

member. The second thing that LB 1221 does is it allows the city council and the mayor to remove one of the functions of the Omaha Plumbing Board from the plumbing board and place it into a new board. And while the bill doesn't specifically say what the new board's name would be, the intention of the bill was to place the function...one of the functions with the Building Board of Review in the City of Omaha. The function that we're talking about is one of three functions that the plumbing board does serve right now. Those three functions basically are the examination and licensing of plumbers to do...perform work in the City of Omaha. Number two, the plumbing board has the ability to grant variances and variances are exceptions to the existing plumbing codes that the plumbing board has somebody come to them, request a variance, a change in exemption from a specific plumbing code for a specific project, the plumbing board has the ability to do that. The third thing that the plumbing board does is promulgate rules, regulations, codes, et cetera dealing with what kinds of plumbing materials can be used, what kind of methods can be used, and what kind of procedures are followed when you are installing plumbing in construction in the City of Omaha. LB 1221 would...allow the city council and the mayor to remove that function at their option and place that effectively with the Omaha Building Board of Review. Those are the, basically, the two things that the...that LB 1221 does. It expands the plumbing board by two members, adds a member that is a mechanical engineer and an architect, and it allows the city council and the mayor to move the function of setting the codes to the Building Board of Review as opposed to leaving it in the plumbing board right now. Now why...why do we want to do these things? The issue is one of trying to bring more people onto the plumbing board that are not quite as specifically involved in the plumbing industry. Bring them...they would be involved with the building industry but they wouldn't be involved in specifically the plumbing industry. So the board would be expanded to seven members. I would like at this point to suggest that rather than going into arguments for and against the bill, and I am sure we will have plenty of time to talk about it, I am sure you will hear some, but I do have an amendment that we did offer to the Urban Affairs Committee that was a technical and clarifying amendment that the committee, when they passed it out, did not adopt, and I don't think that it is an amendment that is considered controversial. It is strictly a clerical and kind of a technical and clarifying amendment, and I would like to cease my opening at this point and be able to move that amendment, and