

Nebraska Legislature. Welcome. The call is raised.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have to the Conway amendment is by Senator Lindsay. AM1866, Senator. (See page 2178 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. President, members, this amendment was distributed to you. What it would do is simply shift the designated agency or the finding of the appropriate agency to be, in overall coverage of this scenic river designation from the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission to the Game and Parks Commission. The reason for this is, first of all, this goes back a little bit to when this came before Government Committee I sat on Government Committee when this bill came up. When that bill came up the only area that was discussed was the Niobrara and the scenic river protection for that area. That issue has pretty much become moot with the congressional action of the last couple of days. Therefore, what we're looking at is a designation for statewide and the Niobrara is actually one of the areas that it doesn't matter for, and it's the areas that it matters for are those areas in everybody else's districts and we ought to be looking at those. For that reason what we've got to do is try to clean up the bill a little bit and get it so that it is in fact a bill that will be appropriate for the entire state. One way of taking a look at that is in the area of who should have the duty to oversee this area and whether that should be the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission or the Game and Parks Commission. There is some legitimate policy reasons for having this in the Game and Parks Commission. Probably the first and foremost is the fact that generally when we refer to scenic river designation we refer or we talk in the area of recreation. Those types of recreational activities in areas are generally under the Game and Parks Commission and not under the Natural Resources Commission. Second reason would be the ability of the Game and Parks Commission to apply for the instream flow appropriation that the Natural Resources Commission would not have. And a third reason is that the Game and Parks Commission is a little more representative of the state as a whole than the Natural Resources Commission is. I think it is clearly a state agency that answers to the Governor who is elected by the entire state and gives an appropriate amount of input from the entire state rather than weighting unevenly with areas that may not, at least