

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Based on the lack of opposition to the override, I expect this to be fairly easy, but I've got a funny feeling that's not the case. Mr. President, members, this is one of two overrides that I've filed. The first one we took care of already, but this is a...I think when you look at the sheet of the overrides there are a number of programs that are very worthy and I intend to support some of those overrides on an individual basis when they come up. But I don't think that there is an override motion that is filed that is more important than this one, and it's not because I filed it. It's because of the number of people that it has the potential to impact and those are people who are students, students in the elementary and the secondary grades who happen to go to a school that we don't pay basically 100 percent of their tuition. That's the only difference. The difference is, is that we don't pay all the freight. And what this override motion would do is allow for 150,000, no more, it can never grow beyond that. Although this is a...what we would term an entitlement program, we cap it out. We cap it out by the amount of money that we appropriate so it can never go beyond whatever dollar limitation we put on it. I think it is an extremely worthwhile program to begin. We've had a long, arduous fight to get to this point and the dollar figure is not the important issue here. It clearly is not as other members have said. The issue here is recognizing that there are students who choose an alternative education opportunity. They choose that and they should have that right, but they should also have the right to have whatever educational materials are available to every other student in the state who goes to a public school and that's exactly what the textbook loan program does. It allows for them to have the same materials to work with that every other student in the state has available to them. I would urge you to override this veto. This is an important one.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is, shall the portion of 813 having to do with the textbook loan program be overridden? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 11 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to override that portion of the veto with respect to the textbook loan program.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries. May I introduce some guests in the north balcony please. We have 90 fourth grade students from