

operations, steamfitters had done that for years. They continued to do that, but what happened in the City of Omaha, there was an ordinance change and the ordinance was changed to reflect the state law that we passed in 1993. What currently is required under article of the city code, municipal code in Omaha, under stea.mfitting it says that they shall...for the purposes of this article they shall have the following meanings and respectively be ascribed to them as follows. Says hydraulic piping, all piping, valves, fittings and accessories necessary for a complete hydronic heating and/or cooling system. This includes steam, chilled water, hot water, condensed water, glycol. What that means is, is that the steamfitters have the responsibility, they have the jurisdiction if you will, for this area of plumbing and the backflow devices are required to be placed on these types of systems so that as you remember, that any problem with regard to contamination is prevented. So you don't have a situation where there is leakage back into the drinking water system. What happened when we passed the bill in '93, we did not include steamfitters as it relates to the City of Omaha. This is the only area where it applies and what has happened is that the plumbers have had to now come in and do the steamfitters work. There is not a problem here. I talked to Senator Lynch about it. He recognizes better than anyone that the steamfitters have done this in the past and they should continue to be able to do it. They are capable of doing it and have the necessary licensure to do it. The problem is that we created this little situation. All this amendment does with the adoption of it to Senator Crosby's bill who I also talked about it with, is correct that situation for the City of Omaha so that then the municipal code can, with an amendment, reflect what state law is. It's an oversight at the time that we passed 193 and with this amendment we'll begin the process of correcting that. I would respond to any questions that members might have. With that, close with the opening on the amendment. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hall. The Chair recognizes Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Madam President, members of the body, Senator Hall, this...one question. Does this only affect Omaha? Is that what you...?

SENATOR HALL: Yes. It would affect the licensed steamfitters that are licensed through the City of Omaha. For example,