

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

April 11, 2000 LB 717

this time, Senator Suttle? Thank you. Mr. President, Senator Preister would move that LB 717 become law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Preister, you're recognized on your motion to override.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President. Members of the body, I rise to introduce this override motion to you on LB 717 which, as you'll recall, is the money that goes to the Local Emergency Planning Committees so that they can create emergency plans at the local level. As you'll recall, this is an unfunded federal mandate, in effect. Federal legislation was passed in 1986 that created the LEPCs. There has been no federal money, there has been no state money, and at this time I have asked for, and this body, by a vote of 43 to 0, on Final Reading, decided that, yes, in fact this \$150,000, which does have a sunset, this is only seed money, it's \$150,000 for three years to be divided up across the state for the Local Emergency Planning Committees. It would amount to just over \$2,000 for each of these committees. That's just barely enough to be able to make some copies and do some data entry to create emergency evacuation plans. I've given you a handout that has some information about it. In that handout it talks about the importance of this money. There is no other source that I have been able to identify. This is not an issue that I brought just this year. I have been working on it for five years; the committee has, in the past, killed bills that I have introduced because they said it was the wrong way to fund it. I have tried, through the interim studies, to come up with alternatives. I have worked with the business community, I have worked with everyone who I could get to possibly attend monthly meetings that brought together a host of different people. So, at this point, I've run out of options. I'm told that there are other sources, but if anybody has other sources of money, I wish they would tell me where they are, because I have certainly sought out and unsuccessfully come up with them. So this is a last resort. We've had the debate about who should pay. And, although we may have disagreement on who should pay, at this point nobody is paying. We really need to put in place emergency plans before we have catastrophes, before we have hazardous material incidents that potentially take life and