

were requested by the Charitable Gaming Division of the Department of Revenue. The bill was heard on February 4th of this year, reported to the floor by a vote of 6-0, and 2 absent, with Standing Committee amendments. The Standing Committee amendments have been amended into my amended version, which now becomes AM0227, excuse me, which becomes AM0978. And I believe that you received a copy of this amendment. It is 125-pages long, for that reason we didn't have it printed, we just simply had copies made, distributed them to you along with a summary of the amendment itself. And rather than just going absolutely into detail, what I want to do is just give you a preview, or a review, I guess, over what's actually in the bill, a little bit of background information. Most of you will remember that in 1986 we created the Charitable Gaming Division through the enactment of LB 1027. The division is currently responsible for the regulation of all charitable gaming, bingo, pickle cards, lotteries, and raffles, and local option lotteries. To aid the division in their regulatory responsibilities the Legislature debated and passed two major bills to enhance the state's regulation of charitable gaming activity, LB 1232, in 1988, and the Pickle Card Reform Act, and LB 767 in 1989. Both bills were prompted by regulatory problems experienced by the state in the charitable gaming area as a new division. In LB 345, the bill which I'm offering as an amendment, it's a reintroduction of LB 1053, from last year. And it will present the final step in updating the charitable gaming statutes. To refresh your memory, LB 1053 was advanced from the General Affairs, last year, to the floor of the Legislature will no dissenting votes but, due to the shortness of the 60-day session, it didn't receive consideration by the entire body. So, consequently, it died at the end of that session. So we reintroduced it again this year, second time around. And this is then our attempt to complete and make a final update of the charitable gaming statutes. As I've indicated, it is an update, and what I would like to do is just simply try to give you the high points of the bill. Number one, under the Bingo Act, the department is given the authority to fine, administratively, for violations of the act, and rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the act. In general, licensee's prefer to be fined for their violations, if the other option is a license suspension or revocation. The change harmonizes the department's ability to fine administratively with the Pickle Card, Lottery Act, and County and City Lottery Act. The second change, under the Pickle Card, Lottery Act, the department is given the authority to confiscate, seal, or seize pickle card units, and dispensing