

negotiations that were going on between the various parties involved as to the proper language that should be existing in the court restructuring package. To refresh your memory just a little bit, 360 is a bill that was introduced to address a better process in the Workers' Compensation Court to try to cut down on the backlog of cases that are pending there. People that have a great possibility of compensation, both the payment of their medical bills and their weekly benefits, in that system and they are waiting months and sometimes years before they are given the opportunity to appear before the Workers' Compensation Court. So 360 and this, by the way, replaces the original 360. It contains what was in it plus the additional rehearing in the court. I would like to run through with you a section by section summary of LB 360, AM3382. It provides that the Workers' Compensation Act shall be changed so as to not require the charging of sales tax on the medical fee schedule. The Workers' Compensation Court has never charged sales tax for the medical fee schedule, but the Department of Revenue recently noted that they may have to start because of the way the statute currently reads. Additionally, the Workers' Compensation Court is required to review its medical fee schedule biennially. Currently the annual review is required. In Section 2, "rehearing" is changed to "review" in this section throughout the bill. Every place that in the original it said "rehearing" it is changed to "review". Section 5, the Workers' Compensation Court would be able to hold pretrial conferences to consolidate issues for trial. A judge or a workers' compensation staff attorney may hold these conferences and they can hold them over the phone. The Workers' Compensation Court will also have the authority to expedite a hearing if there is an emergency. Section 6, allow the transcribed copy of the proceedings taken by the court reporter to be received into evidence by the Workers' Compensation Court the same as for district court. Currently the section only mentions stenographers and not court reporters. Section 8, the Workers' Compensation Court will appoint a court reporter to transcribe the hearings and initially requires the employer or insured to pay for the reporter. The court reporter charges will be taxed as cost and whichever side has to pay the cost will also have to pay the court reporter charges. If that is the employee, then he or she will have to reimburse the employer or the insurer. The Workers' Compensation Court will have the following options regarding court reporter charges. They can apportion the cost for the cost between the parties, award the cost to one of the parties or pay the cost themselves, that is the court can