

SENATOR ABOOD: Mr. President, members, LB 1391 is the annual claims bill that the Business and Labor Committee brings to this Legislature every year. There are two bills that are introduced that deal with claims, one is LB 1392, which is a bill that is introduced, it comes from the State Claims Board. And in LB 1392 is a list of claims that were denied by the State Claims Board. The Business and Labor Committee considers both 1391, claims that are approved by the State Claims Board, as well as LB 1392, claims that were disapproved by the State Claims Board. And we consider both of these bills in determining whether or not...what claims should or should not be brought before the state. The committee chose to include all of the claims that were approved by the State Claims Board in 1391. And the committee also examined claims that were brought before the committee that were a part of 1392, claims that were denied by the State Claims Board. And in examining these we chose to include some of these claims, and that is what is before you in the form of the committee amendments. Now the...I take...there's one additional addendum to all of this, and that is that the first part of the committee amendment dealt with a claim that did not...that was not a part of 1392, but was brought before the State Risk Manager, and that was the claim involving a Lyla Bennett. There was a settlement, she was an employee of the veterans home in Grand Island and she suffered permanent impairment as a result of working at her job. She received a...she filed a lawsuit against the state, was successful, and they agreed to a lump sum settlement in the amount of \$90,000. And it was the committee's belief that since this was approved but it came after the time that the State Claims Board considered it, that we should also include this \$90,000 in the claim, since it would be allowed the following year. This would just allow this person that was injured working for the state to receive the money a year in advance. The second claim that was included in the committee report was Kathryn Hansen's, in the amount of \$785.98, this involved a dispute involving union dues with NAPE. And I'll be offering an amendment to later strip that out. The next portion of the committee amendment was a claim involving Andrew Benson. Now this claim was in the amount of \$2,972.29. The State Claims Board voted to deny this claim. The basis of the claim was the cost to repair an automobile damaged by a state ward that he was taking care of. The state ward was baby-sitting for a third party, and went joy riding in their car, and struck a vehicle