

have been identified on the asbestos issue have been roofing and flooring and this bill would primarily deal with those issues. For those roofers and flooring individuals that have in the past had to have a license to comply with the provisions of the bill, if they will follow the cautionary measures in removing roofing materials and take...removing them and not just dropping them on the ground, having them stacked, and then covered, and then transported in that fashion, they will not have to go through all of the different restrictions that the bill would have. If, however, roofing contractors should be not careful, if they should be careless, then there could be intervention by the Health Department to try and protect the public and the workers involved. But as long as they don't break and crack up the roofing material, they would not be burdened by this act any longer. For flooring material, similarly for those that remove flooring materials and do so in a careful fashion, they would be exempted from this act under the definition of friable asbestos, but if they are not careful and if they crack up the tile and if they pulverize the tile, they would then fall under the act and the Health Department could intervene. And so we are trying to balance off the need to not have overly restrictive legislation but at the same time recognize that not handling asbestos carefully can be very dangerous and we think that the bill in its current form does balance off those interests. The smaller project exemptions recognize again that there are many small businesses out there with small projects that simply are terribly burdened right now by the system that we have put in place. Those smaller projects would be exempted from the licensure fee, but there would still be for the most part training and other types of restrictions to protect individuals. In one form or another, I think most everybody involved with asbestos will have some sort of training requirements. And so with those sort of protections, we think that we ease up enough to deal with the overly burdensome regulatory aspects of the bill, yet still have enough protections for the public and the workers. And so with that, we think the bill in its current form is a balancing act that needs to move forward quickly, and we look forward to support from the Legislature to advance the bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, please, followed by Senator Hannibal, Schmit, and Hefner.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, Senator Wesely has done a very good job in explaining the bill. I was