

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

April 11, 2000 LB 652

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Thompson would move that LB 652 become law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Thompson, to open on your motion to override.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I urge you to override the Governor's veto of LB 652. I'm going to present a number of reasons to do that and I know there will be some discussion on it. Do wish to point out to the body that we have spent many years on this topic. In fact, my first session of the Legislature we were discussing this topic and the decision was made then to create a task force that would examine the juvenile justice system in Nebraska, and one of the tasks for the task force was to look at the issue which is part of LB 652 of judges making appointments or judges placing juveniles in out-of-home placements at the cost to county government; not placing them with the state when they needed to be in out-of-home placements. And that task force examined that issue and made a recommendation, and I'm only going to pass out one piece of paper to you today. As you know, I have a tendency to give you a lot of information but you've received a lot of information on this bill. We've spent probably eight to ten hours the last two years discussing this bill. We have been through the merits of the bill. And I go back to the fact that the task force recommended a solution to this problem and after that recommendation a bill was introduced, was heard by the Judiciary Committee. We met numerous times with the Department of Health and Human Services. Even though they were not in...necessarily in support of the bill, they helped develop the bill. We amended it with their recommendations to make it operational for them and that's what you have before you today. I believe it is time for us to move forward on this issue. It doesn't need more time for study. We have done that. We have the report that you all received last year. We also have the juvenile services plan that was financed last year through the budget that \$100,000 was budgeted for this purpose and we also have a copy of that. I think the time for study is over and the time for delay is over. This bill has passed three rounds. It passed with significant support so, as we talk about the merits of the bill and the merits of the