

to bring you up on this, this is a motion to override the Governor's veto of \$600,000 from money designated in LB 991 for the purpose of equalizing salaries of probation officers with other persons in state government having similar responsibilities, similar duties. We did discuss this a little bit at Select File. Senator Pedersen discussed it a little bit earlier this afternoon when we were talking about the youth crime bill, and I guess now we are getting down to the question of whether this is going to be a priority for this Legislature or not. And I think to start off, I will just state this, that I think we know where we are talking, I know the Governor's Office has been working the lobby very strongly. There has been a little bit of information I want to make sure that we have clear. There are the indications, that I am sure most of us have heard, that we are put in a position that, at least it has been indicated that any overrides would come out of developmental disabilities money. I think there is also, if I read the paper correctly, that there is some indication that the judges, additional judges, and LB 903 would also be, I guess, somewhat held hostage. I can state, at least my personal opinion, for me this would be the...a priority. For me this would have priority, at least to this extent over the other two items. I have always been a supporter of developmental disabilities. I will continue to be a supporter to developmental disabilities, but I think the developmental disabilities money that came in was actually, as it stands right now, or at least as it was sent to the Governor, is pretty well in excess of what was actually requested for this, when it was first introduced, or at least when they were first talking about it. And I must say I am uncomfortable standing here if, in fact, that's the Governor's plan is to reduce the DD money. I am a little bit uncomfortable arguing for reduction in that area, but the fact is we are dealing with a situation in the Probation Department that I don't think we realize how serious it is, and I guess at this point I would remind you of what that is. Probation officers right now, as a matter of fact, an hour ago I just talked to two probation officers who came down here because they are interested in this. One of them, they both have college degrees, they both have been working in a probation system for five years with college degrees. One has three children, one has two children, and we pay them enough, these people who supervise the criminals that we talk about on this floor for the entire session, and we pay them enough that they can qualify for food stamps. We have probation officers who are making a lot less than the people they are supervising. We have