

is in the definition of burial goods. LB 340, as it is drafted, would require the reburial of any remains and burial goods which can reasonably be linked to a specific tribe, and what the committee amendment does is it narrows this even further, and you have to...the burial goods that would be returned under this amendment would be only those that can be specifically tribally identifiable with a disinterred dead person. So that means that they would have to be able to identify these goods as belonging to a specific skeletal remain. This narrows the scope of the bill very, very dramatically. I think...there has been a packet handed out. I think if you will look at some of the history of what has gone on with this bill since it was first introduced as LB 612, you will find that as we have gone through the process, the tribal representatives have made numerous concessions in to what burial goods would go back. Under 612, as originally written, all burial goods would go back. Then they narrowed it down a little bit until it was tribally identifiable. Now the committee amendment narrows it even further, down to it has to be identifiable with a specific skeletal remain. I think this is a key factor in the bill, and a key factor in the committee amendments. According to the research that Dr. Svingen has done for the Native American Rights Fund, the numbers that would have to be returned would be about 1,054 nonbead burial items. That is all that would have to be returned under LB 340 as amended. I think we will talk about some of the other numbers that you have been seeing and some of the other lists that you have been seeing that have been put out by the Historical Society, and we will talk about those, I think, after we do the committee amendments. So with that, I would be very happy to try and answer any questions that you have about the committee amendments, and to explain them further if we need to, but I would just urge the adoption of the amendments, and then we can proceed with the debate on the bill, and some of the history surrounding the issues that have gone on with the bill. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Elmer and Senator Schmit. Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I hope that on this bill we will have a thorough discussion of all aspects of it. Anybody who has a question, I hope will feel free to ask that question so that we can have a complete record of what it is we are doing. Nothing in this bill should be gotten past the Legislature by means of