

number of questions that were asked of the administration to answer for us so that we could be clear about some of the specific implementation of the bill that we passed last year. LB 455 lists out a series of those questions and strikes those from the statutes because those questions have been answered in the form of rules and regulations and other guidelines that have been submitted by the Department of Social Services. Also the bill lists out the various waivers that were required to be requested of the federal government and again for our review, under the bill we passed last year, we must approve the waivers that were granted by the federal government to allow us to move forward. As you know, welfare is a joint federal-state program with the federal government having the senior partner role, the managing partner role and the junior partner in this is the state and we must have permission from the federal government to move forward on any changes in our system. The federal government has granted most of the proposals that we asked for a waiver on. There were a couple that were not granted and those are deleted from the bill. The other provisions that we asked waivers for were granted. The waivers that were denied are found on page 8, number (c), permitting employment to be considered a JOBS Program Component, and on page 9, number (e), eliminate exemptions for individuals who reside more than two hours round trip from a JOBS Service for employment. A couple of other elements were approved without the need for an actual waiver. So those are the only two elements of the committee amendments that are stricken from the bill. Again, they're found on page (e), (sic), subcomponent (c), and on page 9, subcomponent (e). The other things that we provide for in the bill are as follows, and I do have a summary of this available for you that has been passed out. First off, the committee amendment calls for the Department of Social Services to report back to the Legislature the number of adults that become ineligible for cash assistance because of the parents under the ADC program failure to cooperate in carrying out their contract. So the main element of the bill last year was to have a two-year cutoff of cash benefits under the welfare system and what we require under the committee amendment is to know the number of adults who actually then end up losing that assistance so we can track through and see what the consequence of the legislation is. The second thing that we look at deals with child care. Now as you recall, the bill cut off cash assistance after two years but it does continue child care assistance for another two-year period, up to two-year period, and under the scale that was submitted to the committee it would have up to an even, I