

has been the tort bill and I assume that Senator Abboud stood at the Clerk's office waiting for that number to come up so he could put this year's version of the tort law in LB 262, and he's been rather successful in doing that. As a matter of, I guess, review, what I believe, and, Senator Abboud, if I'm incorrect, please, please correct me, but I think this bill boils down to this issue. You're going to raise or extend the period of limitations, statute of limitations, in which you can file suit against the political subdivisions, schools, cities, counties, NRDs, power districts, et cetera, from one year to four years and then the state tort claims statute of limitations which is currently, I believe, two years, you're going to extend that to four years. And I believe that those are the major issues that there is to address in 262. Quite frankly, I would rise to oppose those changes. What it will do is just extend the amount of exposure as we have discussed on this floor many times, the cities, the state, they're open 24 hours a day. And if you are going to have a statute of limitations that allows a lawsuit, one of the reasons that you have a little longer statute of limitations is to make sure that you know who did the injury or the damage and so it may take you a period of time to find out who those people are. Political subdivisions in the states are very easy to find. They don't move, they're easy to serve, they're easy to locate, and that additional period of time, one, isn't necessary. Two, is I don't think there's been any sufficient showing of why that statute of limitations needs to be extended and what the great evil is that's being sought here to take care of and, certainly, what it does do is just open the window for more suits for a longer period of time. If you are, for example, self-insured through the insurance pool of the counties, for example, if you're going to have to budget your pool, you need a manageable time to do that, you need to take a look and see what your risk and exposures are. You have to budget for that. You have to underwrite for those sorts of things and this just adds more uncertainty to that whole process. So if you're concerned about that, I would certainly take it into consideration. This is probably not something you would want to do. The other things that we look at in terms of extending the statute of limitations is that you just add more and more cases where you might throw these political subdivisions or the state in as an afterthought. As you've gone...and you've got another personal injury and you get ready to file that because that's four years, you may well say, well, let's just throw the state or the city in here, it's a chance that we may have to collect from on through negotiations and