

SENATOR HUDKINS: I always wanted to do that. What happens if we don't override the veto? The result is the status quo. We will see continued litigation between the counties and DPI. Thus, we will spend the money that is in the A bill, but instead of spending it on the treatment of these individuals we will be spending it on attorneys to litigate the question of who pays and how much. If you think that this is really not going to happen let me assure you it's already happening. There are already three counties, Lancaster, Sarpy and Dodge, who are ready to file lawsuits for this very reason. Let me point out that this issue has been in litigation for about the last five to seven years in one form or another. Generally the result is that the cases are settled with the state ending up paying a substantial portion of the costs of maintenance and care as well as having the ongoing expense of paying for the lawyers to litigate the issue. With the override the question of who pays and how much is put to an end. The bill clearly sets out that the state and the county will each pay one-half of the costs of maintenance and care. To me it makes more sense to pay half of the costs up-front on treatment as opposed to paying for litigation and then settling and still ending up paying one-half or more of the costs. I would ask your support of this motion to override the Governor's vetoes on LB 256 and 256A. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President. Given what we are doing with the property tax, what we're doing with the schools, given what we're doing as a whole to limit services that can be offered through property tax levies by the local subdivisions, it seems only proper to settle this and help in one very small way the local counties to avoid this unexpected, sometimes devastating cost that can arise, especially small, less-populated counties with little property tax resource. This is a proper thing to do. I would ask you to help Carol and support this small pittance of an override to show that we are interested in helping those local subdivisions meet the constraints we are putting upon them. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Seeing no further lights, Senator Hudkins to close on the motion to override.