

Hefner, there is no way a Legislature can be more up front than by enacting legislation. The approach that would be not up front is to try to shunt our responsibility off to the voters and require them to vote on that which may not require a vote of the public. This final point, the Constitution has never stated anywhere that the compensation for senators will be established by virtue of the vote of the people. It does not say that. So when people say that is the only way you can deal with this issue, they are giving an opinion, but they are not citing words from the Constitution. We passed a bill increasing the salary for various state officials. They knew the amount that they would receive when they first ran for the office. Employees knew the salary when they first hired on, but nevertheless, people receive incremental wages, raises and expect that. The Governor has said, and stuck to his word, he would not touch the raises given to the employees. So he is not opposed to people receiving additional compensation. The Legislature is not opposed to granting it. This form of deferred compensation is an issue that requires resolution by the court and the purpose of this bill is to obtain a court test in the same way we obtained one on the expenses. So I am asking that you will vote to override. We have the same people here who voted to pass this bill, 25 of us. Five additional senators have said they will vote to support it. That equals the 30 votes. So I am hoping that those 25 on this list, the final vote...I'm not going to read it, Senator Pappas, will stick by that vote because you have taken the heat and all of the negative editorials already. So you may as well reap the fruits of that hard work that has been done up to this point and allow us to finish this journey, and I promise you that I will see to it that we get a court test on this proposition. So I am asking that you vote to override the Governor's veto.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Question.

PRESIDENT: Objection. I think...Senator Hefner, if you wish to speak, you may. Senator Hall, if you do not wish to speak, Senator Pappas, if you do not wish to speak, Senator Hefner is next in line. And then the speaking order is Senator DeCamp, Harris, Barrett and Withem. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I commend the Governor for vetoing this bill. For one reason, it's unconstitutional. Another reason, we haven't had a public