

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 878

on your motion to override.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body. I've had a sore throat for a few days and I guess the veto just did me in and so now I haven't got a voice, but I'm going to try to get...get through this. It's my intent on this motion to raise it to discuss some elements of the veto and some of the elements of the parts that weren't vetoed, and it's my intent to pull this motion, although we'll...we'll see how things go here and I'll make that decision a little later. First of all, I want to thank the members of the body and the Governor for your support of a large number of improvements that will happen with the YRTC's at Kearney and Geneva. These are long-overdue problems, they're serious problems. I appreciate the support of a number of members who took the time to tour those facilities, the rest of you, who have spent a lot of time educating yourselves about the issues of juvenile justice and why there are such critical needs that we need to be addressing at these facilities. Of course, I would have hoped that all the money stayed in the budget for this purpose and I will tell you why. The fact that we are going to have a facility master plan to address these needs is a very good first step and, as you know from the Governor's veto message, there are some very immediate safety and security needs at both facilities that need to be addressed that he is taking initial steps to address. Those deal with the automatic lock problem at some of these facilities and also some improvements to the Dunbar facility. He also makes a commitment in that message to begin looking at facility improvements once the plan is completed. As you know, from a previous discussion about the need for placements for chronic offenders with serious issues, that at that time and again I've been told that the goal is to have that facility plan completed before the next legislative session with a December target date. So we won't necessarily lose time, even though we lost some of the funding in this first year. We can come back next year with the results of that plan that will have some proposals for the body to consider next year to address some of these critical needs. What I passed out to you are some pieces of information that I thought were important to the discussion. One is that even though we're going to have a new facility master plan, the needs of these facilities have been out there for a long time. And those are issues that, on the green sheet,