The Senate was called to order at 11:29 o’clock a.m., the President in the Chair.

THE CHAIR:

Ladies and gentlemen, if you would please come to order having been in recess for the veto session, I am now calling to order the July Special Session, so this is not déjà vu, but I am calling Reverend Benita Toussaint for our prayer. Reverend Toussaint.

ACTING CHAPLAIN BENITA TOUSSAINT:

Good afternoon to Honorable Senators, Lieutenant Governor, staff, and all our guests. May we bow our heads in reverence to the prayer. Thank you.

May the work that we do today benefit all those we serve and the people will say Amen.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Reverend Toussaint, and I’d like to invite Senator Maroney up to lead us in the Pledge.

SENATOR MARONEY (14TH):
[All] I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Maroney. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, does the Clerk have any business on his desk?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

The Clerk is in possession of Senate Agenda No. 1, dated Monday, July 22, 2019.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I move all items on Senate Agenda No. 1, dated July 22, 2019, be acted upon as indicated and the agenda be incorporated by reference into the Senate journal and the Senate transcript.

THE CHAIR:
So noted and so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Can we stand at ease for a moment?

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Would the Clerk please call House Joint Resolution No. 301?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution No. 301, resolution concerning the joint rules of the July Special Session 2019.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move adoption of the resolution.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. All in favor of adoption of the resolution, please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:


SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Will the Clerk now call House Joint Resolution No. 302?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution No. 302, resolution concerning the expenses of the July Special Session 2019.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
Thank you, Madam President. I move adoption of the resolution.

THE CHAIR:

All in favor of adoption of the resolution please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:


SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Will the Clerk please call House Joint Resolution 303?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution No. 303, resolution concerning the printing of the journals of the Senate and House of Representatives for the July Special Session 2019.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
Thank you, Madam President. Would the Clerk -- I’m sorry, I move adoption of the resolution.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. All in favor of adoption of the resolution please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:


SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Would the Clerk please call Senate Resolution No. 101?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Senate Resolution No. 101, resolution concerning the rules of the Senate for the July Special Session 2019.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.
SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I move adoption of the resolution.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. All in favor of adoption of the resolution please signify by saying aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:


SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move that we recess until the time where we come back.

THE CHAIR:

We are in recess. Thank you, Senator.

On motion of Senator Duff of the 25th, the Senate at 11:35 a.m. recessed.

The Senate reconvened at 12:43 p.m., the President in the Chair.

CLERK:
The Senate will reconvene in five minutes. The Senate will reconvene in five minutes. The Senate will reconvene in five minutes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I’d like to reconvene our July Special Session.

THE CHAIR:

And we are reconvened.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I have a number of items for our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Senate Agenda No. 1, I’d like to move Senate Bill 1201 to be placed on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So noted.
SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Calendar -- On Agenda No. 1, Senate Bill 1202 on our Consent Calendar, please.

THE CHAIR:

So noted.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Agenda No. 1, Senate Bill 1203 on our Consent Calendar, please.

THE CHAIR:

So noted.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Calendar -- On Agenda No. 1, Senate Bill 1204 on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So noted.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. On Agenda 1, Senate Bill 1205 on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So noted.
SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Agenda 1, Senate Bill 1206 on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So noted.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Agenda No. 1, Senate Bill 1207 on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So noted.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Agenda No. 1, Senate Bill 1208 on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So noted.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

On Agenda No. 1, Senate Bill 1209 on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So noted.
Thank you, Madam President. That is our Consent Calendar for the moment and if the Senate could stand at ease for a moment, please.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Would the Clerk list the items on our Consent Calendar followed by a vote on the Consent Calendar, please?

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, kindly call the Consent Calendar.

CLERK:

Consent Calendar No. 1, Senate Agenda No. 1, Senate Bill 1201. Senate Agenda No. 1, Senate Bill 1202, Senate Agenda No. 1, Senate Bill 1203, Senate Agenda No. 1, Senate Bill 1204, Senate Agenda 1, Senate Bill 1205, Senate Agenda No. 1, Senate Bill 1206, Senate Agenda No. 1, Senate Bill 1207, Senate Agenda No. 1, Senate Bill 1208, and Senate Agenda No. 1, Senate Bill 1209.
THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Kindly call the vote and the machine will be opened.

CLERK:

Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Consent Calendar No. 1. Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Consent Calendar No. 1. Immediate roll call vote in the Senate on Consent Calendar No. 1.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the senators voted? Have all the senators voted? The machine will be locked and Mr. Clerk, could you announce the tally.

CLERK:

On Consent Calendar No. 1;

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THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff. And I should note that the resolution passes. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Would the Clerk now please call on Agenda No, Senate Bill No. 1210.
Senate Agenda No. 1, Senate Bill No. 1210, AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS.

Senator Duff.

Thank you, Madam President. Would the Senate stand at ease for a moment?

The Senate will stand at ease.

Senator Duff.

Thank you, Madam President, Senator Fasano. President, I’d like to yield to Senator McCrory, please.

Senator McCrory, do you accept the yield, sir?
SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Absolutely, Madam President, and how are you today?

THE CHAIR:

Just peachy, Senator.

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Well, that’s a good thing to be. Madam President, I -- Madam President, I move passage of the emergency Senate Bill and seek leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on passage and please proceed to summarize, sir.

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Well, Madam President, it is an annual school building project bill that we’ve been working on all legislative session. It has a lot of great things in here for a number of communities to help them in their processes of building schools where our kids can function in a great capacity. What does this bill do? The bill authorizes eight new grant commitments for the school construction process and makes various changes to school construction law and grants -- and it exempts certain school construction projects from various statutory regulations. I move acceptance.

THE CHAIR:
Thank you, Senator. Will you remark further. Please proceed Senator.

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Madam President, Section 1 authorizes a school total of $160 million dollars for a project. Section 2 allows opening of assembly to submit comments and recommendations on a priority list of General Assembly School Construction Committee. Section 3 requires that any town or regional school district establish school building committees and include at least one member experienced in the construction industry and Section 4 and 5 changes the state grant reimbursement rates for diversity school construction projects from 80 percent of reasonable project costs to towns to 10 percent of average. I move -- I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator McCrory. Will you remark further? Senator Berthel, good afternoon, sir.

SENATOR BERTHEL (32ND):

Good afternoon, Madam President, how are you today?

THE CHAIR:

Very well, thank you.

SENATOR BERTHEL (32ND):

Great, thank you. Madam President, I would just add to the comments that the good Chair, my colleague Senator McCrory, spoke to. This was a bipartisan
effort. This, I believe, if I recall from our discussions, is one of the smallest construction packages we’ve done in a long time, so there’s some good things in this bill and I urge support and adoption. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Berthel. Will you remark further? Good afternoon, Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. I just have a couple of questions on the bill before us for the proponent of the bill, if I could through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Yes. Please proceed, sir, and Senator McCrory, prepare yourself.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. So I’m just looking through the bill and I understand the first couple of sections lay out the grants that are going to be approved and I certainly respect the comments from my colleagues about how this package is modest compared to ones in previous sessions and I appreciate that, given the circumstances in our state financially, but I do have some questions about Section 4 and Section 5 because I believe we’re making some changes here to the Diversity Grant Program and I would just like to understand exactly what’s happening, so lines 121 through 126, it appears that we’re removing language that would
provide reimbursement of 80 percent to schools that provide for -- apply and approved as diversity schools. Is that correct? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McCrory.

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Through you, Madam President. Yes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Sampson.

SENATOR SAMPSON (16TH):

Thank you, Madam President. So -- And if I go down to Section No. 5, it looks like the new policy is that schools that are approved as diversity schools will now receive a grant that is increased by 10 percentage points. Is that correct, also? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McCrory.

SENATOR MCCRORY (2ND):

Through you, Madam President. Yes, that’s absolutely correct.

THE CHAIR:
Thank you, Madam President, and I thank the gentleman for his answers to those questions. So let me just state for the record that I have some concerns about the way this is being approached. It seems to me that the 80 percent reimbursement that was offered was offered as an incentive for different school districts to be able to comply and create diversity school districts and the removing of that 80 percent seems to be a disincentive and to change it so that there is a replacement policy that just bumps somebody up 10 percent, the way this works from my understanding is that the wealthier the town might be, the lower they're going to be on the sliding scale for eligibility for this grant money, so take a town like Greenwich, for instance, they probably get none and a lot of smaller rural towns might get 10 percent, 20 percent, 30 percent.

Those towns currently would get 80 percent to set up a diversity school, a significant incentive that might make towns actually attempt to do that. This policy is going to tell those smaller towns that you're only going to be increased 10 percent. I don’t know if this is the right direction that we want to be headed. I don’t know anyone’s position on the subject of diversity schools, but if you think that’s a good idea, I don’t know how you could support this policy because this policy is a disincentive to increasing the Diversity School Program in the state and I just wanted that on the record. Thank you, Madam President.
Thank you, Senator Sampson. Will you remark further on the legislation before the Chamber? Will you remark further? If not, Mr. Clerk, if you would kindly call the vote and the machine will be opened.

CLERK:

Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill 1210, AN ACTING CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS. Immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Senate Bill 1210.

THE CHAIR:

Have all the senators voted? Have all the senators voted? If so, the machine will be locked and Mr. Clerk, kindly announce the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 1210.

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THE CHAIR:

The legislation is adopted. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):
Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move that we recess our July Special Session.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. So we are so recessed.

On motion of Senator Duff of the 25th, the Senate at 1:03 p.m. recessed.

The Senate reconvened at 2:01 p.m., Senator Looney of the 11th in the Chair.

CLERK:

The Senate will convene immediately. The Senate will convene immediately. The Senate will convene immediately.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will please come to order. The Senate will come to order. We are convening, once again, the July 2019 Special Session. Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. President. Mr. President, I move that the Special Session for 2019 end Sine Die -- of July end Sine Die.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Osten. The motion has been made of Sine Die. Seeing no opposition, the Senate will adjourn the July Special Session of 2019 Sine Die.
On the motion of Senator Osten of the 19th, the Senate at 2:02 p.m. adjourned Sine Die.