

30 days. If we had had...if there had been problems with the bill that passed with 33 votes last year, it would seem to me that those individuals who were concerned about those problems would have brought those to me at some point in the interim. But let me just go over generally what the bill does and I'm going to start...talk about the two general categories of the bill now and I would be happy to answer any questions. But, first of all, you all know about the problem of the deep pocket and the deep pocket problem is...arises out of a case where there are two or three or four, more than one defendant in a case and the plaintiff obtains a judgment against...for the amount that he is plaintiff, let's say a \$100,000, and let's say there are two defendants in this case. One of the defendants has no assets and let's suggest that both those defendants are 50 percent responsible for one-half of the \$100,000. But under the law as it is now, the plaintiff can look to any...each of the two defendants, any of the two defendants for the whole \$100,000 amount and then the plaintiff can choose in most cases the deep pocket or the defendant that has more assets or greater insurance coverage and then it's incumbent upon that defendant who pays the whole amount of a judgment to then go back and try to collect from the other defendant that has no assets. And this has been a significant problem for the defense area, for the insurance industry and for others who are forced to go back and try to collect an amount of 100 percent of a judgment from another defendant in what's called in the law contribution. We changed that system in this bill at the request of the insurance industry and the business community. And what we have done is said that the plaintiff...if the plaintiff is negligent, if the plaintiff has a degree of fault of let's say even 1 percent, and that's not much negligence, if the plaintiff has any negligence at all, the plaintiff can only recover against a particular defendant damages equal to the fault attributed to that defendant. If you have a 30 percent defendant, the plaintiff can recover 30 percent of \$100,000 or \$30,000. All right, now the idea there is to amend joint and several liability to make joint and several liability in ninety...in 99 percent of the cases joint and several liability is abolished. Don't let anybody out there tell you that joint and several liability is not abolished. It is abolished. It is abolished. There...we made a policy judgment in the committee last year on 1178 and it was carried forward this year that if the plaintiff has no negligence at all, which is a rare case, if the plaintiff has no negligence at all, then the plaintiff can go back against any defendant, okay, against any defendant, can choose the