

across the board. Basically, the bill has two major things in it and the first thing that is in it, and these are mandated changes, it increases the benefits that are payable to individuals, businesses, farms and other entities displaced by publicly financed projects. It increases those. I will talk about the increases here in a little bit as I go through a short section by section analysis of the bill. But that's one of the major changes it makes. The second is...the second major change, it establishes the Department of Roads as the lead agency for purposes of relocation assistance statutes. This is very similar to what the feds did because, on the federal level, the Federal Highway Administration serves as the lead agency for all federal projects. This just follows along with theirs. This is not...the fact that we're making them the lead agency is not federally mandated. You do not have to do that. This was a policy decision by the Government Committee saying that we needed to do that and the Department of Roads was the one to be the lead agency because they are the so-called expert in this area because they use the relocation assistance laws much more than any other agency. So that the Department of Roads would be the one that would be setting all of the rules and regulations for all of the other agencies in dealing with relocation assistance. They are to confer with those other agencies when they are making these rules and regs but they do have the final rule and reg making authority as far as these go. There was...at the public hearing of the bill there was no opposition to LB 254 and there were...the State Department of Roads and a number of people came in and testified. We have made...the results of the bill and Cynthia's work all summer were given to all the state agencies. They are well aware of what we're doing here and we had no comment back that they did not desire this to happen. So I think it's fairly well acceptable to all of the state agencies. Okay, I'm going to just highlight a few of the major aspects of the bill. Section 4...and I will tell you whether or not these are federally mandated, these changes. Section 4 is a federally mandated change. And what it does is it changes the definition of "agency". "Agency", under current statute in Nebraska, only applies to strictly governmental projects for relocation assistance. This one, the agency definition is expanded now this says that any project carried out by a private entity, which is receiving any kind of public funding, will also fall under this. So the change is going from strictly governmental to having both strictly governmental and private projects that have public funding. Those are both described under "agency" in Section 4. Section 8 is another