

January 24, 1992 LB 339

CLERK: Mr. President, 339 was a bill introduced by the Natural Resources Committee and signed by its members. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 16, referred to the Natural Resources Committee for public hearing, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending by the Natural Resources Committee.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rod Johnson, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, the committee amendments basically become the bill so, I guess, I will cover the bill as well as the amendments. Last year, the Game and Parks Commission brought us this bill. Basically, what it does is it recognizes the cooperative memorandum of agreement between the Game and Parks Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for law enforcement. There was a question raised by the Game and Parks Commission whether they could legally contract or work with the Game and...or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and, in fact, the Attorney General issued an opinion in July, 1989, basically saying, and I will quote Mr. Spire's words here. "In order to enter into any such agreement, it would be necessary for the Legislature to pass legislation empowering the commission to enter into such agreement or for the Legislature to pass a special act incorporating the proposed memorandum of agreement." Basically, what this amendment does is it strikes most of the language in the bill and adds these words, "a memorandum of agreement for cooperative law enforcement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Basically, recognizes something that is already being done, this cooperative law enforcement between the two, a federal agency and a state agency, for law enforcement of our parks. And this basically puts it into law, it makes it clear and clears up any doubt that the Attorney General might have had about this cooperative agreement. So I would move the committee amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Any discussion on the committee amendments to LB 339? Seeing none, do you wish to close, Senator Rod Johnson? We will now vote on the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.