

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

April 11, 2000 LB 1107

LB 1107. Those wishing to speak are Senators Chambers, Bohlke, Beutler, Tyson, and Kristensen. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this first attempt at a veto override puts me in a ticklish situation. I look at the types of vetoes that the Governor has handed down and I think they are inappropriate, many of them. We know that not just theoretically but actually the Governor can veto every bill that the Legislature enacts. The Governor has that power. But the mere fact that a power exists does not mean it ought to be utilized every time the opportunity presents itself. There must be discretion. There must be judgment. There must be an understanding of the concept of effective governance. Now, when vetoes are handed down, in my opinion, to teach lessons, to uphold one particular party to the detriment of the other party when, by doing so, large elements of the population are harmed, I think those are unwise, inappropriate vetoes. I'm not saying, remember, that the Governor does not have the power to do it. In my house, every time a bat flies in I have the power to kill that bat, but I have yet to kill one although I've captured many. I always take them outside and release them. So the point I'm making now with reference to Senator Wickersham's attempt is that were I to vote on the basis of whom I like the better I would vote to override in a minute, but on this one there is a policy issue involved. And I had argued the position all the way across the board on this bill. I was in opposition to it. I was opposed to what it was doing. When Senator Raikes offered an amendment that would mitigate the damage that the bill would have done in its original form I supported Senator Raikes' amendment to mitigate the damage, but I still spoke against and voted against LB 1107. I intend to continue in that posture. But, as the afternoon goes on, I will make some comments about the prerogatives of this Legislature. I am strongly tempted to vote for every override simply because the Legislature, at some point, has to take hold of those prerogatives that we have as a coequal branch of this tripartite government. We have not done that. That is why when you look at this list of vetoes you see the types of bills that were struck down by the Governor. It's like telling you, I will stretch forth my powerful arm from the north side of the building and command everything that happens in the Legislative Chamber, except where Ernie Chambers is involved, but we all