

project for a state agency. Under...with LB 257 what we would be doing is we would be saying that any project that is less than \$15,000 there would not be a requirement for that bond. The agency could request a bond, but we would not have...that would not be a requirement for a bond. The reason for this is that a number of the small contractors have felt that the fact that we had to have a bond for these small projects precluded them from bidding on the projects because the bonds cost them too much and they simply could not bid on these small projects. There was...and the one change that we made, too, is this new exemption language. The original statute reads that any state agency or political subdivision must have this bond. This new exemption language only applies to state agencies. We are going to have a couple of bills that are going to be heard by the Government Committee a little later on, from Senator Pirsch and also from Senator Scofield. We'll deal with the political subdivisions, because they want some of these same kind of requirements for political subdivisions. Those bills...we talked about it in committee as to whether we ought to just amend this in, because there was a lot of sentiment to do that. But my suggestion was that we wait until those bills are heard at least, have their hearing, and then we can come back and we can possibly hold this bill up on Select, or whatever, and then just amend that process into it. But I think we ought to have the hearing process before we do that. So, that is what we decided to do as a committee. It also talks about, it also tends to make some agency-to-agency kind of things more consistent, because in the original statute only DPI and Department of Corrections were under some of the language that deals with this. Now this says that all state agencies will be under these bonding requirements, not just those two. It also takes all of the administrative and rule making authority and puts it under DAS as far as advertising for bids, and takes out the language that DPI and Department of Corrections had for making bids...for advertising bids for their projects. The committee amendments, we'll get to those now, the committee amendments are simply...there was some language that was inadvertently stricken in the drafting process. So what we need to do is we need to reinstate that language, because the language will then require that all bids, that all bids be accompanied by a certified check or a bid bond and that language was inadvertently stricken and we didn't want to strike that language. So the committee amendments would simply put that language back into the statute that was stricken. With that, I'd answer questions and, if there are none, I'd urge the