it a priority of his when he first ran four years ago, and he wanted historic funding for our environment. And it has been historic. If you think about what we've done, where we've come from, and where we are now, it's been tremendous, and it's something that we should be very proud of. I got a call—I was in the *National Geographic*—and they said, "President Simpson, I want you to give me a few quotes. First, I want to know, how did you get Republicans to vote for these environmental policies?" I said, "I'm not sure what you're talking about. I've served now nine years. I think they're all unanimous when we do them here in the Florida Senate." They said, "But that's not normal in other states." And I said, "Well Florida is not actually a very normal state." Thank God we weren't in the middle of the pandemic. He said, "Yeah, I know you aren't a normal state." But the reality is, he was just in awe of the attention that all 40 of us gave the environment. They were very interested in the wildlife corridor, and it was just a great honor for them to recognize that and the bipartisanship with which we do these things.

I would also say this is the year of the blue collar worker. When you go back home, you're not going to read the newspaper that says the bus driver makes \$12 an hour, or our cafeteria workers, and that we don't value these folks. The budget I hope we pass here in a few days values those folks. It may not value them enough, but it certainly gets them to \$15 an hour. The people who take care of our nursing homes, the worst positions, people taking care of the people—what President Negron always talked about—are going to get \$15 an hour now. They're now making \$11-\$12 an hour in most cases. Those things are very important, and it's something that we can be very proud of.

Foster and adoption kids are CBCs. The House has proposed very large expansion of resources for the CBCs. All of those things tied together are going to be meaningful in the lives of our children—the most vulnerable children in the state. So when you add all this up, it's going to be tremendous. Families are going to rise up, maybe the families that come out of poverty because they're getting paid better. The CBC work, the fostering and adoption work that we're doing—to tie it all together. The school choice we did last year where parents can choose any school they want—how to educate their children. Think about that for a second. A lot of us in this chamber can do that ourselves today. We can take our children anywhere we want to go because we can afford it. Not so much to the people we serve—now they can. That was something we were very proud of last year. I believe it's transformative because I believe it will drive competition into that K-12 system. We've had the best university and college system in the last five years. In two to three years from now, we'll have the best K-12 system in the country. It's because of competition and because of parental choice that's going to drive excellence in that system. It's something we should be very proud of. I can go on and on.

I should mention Moffitt. I think Moffitt Cancer Center is going to be transformative in the next ten years. It's already transformative, but what's going to happen there now, because of the funding that this legislation has provided, is really going to be transformative. It's going to be the best center in the world. When people from any place in this country say, "I have cancer. Where should I go?" It's going to be Moffitt Cancer Center in Florida. Think about how proud of that we're going to be. I don't want to miss it because we're going to save tens of thousands of lives, more, in a few years because of the work that we're doing on that. I'm not going to go on and on, but I will leave you with something you've already heard today. If you don't care who gets credit, amazing what we can accomplish, right? It's true. It's always been true. It's been a real honor to serve with you, and the gifts that we put by your desks, y'all can open those later. It's been a real honor to serve as your President. We've got three maybe four, five, six days to go and, I don't know, maybe special session for the budget. We do have our proposal, Speaker, if you'll just say, "yes" right now. Sergeant, secure the chamber. Now I think we're going to be fine. Thank you. It's been a real honor to serve, and thank you for all those nice compliments.

Time for comments having closed, Senator Stewart submitted the following remarks to be published in the Senate Journal:

Senator Stewart: President Simpson, I did not have the chance to wish you farewell on the Senate floor, so I wanted to write and share with you a memory of my first visitation to your office. Having come from the House, I was not accustomed to seeing the President in a one-on-one setting. I was very nervous to meet with you and had a long list of appropriations that Central Florida was in dire need of. You took the time to listen to my concerns and even eventually worked with me to help secure funding for my projects. To this day, I have no idea why I was so worried when I left your office. You have always been such a compassionate and understanding individual and always willing to do whatever you could to help my constituents. I now regularly visit your office and always appreciate the time you make to listen. Thank you for being such a wonderful President! Happy trails to you!

BILLS ON THIRD READING, continued

CS for HB 1571—A bill to be entitled An act relating to residential picketing; creating s. 810.15, F.S.; defining the term "dwelling"; prohibiting a person from picketing or protesting before or about the dwelling of a person with specified intent; providing criminal penalties; requiring a specified warning before arrest for a violation; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title.

On motion by Senator Perry, **CS for HB 1571** was passed and certified to the House. The vote on passage was:

Yeas—28

Albritton	Cruz	Passidomo
Ausley	Diaz	Perry
Baxley	Gainer	Pizzo
Bean	Garcia	Polsky
Book	Gibson	Rouson
Boyd	Gruters	Stargel
Bracy	Harrell	Stewart
Bradley	Hooper	Wright
Brodeur	Jones	
Broxson	Mayfield	

Nays—3

Berman	Taddeo	Torres
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Vote after roll call:

Yea—Mr. President, Burgess, Hutson, Rodrigues, Rodriguez

Nay—Brandes

SPECIAL GUESTS

Senator Rouson recognized his brother, Dr. Damian Rouson, and his nephew, Zendo, who were present in the chamber.

THE PRESIDENT PRESIDING

CS for CS for HB 921—A bill to be entitled An act relating to campaign financing; amending s. 106.08, F.S.; removing a limitation on contributions made to political committees that are in opposition to certain constitutional amendments; providing applicability of a limitation on certain political contributions; providing a definition; providing that a foreign national may not make or offer to make certain contributions or expenditures; providing an effective date.

—as amended March 4, was read the third time by title.

On motion by Senator Brodeur, **CS for CS for HB 921**, as amended, was passed and certified to the House. The vote on passage was:

Yeas—22

Mr. President	Burgess	Passidomo
Albritton	Diaz	Perry
Baxley	Gainer	Rodrigues
Bean	Garcia	Rodriguez
Boyd	Gruters	Stargel
Bradley	Harrell	Wright
Brodeur	Hooper	
Broxson	Mayfield	

Nays—16

Ausley	Farmer	Rouson
Berman	Gibson	Stewart
Book	Jones	Taddeo
Bracy	Pizzo	Torres
Brandes	Polsky	
Cruz	Powell	

Vote after roll call:

Yea—Hutson

CS for CS for HB 1239—A bill to be entitled An act relating to nursing homes; amending s. 400.021, F.S.; revising a definition; amending s. 400.23, F.S.; providing definitions; specifying functions that do not constitute direct care staffing hours for purposes of required nursing home staffing ratios; requiring nursing home facilities to determine their direct care staffing needs based on the facility assessment and the individual needs of a resident based on the resident's care plan; revising nursing home staffing requirements; requiring nursing home facilities to maintain and report staffing information consistent with federal law; specifying that evidence of a facility's compliance with the minimum direct care staffing requirements is not admissible as evidence of compliance with certain federal requirements; providing that certain paid feeding assistants and direct care staff count toward compliance with the overall direct care minimum staffing requirement; providing an exception; requiring certain direct care staff to complete a certain feeding assistant training program; authorizing the Agency for Health Care Administration to adopt rules; amending s. 400.0234, F.S.; providing that certain information submitted to the agency is discoverable and may be admissible in certain civil or administrative proceedings; amending s. 400.024, F.S.; providing that the transferee in a change of ownership of a facility is responsible and liable for any unsatisfied or undischarged adverse final judgements; requiring the licensee or transferor who submits an application for a change of ownership to provide written notice to each pending claimant or the claimant's attorney; requiring such notice to be provided within a specified timeframe and by certain methods; providing that a claimant has a specified period to object to an application for a change of ownership; requiring the agency to consider any objection in its decision to approve or deny such application; authorizing a claimant to file a petition to enjoin a change of ownership under certain circumstances; defining the

term “claimant”; amending s. 400.141, F.S.; revising provisions relating to a facility’s failure to comply with minimum staffing requirements; conforming cross-references and provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

—was read the third time by title.

On motion by Senator Albritton, **CS for CS for HB 1239** was passed and certified to the House. The vote on passage was:

Yeas—28

Mr. President	Burgess	Pizzo
Albritton	Diaz	Polsky
Baxley	Gainer	Powell
Bean	Gibson	Rodrigues
Book	Gruters	Rodriguez
Boyd	Harrell	Stargel
Bradley	Hooper	Stewart
Brandes	Mayfield	Wright
Brodeur	Passidomo	
Broxson	Perry	

Nays—9

Ausley	Farmer	Rouson
Berman	Garcia	Taddeo
Cruz	Jones	Torres

Vote after roll call:

Yea—Hutson

SPECIAL ORDER CALENDAR

On motion by Senator Baxley—

CS for CS for HB 1557—A bill to be entitled An act relating to parental rights in education; amending s. 1001.42, F.S.; requiring district school boards to adopt procedures that comport with certain provisions of law for notifying a student’s parent of specified information; requiring such procedures to reinforce the fundamental right of parents to make decisions regarding the upbringing and control of their children in a specified manner; prohibiting the procedures from prohibiting a parent from accessing certain records; providing construction; prohibiting a school district from adopting procedures or student support forms that prohibit school district personnel from notifying a parent about specified information or that encourage or have the effect of encouraging a student to withhold from a parent such information; prohibiting school district personnel from discouraging or prohibiting parental notification and involvement in critical decisions affecting a student’s mental, emotional, or physical well-being; providing construction; prohibiting classroom discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity in certain grade levels or in a specified manner; requiring certain training developed or provided by a school district to adhere to standards established by the Department of Education; requiring school districts to notify parents of healthcare services and provide parents the opportunity to consent or decline such services; providing that a specified parental consent does not wave certain parental rights; requiring school districts to provide parents with certain questionnaires or health screening forms and obtain parental permission before administering such questionnaires and forms; requiring school districts to adopt certain procedures for resolving specified parental concerns; requiring resolution within a specified timeframe; requiring the Commissioner of Education to appoint a special magistrate for unresolved concerns; providing requirements for the special magistrate; requiring the State Board of Education to approve or reject the special magistrate’s recommendation within specified timeframe; requiring school districts to bear the costs of the special magistrate; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules; providing requirements for such rules; authorizing a parent to bring an action against a school district to obtain a declaratory judgment that a school district procedure or practice violates certain provisions of law; providing for the additional award of injunctive relief, damages, and reasonable attorney fees and court costs to certain parents; requiring school district to adopt policies to notify parents of certain rights; pro-

viding construction; requiring the department to review and update, as necessary, specified materials by a certain date; providing an effective date.

—was read the second time by title.

Senator Farmer moved the following amendment which failed:

Amendment 1 (175814) (with title amendment)—Before line 61 insert:

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 1003.46, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.46 Health education; instruction in acquired immune deficiency syndrome.—

(2) Throughout instruction in acquired immune deficiency syndrome, sexually transmitted diseases, or health education, when such instruction and course material contains instruction in human sexuality, a school shall:

(a) Teach abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage as the expected standard for all school-age students while teaching the benefits of monogamous heterosexual marriage.

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete line 2 and insert: An act relating to education; amending s. 1003.46, F.S.; revising the requirements for certain health education instruction;

SENATOR BEAN PRESIDING

Senator Cruz moved the following amendment which failed:

Amendment 2 (907198)—Delete line 73 and insert: *student, regardless of their race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability. The procedures must reinforce the fundamental right of*

Senator Taddeo moved the following amendment which failed:

Amendment 3 (756788)—Delete line 81 and insert: *district, as required by s. 1002.22(2). This subparagraph does not limit or alter any obligation of school district personnel to report suspected abuse, abandonment, or neglect, as those terms are defined in s. 39.01.*

Senator Farmer moved the following amendment which failed:

Amendment 4 (421704) (with title amendment)—Delete lines 97-101.

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 21-23 and insert: providing construction;

Senator Polsky moved the following amendment which failed:

Amendment 5 (290096) (with title amendment)—Delete line 97 and insert:

3.a. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term:

(I) “Gender identity” means gender-related identity, appearance, or behavior, regardless of whether such gender-related identity, appearance, or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with an individual’s physiology or assigned sex at birth.

(II) “Sexual orientation” means an individual’s heterosexuality, homosexuality, or bisexuality.

b. Classroom instruction by school personnel or third

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete line 21 and insert: providing construction; defining terms; prohibiting classroom

Senator Jones moved the following amendment which failed:

Amendment 6 (201756) (with title amendment)—Delete lines 98-101 and insert:
parties intended to change a student’s sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur.

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 22-23 and insert: instruction intended to change a student’s sexual orientation or gender identity;

The vote was:

Yeas—16

Ausley	Farmer	Rouson
Berman	Gibson	Stewart
Book	Jones	Taddeo
Bracy	Pizzo	Torres
Brandes	Polsky	
Cruz	Powell	

Nays—22

Albritton	Diaz	Passidomo
Baxley	Gainer	Perry
Bean	Garcia	Rodriguez
Boyd	Gruters	Rodriguez
Bradley	Harrell	Stargel
Brodeur	Hooper	Wright
Broxson	Hutson	
Burgess	Mayfield	

Senator Brandes moved the following amendment:

Amendment 7 (973790) (with title amendment)—Delete line 98 and insert:
parties on human sexuality or sexual activity may not occur

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete line 22 and insert: discussion about human sexuality or sexual activity

Pursuant to Rule 7.1, there being no objection, consideration of the following late-filed amendment was allowed:

Senator Brandes moved the following substitute amendment which failed:

Substitute Amendment 8 (427586) (with title amendment)—Delete line 98 and insert:
parties on human sexuality, including, but not limited to, curricula addressing sexual activity, sexual orientation, or gender identity, may not occur

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete line 22 and insert: instruction on human sexuality

The question recurred on **Amendment 7 (973790)** which was withdrawn.

Senator Book moved the following amendment which failed:

Amendment 9 (755282) (with title amendment)—Delete line 101 and insert:
accordance with state standards. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term “classroom instruction” does not include instruction or discussion relating to any of the following:

- a. *Family structures.*
- b. *Objective historical events.*
- c. *Bullying prevention.*
- d. *A student’s individual education plan (IEP) or 504 plan.*

e. *Discussions between students.*

f. *Questions asked by students and any answer.*

And the title is amended as follows:

Between lines 23 and 24 insert: providing construction;

Senator Bracy moved the following amendment which failed:

Amendment 10 (734244) (with title amendment)—Delete line 101 and insert:
accordance with state standards. This subparagraph does not apply to any discussion between a student who identifies as transgender, gender nonconforming, non-binary, or otherwise LGBTQ+ and their peers.

And the title is amended as follows:

Between lines 23 and 24 insert: providing an exemption from such prohibition;

Senator Gibson moved the following amendment which failed:

Amendment 11 (538822) (with title amendment)—Delete lines 102-162 and insert:

4. *At the beginning of the school year, each school district shall notify parents of each health care service offered at their student’s school and the option to withhold consent or decline any specific service. Parental consent to a health care service does not waive the parent’s right to access his or her student’s educational or health records or to be notified about a change in his or her student’s services or monitoring as provided by this paragraph.*

5. *Before administering a student well-being questionnaire or health screening form to a student in kindergarten through grade 3, the school district must provide the questionnaire or health screening form to the parent and obtain the permission of the parent.*

6. *Each school district shall adopt procedures for a parent to notify the principal, or his or her designee, regarding concerns under this paragraph at his or her student’s school and the process for resolving those concerns within 7 calendar days after notification by the parent.*

a. *At a minimum, the procedures must require that within 30 days after notification by the parent that the concern remains unresolved, the school district must either resolve the concern or provide a statement of the reasons for not resolving the concern.*

b. *If a concern is not resolved by the school district, a parent may:*

(I) *Request the Commissioner of Education to appoint a special magistrate who is a member of The Florida Bar in good standing and who has at least 5 years’ experience in administrative law. The special magistrate shall determine facts relating to the dispute over the school district procedure or practice, consider information provided by the school district, and render a recommended decision for resolution to the State Board of Education within 30 days after receipt of the request by the parent. The State Board of Education must approve or reject the recommended decision at its next regularly scheduled meeting that is more than 7 calendar days and no more than 30 days after the date the recommended decision is transmitted. The costs of the special magistrate shall be borne by the school district. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules, including forms, necessary to implement this sub-sub-sub-paragraph.*

(II) *Bring an action against the school district to obtain a declaratory judgment that the school district procedure or practice violates this paragraph and seek injunctive relief. A court may award damages and shall award reasonable attorney fees and court costs to a parent who receives declaratory or injunctive relief.*

c. *Each school district shall adopt policies to notify parents of the procedures required under this subparagraph.*

d. *Nothing contained in this subparagraph shall be construed to abridge or alter rights of action or remedies in equity already existing under the common law or general law.*

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 24-56 and insert: requiring school districts to notify parents of health care services and provide parents the opportunity to consent or decline such services; providing that a specified parental consent does not waive certain parental rights; requiring school districts to provide parents with certain questionnaires or health screening forms and obtain parental permission before administering such questionnaires and forms; requiring school districts to adopt certain procedures for resolving specified parental concerns; requiring resolution within a specified timeframe; requiring the Commissioner of Education to appoint a special magistrate for unresolved concerns; providing requirements for the special magistrate; requiring the State Board of Education to approve or reject the special magistrate's recommendation within specified timeframe; requiring school districts to bear the costs of the special magistrate; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules; providing requirements for such rules; authorizing a parent to bring an action against a school district to obtain a declaratory judgment that a school district procedure or practice violates certain provisions of law; providing for the additional award of injunctive relief, damages, and reasonable attorney fees and court costs to certain parents; requiring school districts to adopt policies to notify parents of certain rights; providing construction; providing an

Senator Pizzo moved the following amendment which failed:

Amendment 12 (745072) (with title amendment)—Delete lines 130-151 and insert:

parent may request the Commissioner of Education to appoint a special magistrate who is a member of The Florida Bar in good standing and who has at least 5 years' experience in administrative law. The special magistrate shall determine facts relating to the dispute over the school district procedure or practice, consider information provided by the school district, and render a recommended decision for resolution to the State Board of Education within 30 days after receipt of the request by the parent. The State Board of Education must approve or reject the recommended decision at its next regularly scheduled meeting that is more than 7 calendar days and no more than 30 days after the date the recommended decision is transmitted. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules, including forms, necessary to implement this subparagraph.

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 43-52 and insert: timeframe; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules; providing requirements for such rules; requiring school

Senator Stewart moved the following amendment which failed:

Amendment 13 (486826) (with title amendment)—Delete line 151 and insert:

injunctive relief. A court shall award reasonable attorney fees and court costs to a school district that is found to have not violated this paragraph.

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete line 52 and insert: court costs to certain parents; providing for the award of reasonable attorney fees and court costs to certain school districts; requiring school

Senator Berman moved the following amendment which failed:

Amendment 14 (374376) (with title amendment)—Between lines 156 and 157 insert:

8. *To ensure that parents and legal guardians know how to discuss sexual orientation and gender identity with their children, the Department of Education, in consultation with Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), shall create a pamphlet focused on providing parents and legal guardians with information on how to talk to their children about sexual orientation and gender identity. The pamphlet must contain contact information for local LGBTQ+ focused organizations that can assist parents in preparing for such conversations. Each school district shall annually provide the pamphlet to parents and legal guardians and prominently display such pamphlets in the front office of schools within the district.*

And the title is amended as follows:

Between lines 54 and 55 insert: department, in consultation with specified organizations, to create a pamphlet; providing requirements for such pamphlet; requiring school districts to annually distribute such pamphlet to parents and legal guardians and to prominently display such pamphlets in a specified location in district schools; requiring the

MOTIONS

On motion by Senator Passidomo, the rules were waived and time of adjournment was extended until completion of today's order of business.

THE PRESIDENT PRESIDING

SENATOR PASSIDOMO PRESIDING

Pursuant to Rule 4.19, **CS for CS for HB 1557** was placed on the calendar of Bills on Third Reading.

SENATOR BEAN PRESIDING

Consideration of **CS for CS for SB 398** and **CS for CS for SB 1702** was deferred.

CS for CS for SB 1710—A bill to be entitled An act relating to guardianship data transparency; creating s. 744.2112, F.S.; requiring the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation and the clerks of court to establish a statewide database of guardianship data on or after a certain date; specifying requirements for the database; specifying database access restrictions; requiring the corporation to establish a webpage for certain purposes on or after a specified date; requiring the corporation to generate certain monthly reports; requiring that the webpage include a database meeting certain requirements; requiring the Office of Public and Professional Guardians to share certain data; requiring the corporation to generate certain reports at the request of certain entities; requiring the corporation to provide the Legislature with certain lists by a specified date; providing requirements for the corporation in developing such lists and in implementing data elements and databases; requiring the corporation to annually compile and submit certain data to the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA); requiring OPPAGA to conduct a certain analysis and submit annual reports to the Governor and the Legislature; specifying requirements for certain data and reports; amending s. 744.2001, F.S.; requiring the Office of Public and Professional Guardians to publish profiles of registered professional guardians on its website; specifying requirements for the profiles; authorizing the Department of Elderly Affairs to adopt rules; providing appropriations; providing an effective date.

—was read the second time by title.

Pending further consideration of **CS for CS for SB 1710**, pursuant to Rule 3.11(3), there being no objection, **CS for CS for CS for HB 1349** was withdrawn from the Committee on Rules.

On motion by Senator Bradley—

CS for CS for CS for HB 1349—A bill to be entitled An act relating to guardianship data transparency; creating s. 744.2112, F.S.; requiring the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation and the clerks of court to establish a statewide database of guardianship data; providing requirements for the database; requiring the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation to generate certain monthly statistical data reports with certain information; requiring the Department of Elderly Affairs to publish such reports on its website; requiring the database to be searchable by the public for certain information; prohibiting certain information from being accessible to the public in the database; requiring the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation to generate certain reports at the request of certain entities; requiring the Office of Public and Professional Guardians to share certain data; requiring the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation to compile and report

certain data to the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Governmental Accountability starting on a specified date and annually thereafter until a date certain; requiring certain data to be produced in a certain format; requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Governmental Accountability to analyze data and prepare reports containing certain information; requiring such reports be provided to the Governor and the Legislature by a date certain and annually thereafter until a date certain; providing requirements and prohibitions of such reports; amending s. 744.2001, F.S.; requiring the Office of Public and Professional Guardians to publish online profiles of registered professional guardians; requiring the online profiles to contain certain information; providing appropriations; providing an effective date.

—a companion measure, was substituted for **CS for CS for SB 1710** and read the second time by title.

Senator Bradley moved the following amendment:

Amendment 1 (488678) (with title amendment)—Delete lines 43-136 and insert:

(1) *The Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation and the clerks of court shall establish a statewide database of guardian and guardianship case information to facilitate improving court oversight of guardianship cases. The database may not be operational for end users until on or after July 1, 2023. The database must meet interoperability standards defined by the Florida Courts Technology Commission so that each circuit court can easily access the information for regular use in judicial proceedings under this chapter. The database must include, at a minimum, the following:*

- (a) *The registration status of each professional guardian.*
 - (b) *The substantiated disciplinary history of each professional guardian.*
 - (c) *The status of each guardian's compliance with the statutory qualifications for guardianship under s. 744.2003 or s. 744.3145.*
 - (d) *The status of statutorily required reports and submissions under chapter 744.*
- (2)(a) *Except as provided under paragraph (3)(b), the database shall be accessible only by members of the judiciary, their direct staff, and court personnel and clerks of court personnel authorized by a judge to assist with guardianship matters. The database must restrict access to the information necessary to perform such individual's duties, but in no way restrict access by judges or magistrates.*
- (b) *The database must be searchable by, at a minimum, the name of the petitioner, ward, guardian, and legal counsel for all parties; the demographic information of the ward; the location of the guardian's office; the name of the judge and the circuit in which the case is brought; and the number of wards served by each guardian, by ward county of residence.*

(3) *The Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation shall:*

- (a) *Upload certain professional guardian information from the database to a webpage accessible to the general public in a searchable format. Such professional guardian information must be limited to the names of professional guardians and current data regarding the number of wards served by each guardian, the counties of residence of such wards and the number of wards residing in each county, and whether the wards are under limited or plenary guardianships. Personal identifying information of wards may not be included in the data that is searchable under this paragraph.*
- (b) *Generate monthly reports of statewide, circuit-level, and county-level statistical data to provide assistance to the courts and the Department of Elderly Affairs and to provide transparency to the public and the Legislature regarding the state's guardianship system. The monthly reports shall include only aggregated and deidentified data. The Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation shall publish the statistical data reports monthly on the webpage under paragraph (a).*
- (c) *Generate reports using information in the database at the request of the Legislature, the judiciary, or the Department of Elderly Affairs.*

(4) *The Office of Public and Professional Guardians is directed to share professional guardian registration and disciplinary action information for the purposes of this section.*

(5)(a) *Beginning July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter through July 1, 2027, the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation must compile and report data collected by the clerks of court and the Department of Elderly Affairs and maintained in the database to the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA).*

(b) *OPPAGA must analyze the consolidated data compiled in accordance with paragraph (a) to evaluate trends in the use of guardianship in this state and to conduct a comparative analysis of guardianship laws in other states. OPPAGA must consult with the Office of the State Courts Administrator, the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation, the clerks of court, and the Department of Elderly Affairs during its analysis. OPPAGA shall submit a report containing its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by October 15, 2024, and annually thereafter through October 15, 2027.*

(c) *The data compiled and used for the reports required under this subsection must be produced in a statewide, circuit-level, and county-level statistical format. Such reports must include only aggregated and deidentified data and may not contain personal identifying information of wards.*

Section 2. Subsection (7) is added to section 744.2001, Florida Statutes, to read:

744.2001 Office of Public and Professional Guardians.—There is created the Office of Public and Professional Guardians within the Department of Elderly Affairs.

(7)(a) *On or after July 1, 2023, the Office of Public and Professional Guardians shall publish on its website a profile of each registered professional guardian. The profiles must be accessible and searchable by the public and must include, at a minimum, the following information:*

1. *The guardian's name and business address.*
 2. *Whether the guardian meets the education and bonding requirements under s. 744.2003.*
 3. *The number and type of substantiated complaints against the guardian.*
 4. *Any disciplinary actions taken by the Department of Elderly Affairs against the guardian.*
- (b) *The Department of Elderly Affairs may not populate the professional guardian profiles with information from the database established in s. 744.2112.*

(c) *The Department of Elderly Affairs may adopt rules*

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 7-35 and insert: database; specifying restrictions on accessing the database; specifying duties of the corporation relating to uploading certain database information to a certain website and generating and publishing certain reports; providing requirements for the website; requiring the Office of Public and Professional Guardians to share certain data; requiring the corporation to compile and report certain data to the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) at specified intervals; requiring certain data to be produced in a certain format; requiring OPPAGA to analyze data and prepare reports containing certain information; requiring such reports to be provided to the Governor and the Legislature at specified intervals; providing requirements and prohibitions of such reports; amending s. 744.2001, F.S.; requiring the office to publish online profiles of registered professional guardians on or after a certain date; requiring the online profiles to contain certain information; prohibiting the Department of Elderly Affairs from populating the profiles with certain information; authorizing the department to adopt rules; providing appropriations; providing an

Senator Bradley moved the following amendment to **Amendment 1 (488678)** which was adopted:

Amendment 1A (911786) (with title amendment)—Delete line 91 and insert:

(7)(a) *On or before July 1, 2023, the Office of Public and*

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete line 130 and insert: guardians on or before a certain date; requiring the

Amendment 1 (488678), as amended, was adopted.

On motion by Senator Bradley, by two-thirds vote, **CS for CS for CS for HB 1349**, as amended, was read the third time by title, passed, and certified to the House. The vote on passage was:

Yeas—35

Albritton	Cruz	Perry
Ausley	Diaz	Pizzo
Baxley	Farmer	Polsky
Bean	Gainer	Powell
Berman	Gibson	Rodrigues
Book	Gruters	Rodriguez
Boyd	Harrell	Rouson
Bracy	Hooper	Stewart
Bradley	Hutson	Taddeo
Brodeur	Jones	Torres
Broxson	Mayfield	Wright
Burgess	Passidomo	

Nays—None

Vote after roll call:

Yea—Mr. President, Brandes, Stargel

CS for SB 486—A bill to be entitled An act relating to money services businesses; amending s. 559.952, F.S.; revising exceptions to general laws and rules for licensees during the Financial Technology Sandbox period; amending s. 560.103, F.S.; revising definitions; defining the term “virtual currency”; amending s. 560.123, F.S.; revising the purpose of the Florida Control of Money Laundering in Money Services Business Act; revising the duties of money services businesses; revising civil and criminal penalties; amending s. 560.125, F.S.; revising criminal and civil penalties for certain violations relating to unlicensed activity involving money services businesses and deferred presentment providers; amending s. 560.204, F.S.; revising provisions related to certain prohibited activities without a license or an exemption; revising the definition of the term “compensation”; amending s. 560.208, F.S.; revising requirements for a money transmitter or payment instrument seller to conduct business; amending s. 560.2085, F.S.; revising requirements for written contracts between money transmitters or payment instrument sellers and authorized vendors; amending s. 560.210, F.S.; requiring money transmitters that receive virtual currency for specified purposes to hold a certain type and amount of virtual currency until the transmission obligation is completed; excluding such virtual currency in the calculation of permissible investments; amending s. 560.211, F.S.; revising recordkeeping requirements for money transmitters or payment instrument sellers; amending s. 560.212, F.S.; revising financial liability requirements for money transmitters or payment instrument sellers; providing an effective date.

—was read the second time by title.

Pending further consideration of **CS for SB 486**, pursuant to Rule 3.11(3), there being no objection, **CS for HB 273** was withdrawn from the Committee on Appropriations.

On motion by Senator Brodeur—

CS for HB 273—A bill to be entitled An act relating to money services businesses; amending s. 559.952, F.S.; revising exceptions for a licensee during the Financial Technology Sandbox period; amending s. 560.103, F.S.; revising and providing definitions; amending s. 560.123, F.S.; revising the purpose of the Florida Control of Money Laundering in Money Services Business Act; revising duties of money services businesses; revising provisions related to violations of money services

business activities and penalties for such violations; amending s. 560.125, F.S.; revising provisions related to violations of money services business activities and penalties for such violations; amending s. 560.204, F.S.; revising provisions related to certain prohibited activities without a license; revising the definition of the term “compensation”; amending s. 560.208, F.S.; revising requirements for a money transmitter or payment instrument seller to conduct business; amending s. 560.2085, F.S.; revising requirements for a written contract between a money transmitter or payment instrument seller and an authorized vendor; amending s. 560.210, F.S.; providing requirements for a money transmitter that receives virtual currency; excluding virtual currency in the calculation of permissible investments under certain circumstances; amending s. 560.211, F.S.; revising recordkeeping requirements for a money transmitter or payment instrument seller; amending s. 560.212, F.S.; revising financial liability requirements for a money transmitter or payment instrument seller; providing an effective date.

—a companion measure, was substituted for **CS for SB 486** and, by two-thirds vote, read the second time by title.

THE PRESIDENT PRESIDING

On motion by Senator Brodeur, by two-thirds vote, **CS for HB 273** was read the third time by title, passed, and certified to the House. The vote on passage was:

Yeas—35

Albritton	Cruz	Pizzo
Ausley	Diaz	Polsky
Baxley	Farmer	Powell
Bean	Gibson	Rodrigues
Berman	Gruters	Rodriguez
Book	Harrell	Rouson
Bracy	Hooper	Stargel
Bradley	Hutson	Stewart
Brandes	Jones	Taddeo
Brodeur	Mayfield	Torres
Broxson	Passidomo	Wright
Burgess	Perry	

Nays—1

Gainer

Vote after roll call:

Yea—Mr. President, Boyd

Nay to Yea—Gainer

MOTIONS RELATING TO COMMITTEE REFERENCE

On motion by Senator Passidomo, by two-thirds vote, **CS for CS for HB 1445** was withdrawn from the Committee on Appropriations.

MOTIONS

On motion by Senator Passidomo, the rules were waived and all bills temporarily postponed on the Special Order Calendar this day were retained on the Special Order Calendar.

BILLS ON SPECIAL ORDERS

Pursuant to Rule 4.17(1), the Rules Chair, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader submit the following bill to be placed on the Special Order Calendar for Monday, March 7, 2022: **CS for CS for HB 1557**.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Passidomo, Rules Chair
Debbie Mayfield, Majority Leader
Lauren Book, Minority Leader

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR AND OTHER EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

The Governor advised that he had filed with the Secretary of State **CS for SB 1006** which he approved on March 7, 2022.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FIRST READING

The Honorable Wilton Simpson, President

I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed CS/HB 273, as amended, and requests the concurrence of the Senate.

Jeff Takacs, Clerk

By Insurance & Banking Subcommittee and Representative(s) Aloupi, Benjamin, McFarland—

CS for HB 273—A bill to be entitled An act relating to money services businesses; amending s. 559.952, F.S.; revising exceptions for a licensee during the Financial Technology Sandbox period; amending s. 560.103, F.S.; revising and providing definitions; amending s. 560.123, F.S.; revising the purpose of the Florida Control of Money Laundering in Money Services Business Act; revising duties of money services businesses; revising provisions related to violations of money services business activities and penalties for such violations; amending s. 560.125, F.S.; revising provisions related to violations of money services business activities and penalties for such violations; amending s. 560.204, F.S.; revising provisions related to certain prohibited activities without a license; revising the definition of the term "compensation"; amending s. 560.208, F.S.; revising requirements for a money transmitter or payment instrument seller to conduct business; amending s. 560.2085, F.S.; revising requirements for a written contract between a money transmitter or payment instrument seller and an authorized vendor; amending s. 560.210, F.S.; providing requirements for a money transmitter that receives virtual currency; excluding virtual currency in the calculation of permissible investments under certain circumstances; amending s. 560.211, F.S.; revising recordkeeping requirements for a money transmitter or payment instrument seller; amending s. 560.212, F.S.; revising financial liability requirements for a money transmitter or payment instrument seller; providing an effective date.

—was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

RETURNING MESSAGES — FINAL ACTION

The Honorable Wilton Simpson, President

I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed SB 222.

Jeff Takacs, Clerk

The bill contained in the foregoing message was ordered enrolled.

The Honorable Wilton Simpson, President

I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed SB 454.

Jeff Takacs, Clerk

The bill contained in the foregoing message was ordered enrolled.

The Honorable Wilton Simpson, President

I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed CS/SB 566.

Jeff Takacs, Clerk

The bill contained in the foregoing message was ordered enrolled.

The Honorable Wilton Simpson, President

I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed SB 704.

Jeff Takacs, Clerk

The bill contained in the foregoing message was ordered enrolled.

The Honorable Wilton Simpson, President

I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed CS/CS/CS/SB 706.

Jeff Takacs, Clerk

The bill contained in the foregoing message was ordered enrolled.

The Honorable Wilton Simpson, President

I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed CS/SB 754.

Jeff Takacs, Clerk

The bill contained in the foregoing message was ordered enrolled.

The Honorable Wilton Simpson, President

I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed CS/SB 806.

Jeff Takacs, Clerk

The bill contained in the foregoing message was ordered enrolled.

The Honorable Wilton Simpson, President

I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed CS/CS/SB 882.

Jeff Takacs, Clerk

The bill contained in the foregoing message was ordered enrolled.

The Honorable Wilton Simpson, President

I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed SB 934 by the required constitutional two-thirds vote of the members voting.

Jeff Takacs, Clerk

The bill contained in the foregoing message was ordered enrolled.

The Honorable Wilton Simpson, President

I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed CS/SB 1046 by the required constitutional two-thirds vote of the members voting.

Jeff Takacs, Clerk

The bill contained in the foregoing message was ordered enrolled.

The Honorable Wilton Simpson, President

I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed CS/CS/SB 1062.

Jeff Takacs, Clerk

The bill contained in the foregoing message was ordered enrolled.

The Honorable Wilton Simpson, President

I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed CS/SB 1502.

Jeff Takacs, Clerk

The bill contained in the foregoing message was ordered enrolled.

The Honorable Wilton Simpson, President

I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed CS/SB 1526 by the required constitutional two-thirds vote of the members voting.

Jeff Takacs, Clerk

The bill contained in the foregoing message was ordered enrolled.

CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

The Journal of March 4 was corrected and approved.

CO-INTRODUCERS

Senators Bradley—CS for SB 1066; Broxson—CS for SB 7012

SENATE PAGES

March 7-11, 2022

Abby Andrasik, St. Petersburg; Jamal Black, Tallahassee; Macie Butcher, Jacksonville; Hannah Dyal, Macclenny; Jacqueline Fake, Palm Beach; Emmie Giles, Gulf Breeze; Davis Hattaway, Cocoa Beach; James Mauch, Green Cove Springs; Axiom McGlockton, Bristol; Matthew Mitchell, Middleburg; Melissa Naters, Palm Bay; Isabella Pence, Tallahassee; Christopher Ramsey, Alachua; Ashlyn Riley, Wesley Chapel; Danielle Storr, Orlando; Adrianna Suggs, Hosford; Maya Tang, Tallahassee; Cameron Temple, St. Petersburg; Gregory Wareham II, Tallahassee

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Senator Passidomo, the Senate adjourned at 7:55 p.m. for the purpose of holding committee meetings and conducting other Senate business to reconvene at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 8 or upon call of the President.