

on them in the year before. And LB 95 is such a bill. We didn't get a chance to get to it last year and so it's up now. As the Clerk indicated, this is a bill that refers to our probate system. For those of you familiar with how an estate is managed, there are four basic steps that you do in the probating of an estate. The first thing that you do is to collect all the assets of the decedent. The second thing that you do is to collect all the debts that the decedent has and this can include some of the contracts that a person signed while living and then dies without completing. For example, if you sign a contract to buy a car and you're going to pay that car off over two years of payments and you die one year into the contract, that contract survives. And to the extent that you have an estate, your estate has to pay off the last year of those installment payments before the car is actually part of the estate of the decedent. So you first collect the assets; secondly, you collect the debts; third, you pay off the debts and then, lastly, you distribute whatever is left. Part of that second stage in determining what the debts are is to tell all the creditors to make their claims to the person who is managing the probate. Now we do that, hopefully, in one of two ways. First, we write to all of the known creditors and say, provide a copy of the debt that is owed to you by the dead person, by the decedent and, secondly, to anybody that we don't know that is out there we publish a claim that says, and we do it I think about three times in one of those tiny, little published notices that says, so and so has died, we're probating their will, it is time to provide any bills that you have to the personal representative for payment. Well, our Uniform Probate Code passed into law a system for letting these creditors know when to make their claims. In doing so, we made a slight error. The error that we made was to use this publication method for unknown creditors, but without a stopgap provision that should be in there. And the stopgap provision says, where you know the creditor exists, send them a copy of the publication or send them a notice that there is a probate. Our Supreme Court recently, in examining that statute, upheld its application without picking up the old law, without picking up a reference to a second section of law and that is what LB 95 cures. LB 95 puts both of those methods together in the same section of law to tell the personal representative how to carry out the probate and the two methods are, first, the general publication and, secondly, the direct notice to creditors that their interests are involved. All the bill does is to increase from our current reference to Section 30-2483 to add to that a second reference