

May 24, 1989

LB 247A, 250

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Senator, if I understand you correctly then, you will take up your motion on LB 250?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, LB 250 is a bill that the Governor vetoed, and if you read her veto message, and I hope I can charitably paraphrase it, it sounded as though she was saying that she really agreed with everything that LB 250 said, she just preferred not to have it in the statute, which is a, you know, a philosophical position that I can respect. I think it's important to have it in the statute. Probably Senator Hall ought to be given part of the time to talk on this because it was originally his bill. He wasn't around yesterday when the message came down so I filed the override motion. It's a bill dealing with competencies in the area of human relations and that the teachers that teach our students ought to be competent in the areas of human relations. That was the main bill. The reason I'm insistent upon carrying the override motion, however, doesn't deal with the bill itself. It deals with an amendment that Senator Schimek was sneaky enough to get added to the bill on Select File. Was a bill that came to the Education Committee and the full bill did not get out of the committee, but her portion of it is a bill that really does need to pass because of the fact that we're going to be starting this new test for new teachers this fall and there are some quirks in that particular statute that need to be addressed this year and this is the bill that addressed those. So I am going to relinquish my time to Senator Schimek and I hope if she has some time left she will relinquish her time over to Senator Hall.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schimek, please.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. President and members of the body, I will be very brief. We have a requirement that teachers who are not already certified take what's called a preprofessional skills test and those tests are only given at certain times of the year. And if a school board hires a teacher in the summertime, particularly after July 1, there is a good chance that that teacher cannot receive certification as the statutes now stand because they haven't taken the test. And there is...there are several times during the year when the teacher can take the test, but if they're hired late enough in the session they cannot take it till August or October, and plus there's a waiting period after that then of anywhere from six weeks to