

at Scottsbluff, one each at Agate and Homestead. I want to tell you just a little bit about the ranger training because we are giving these people authority to enforce our criminal statutes. To be a commissioned ranger and it deals only with these four commissioned rangers, they have to complete 400 hours of training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center at Glencove, Georgia. Four hundred hours, equivalent to 10 weeks full time training. I think you would agree that is equal to or surpasses that that we require in Nebraska at our Law Enforcement Training Center. The reason they are pushing for this is that it would be an asset for rural areas. It would allow some people to enforce their laws on their federal lands again, these four rangers in a rural area. For example, one of the examples that they gave to me is down at Homestead National Monument, should they see a locked car and a person trying to break into a locked car at night, they would have no arresting authority and they would have no choice but to call for a deputy sheriff and however...or a state trooper and however long it might take for them to get there to try to apprehend that person that is breaking into that car. A little better example, I think, is that by policy they have alarm systems in all of their buildings on these monuments and by policy they cannot enter a building with an alarm system going off unless they have someone with arresting authority and they, of course, do not have arresting authority so if you can visualize in Senator Scofield's District at Agate Fossil Beds where they have several buildings full of very valuable things that they have dug from the fossil beds, if the alarm system goes off at night, they have no authority to go into that building. They have no choice but to call for a deputy sheriff in Sioux County or whatever that county might happen to be and it might literally be an hour or two hours before the law enforcement officer with arresting authority can get there. So this would expand that arresting authority on these federal monument areas only to these four commissioned park rangers that have completed this 400 hours of training in Glencove, Georgia. Again, I would reiterate, it was an interim study because the bill was introduced last year. The county attorneys in these three counties involved had some question about this and wanted to take a closer look at it so it was held over for an interim study. As I understand, that was completed. The county attorneys withdrew any questions they might have had and there was no opposition at the committee hearing. And that is about it really. It is a rather simple bill. I would be happy to