

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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April 11, 2000 LB 480

making. You remember we voted for it on General File last year and it only had 24 votes, it did not advance, so then we brought it back this year and you advanced it on General File, to Select, to Final. And we have had intense debate on it, and I would just like to go over with you some reasons why you should vote for this override. And I want to tell you that this is a guilt-free override, because there is no override of money on this particular motion. The Governor vetoed some of the funds out...most of the funds, I should say, out of the A bill. He left \$10,000 to \$30,000, \$10,000 for this year, \$30,000 for next year to establish the fund, but the rest for staff and everything is gone, and I am willing to let that go. But reason number one, in his veto message, the Governor stated that LB 480 creates a new division of government and that it is additional money spent on administration. First of all, LB 480 does not create a new division of government, in fact we were very careful about not establishing an office. It is called an initiative and it is under the umbrella of the Health Department. The bill places into law a focus and attention on women's health issues that have been lacking. It provides direction and it seeks cooperation in a public-private partnership. Reason number two, in discussion with the Governor's staff concern was raised about creating another commission. And I just gave you a handout a few minutes ago which shows at least 15 other boards and commissions that have been created this year. And there could be more, this was...these were the only ones that we signed. How many have sustained a veto? Only one has actually been vetoed, many have already been signed, the rest are in Final Reading and we didn't have the outcome of those. But you know my record in this area. My record is that I think we need to get rid of the superfluous boards and commissions, the ones that are no longer useful. And in fact I agreed to an amendment on, I think it was Select File, Senator Stuhr, to sunset the commission, that is in this bill, after four years. If you look at this, and I think this is a good chart to have, whether we're discussing this bill or not, you can see there were a number we put sunsets on this year, but there were a number that we didn't. And I think we all need to be more cognizant of doing that more often. Most of these boards and commissions serve a smaller segment of population. The...LB 480 does have the largest advisory council, but we have a complex, multifaceted kind of health issue here that we really