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FLOOR DEBATE

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that's basically what we're doing here. And most of this language came from two sources--either from language that pertained to cities of the first class and cities of the second class and villages, and language that is already in the city charter of the city of Lincoln. You may recall that we indicated to you in the last round of debate that already in the city procedures is a provision that generally requires a petition from at least a majority of the people proposed to be assessed in order to create a district in the city of Lincoln. That's our general operating principle. But there was concern on the floor that we needed to put that language in the bill. So what we have done is put that kind of language in the bill. And it indicates that the city may create these districts by ordinance. It goes through a notification process. It indicates the mailing out of specific information with regard to the proposed creation. And then it indicates that there are two processes that can be followed. The first process, which is the one that the city follows now all the time and there's no reason to expect that they would do otherwise, but it indicates that no improvement shall be finally ordered by the city council until a petition signed by the owners of the record title representing a majority of the front footage of property directly abutting upon the street, et cetera, is presented and filed with the city clerk. So that is one of two processes that's provided for. In the alternative, if the city council wants to go ahead and create the district, they can do so. But then it's subject to public hearing. And it's also subject, in addition, in that instance, to a petition process whereby 51 percent of the property owners can object to the ordinance, and the ordinance will then be void. So the period of time that they have to do that objection is 30 days from the publication of the passage of the ordinance. I wanted to make that clear. I think the processes are reasonably clear in this amendment. And in any event, by and large, we allow the details of these kinds of processes to be worked out at the local level, whenever it's possible to do so. So that's basically the background of this amendment. I would ask you to keep in mind two other things that were true on the first round of debate and are true today. That is, that the city of Lincoln, under its charter, has an initiative petition process, and also has a referendum petition process. An ordinance like this one that created an assessment