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LB 652

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Bromm. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I thought I was a ways down the line yet. This bill has probably caused me more difficulty, Senator Thompson, than any other bill on the override list here, and it's because I know how...how sincere the need is and how hard that you have worked and others to try to find some solutions, Senator Dwite Pedersen articulated that as well. And so that is why, in trying to do the right thing, it is very, very difficult. On the other side of the coin, and I should mention also that I've heard from some county board people that also would encourage me to support the override, and that also adds to the difficulty because I know they're trying to do the right thing as well. The things that come down to helping with my decision here are, and this is sort of a two-edged sword, but knowing that this bill has a delayed effective date, and I know there's a reason for that, we probably wouldn't be here if you didn't have that, but we will have another legislative session to review the work and the proposal that you have. I am told by people in the health and human services area that there will be an intense effort to do what can be done administratively yet this year with some of these placements and costs. The property tax relief that this bill would bring about is significant for some counties, and for that I am also sympathetic. We are doing several things, however, this session, and I would point out again that it is a short session off year, not a budget-setting session. We're doing several things, not only to pump money out to try to provide property tax relief, or at least keep property taxes from going up, but it is in this kind of year that I think we have to be terribly careful about initiating future permanent expenditures that are going to be going on and on and on. It is for those reasons that I come to the very difficult decision that I will not support the override on this bill. But I do hope that we can be presented with an option in the next session, at the beginning of a biennium budget, that we can lay along side with other priorities and see where the administration has gotten with what they can do to help with some of the juvenile placements and those decisions, and hopefully we can find some solution. I think had we not had some of the unforeseen deficit demands, that this bill would