

something we couldn't do about that. I advised her at that time that I'd be willing to bring a bill, take a look at it and see what we could do. LB 186 is a culmination of those efforts. What LB 186 would do is first to clarify who has the responsibility for notifying crime victims. Rather than having sort of a fragmented system that we have now, where those lines are blurred, we would have very clear-cut zones where everyone would know what their responsibilities are in the area of notification. The county attorney, under this scheme, would notify the victim of the earliest, earliest release date, and would notify the victim of the final disposition of the case. The county attorney would also notify the victim that he or she would have the right to be notified of the release. At that time the victim has the choice to either walk away from it, and put that episode behind, behind her, or could ask that her name be forwarded for notification upon release. The bill would also expand the types of release for which notification would occur. We also clarify who has the responsibility for those notifications. That's what the committee amendments did, was to separate out those notifications between the Board of Parole and the Department of Corrections. The times at which the victim would be notified, first of all, of any parole hearing. And I should point out that the Board of Parole has done a very good job of notification, to the best of their ability. They don't always have the tools, they don't always have the names and addresses of the victims. They simply don't have the mechanism in place to do as good a job as even they would like to do. The Parole Board would advise as to any parole hearings, any parole violations, return to custody due to a violation of parole, any release on parole. The Department of Corrections would notify as to a final release, any release from custody in excess of 24 hours, for example, a work furlough, or any escape from custody, or return to custody after escape. The purpose of a notification is simply to put the victim's mind at ease. The victim knows is that offender in jail, do I not have to worry, or is that offender out on the streets and maybe living next door. The victim does not necessarily have to take any action and may not take any action to change his or her life, but may warrant it. In this particular case that I mentioned the offender had made a lot of threats to the victim as far as what would happen upon his release. And whether she would have made changes in her lifestyle should have been left up to her. As it was, she didn't have that opportunity. Another thing the bill would do is to expand those people covered under notification provisions to include treatable MDSO's, treatable mentally