

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate September 23, 2021

HUGHES: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the ninth day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Special Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator Hilkemann. Please rise.

HILKEMANN: Thank you. Good morning. I want to give thanks for that "ten" day that we experienced yesterday and may be experiencing again today. Gave me a chance to walk around Zorinsky Lake, as I like to do, and I was listening to a sermon by Pastor Harold Hendren of the Covenant Methodist Church in The Villages. It lifted my spirits further and it's also the inspiration for this prayer. Let us pray. Dear Lord, thank you for every day, but the "ten" days restore our souls just when we need them most. Lord, I give thanks to the leadership of this body and to every member of the Redistricting Committee. They have been working tirelessly to reach agreement on really tough issues. I ask you to give them strength, wisdom, and discernment as they continue to deliberate. Lord, I give thanks for each of my colleagues. We knew this was going to be hard, but we didn't realize how difficult of an experience until we experienced it. For each of us, Lord, give us a spirit of cooperation, insight, and collegiality. Lord, to those we represent, it is a tough time too. There are about 2 million people who wonder why this is so hard. Lord help them to extend grace to each of us as we make our decisions and votes. Lord, in the First book of Thessalonians, Paul is writing to some very discouraged followers. The times were tough. Paul gave them some encouragement and essentially urges them, don't throw in the towel, and he reminds them, Lord, you are in control of all things. Lord, as we come to this weekend, this day, give us a sense that we can make these tough choices, help us not to throw in the towel. In your name we pray, Amen.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Hilkemann. Senator Linehan, I recognize you for the Pledge of Allegiance. Thank you, Senator Linehan. I call to order the ninth day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Special Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: There's a quorum present, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Are there any corrections to the Journal?

ASSISTANT CLERK: No corrections this morning.

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HUGHES: Thank you. Are there any messages, reports, or announcements?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Just one, Mr. President. Your Committee on Enrollment and Review reports LB14 to be placed on Select File. That's all I have at this time, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Speaker Hilgers, you're recognized for an announcement.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I wanted to give you a little bit of an update about where we were and where I anticipate the next 24 hours will go. First, I do want to thank the Redistricting Committee in particular yesterday, as well as all of the other members who worked with us and communicated with us about some of the issues that were-- have been presented in the various proposals and maps. I know the committee members worked throughout the day and late into the evening last night to try to incorporate the concerns and the issues that we had heard and to distill those into actual conflict points among the various different state-- stakeholder groups. So we did make a lot of progress yesterday and today. One of the reasons we don't have anything on the agenda today is in order to enable that-- that group and other senators to be able to continue to work throughout the day and make the most use of every hour that we have in the map room working together to try to see if we can reach an agreement to get these-- the congressional and legislative maps to a place where we can pass them. So what I would ask over the next 24 hours is a little flexibility in two respects. One is, just your own availability. As things change, as map lines or different proposals come out, I just want people to be available so that different-- you can be-- people can communicate with you and get your input so that's flexibility, number one. Flexibility number two would be in terms of the schedule and the agenda for tomorrow. I don't think that we will start at 9:00 tomorrow morning. I anticipate that we'll probably need a little bit more time. If indeed there is an agreement today, we will need more time to be able to socialize that and communicate that and we'll start probably later in the day. It could be as-- probably as early as 11:00, maybe as late as noon or one. But I would just ask for some flexibility for tomorrow. As I mentioned yesterday, it is my goal and intent if there is an agreement, there may not be, but if there is an agreement, which is all of our goal to be able to have that tomorrow rather than Saturday. We do, of course, have two other maps that are on General-- not on General File, I'm sorry, that are still in committee. I've had some questions about that, the Board of Education, the Regents maps. We will have those, but we're dealing with those after we have the congressional and legislative maps in a place where we can bring them to the floor. If there's not an

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agreement and that is not my intent about-- and I don't think that's where we're headed, we will still at some point have to bring a proposal to the floor for debate to give the body an opportunity, at least, to see if we can get something across the finish line before-- before Saturday. So right now, I do anticipate that we will be in session on Saturday. But the next 24 hours, as I said, will be very fluid and I appreciate everyone's flexibility. So if you have any questions, I think everyone yesterday was communicated with. It was pretty incredible the work of the committee. I think everyone was-- probably had multiple conversations about what was going on. If you feel for some reason you're out of the loop or you don't have any of your questions answered, please reach out to me or any member of the Redistricting Committee. We want to be as transparent and as communicative as we possibly can. So that's the update for today. There will be a lot of work going on and hopefully it will bear good fruit tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Speaker Hilgers. Mr. Clerk for items.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, the Exec Board will meet at 9:45 in Room 1525 in regards to LR29. Exec Board, 9:45, Room 1525. Additionally, there will be an Executive Session of the Eastern Service Area Child Welfare Contract Special Investigation and Oversight Committee, the LR29 Committee, on Friday, September 24, at 8:15 a.m. in Room 1510. LR29 Committee, September 24 at 8:15 in Room 1510. Finally, Mr. President, priority motion. Senator Dorn would move to adjourn the body until Friday, September 24, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

HUGHES: Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Additional item, Mr. President. The Redistricting Committee will meet upon adjournment in the Speaker's office; Redistricting Committee upon adjournment in the Speaker's office. Finally, priority motion from Senator Dorn. He would move to adjourn the body until Friday, September 24, 2021, at the call of the Speaker, tomorrow at the call of the Speaker.

HUGHES: Colleagues, you've all heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. We are adjourned.