

were more restrictive than we had anticipated. So the rules and regs came forward in implementing that law and caused quite a stir, and we did spend an interim study in the Health and Human Services Committee looking at the issue. Senator Hannibal had anticipated the problems and introduced a bill prior to the rules and regs coming out and, of course, he was a little ahead of his time. We were able to follow up, though, on his initiative in examining the issue, and we did hold an interim study hearing in September where a number of different individuals came forward with criticisms and concerns but, essentially, it was the Health Department, themselves, that came forward with this bill proposing changes in the original statute, which would, on the one hand, protect still the public, and at the same time ease up the restrictions that had caused so much concern. The changes in the bill, let me go through that real quickly, and then I'd go to the amendment, the changes that are proposed in the bill first deal with the question of residential property owners. If you are a homeowner or own residential property of four or fewer units, you would be exempted from having to comply with this act. This would allow the homeowner to work on their own home, or the rental unit owner, for instance, a duplex owner from working on their duplex without having to comply with these acts, the concept being that it is their own residence and we rarely interfere in residential activities of that sort. But that would be exempted and, secondly, the definition of friable would be changed to more closely resemble the federal definition, and this definitional change, which I can get into more later, would essentially deal with the flooring and roofing problem that we have had in the state. In addition for those small projects, businesses could perform asbestos projects of less than 260 linear feet, or 160 square feet and linear feet in any combination would be exempted from getting a license. And Senator Korshoj came up earlier, that is the license that costs something like \$3,500 to get and you wouldn't have to get that license any longer under this original bill, but we found that in addition to that exemption, there was a concern, particularly among telecommunications companies, they do a lot of stringing of wire in areas, so they would almost always fall under the 260 linear feet or 160 square feet provision on the license, but they would still have the training and project approval hoops to jump through for their projects, and it was felt that with OSHA standards and other restrictions that they have that it was unnecessary to continue to include them in that provision. And so for those smaller projects that they have, they would no