

SPEAKER BAACK: The committee amendments are adopted. To the bill, as amended, Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members, unless there are questions about the bill, I guess, I would just reiterate what I said earlier. This puts into statute that the Game and Parks Commission can work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for law enforcement. Clears up a legal question that the Attorney General's Office has raised. So, like I said, unless there are questions, I would just move for the advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rod Johnson. Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, Senator Johnson, just a little clarification here. Right now the State Game and Fish..or Commission can enter into agreements with Fish and Wildlife in the areas of management. Is that correct?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Well, what was questioned here was whether or not they could do that without legislative authority, as based on this Attorney General's Opinion that was given to the Game and Parks Commission. We're clarifying that by putting in statute that they can reach a memorandum of agreement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where they do cooperate with law enforcement.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Okay, but that...that's a separate issue than management, that particular (interruption).

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Right, that's correct.

SENATOR HILLMAN: And so what we're saying is they have with management in the past, right, but now we're going to enter into enforcement.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: They have been doing this in the past. It has been brought to question whether they can do that legally between the two entities or at least the Attorney General's Office has raised a doubt about whether they can do that without us, as a Legislature, giving them the right to enter into these agreements.