

its future plans are. As a matter of review, LB 421 is the one-call system for those facilities that are buried underground and deals with the nature of giving notice and identifying where those facilities are located so that there's not interruption of the utility or the system that is buried there. This body had a lengthy discussion on General File, the major issue being should this be mandatory for everyone to participate in the program and the system that's set up. And what occurs that there's a one-call center that will be established and they will then select a vendor who will carry out these provisions. And this, just to give you a thumbnail reminder, again if you're going to excavate is the proper term, you will call this system within two working days, they come out to locate those and then there are the liability provisions relieving you of liability if you've...provided you've carried out these procedures for doing so. The major portion of the bill was the issue of whether it's mandatory participation or not. As you recall, I was not at least supporting or not opposing that, but left that to the body to decide. Senator Withem proceeded and I think presented a strong case for mandatory systems. This Legislature adopted a mandatory position on General File. Pursuant to that discussion and after that, many questions were raised and things were discussed in terms of now that we move to a mandatory system, what do we need to do with this bill to make it work? There were people, particularly the rural water associations, particularly some of the electric systems who had some questions about their role, the cost, the make-ups of the board and the center; and those are all items that I believe are probably worthy of discussion and things that need to be looked at. There are some technical amendments. Senator Wickersham had an amendment on the last time which raised some questions upon further study, I believe, and this amendment puts forth several things; and I will try to go through them with you. What I would propose to do is adopt this amendment which basically cleans up the bill now that we've moved into a mandatory mode. It also takes off the table I believe some of the minor issues. I would then propose to have the bill set through the summer to allow the electric systems, the water associations and those and have received some assurances that we are into a mandatory mode and that we will not be revisiting necessarily whether this is a mandatory system or not but will deal with how do we come to grips with the mandatory system, the makeups of the boards and who participates and try to move and make this a system that's not mandated necessarily or rammed down people's throats but is one that they can come to grips with. And I believe that and I