

event that they become available. They will not become available this year, they may become available next year. For that reason, I don't mind putting 296 off until January of next year, which is exactly what would happen if you adopted this amendment because there is not time constitutionally to go forward and pass the bill this year. So in offering you this amendment I'm accepting the consequence that the bill is put off until January. But there are a couple of things I wanted to get as far along as I could in the process. The amendment before you has two items. One item is allowing the state and political subdivisions to impose a user fee on the users of recreational trails. And you're probably saying to yourself, well, we just did that a couple days ago. And we did, we did it as an amendment to LB 209, unanimously, but as it turned out, 209 is not going to pass, is not going to be voted on this year and so it, too, is going to be put off till next year and so what I'm asking you to do is put it into 296, the same amendment that you put into 209. The second thing that I'm asking to put into 296 was the other, in my opinion at least, noncontroversial aspect of the original Natural Resources Committee priority bill on recreation, and that is creating the position of the State Recreational Trails Coordinator within Game and Parks to coordinate all the efforts that are going along now on the different trails that are being purchased with federal funds and with private funds. Game and Parks is very agreeable to this. The Governor has approved this. He wants some coordination. And we're...the position would be within Game and Parks. It would require no additional appropriations. We've asked Game and Parks to shift funds rather than spend new funds, and they are very willing to do this. To the best of my knowledge, everybody is on board and agreeable to this. So that's the second part of the amendment and I think those are the important points. I would certainly be glad to answer questions on the amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Vrtiska, followed by Senator Jensen.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, I just wanted to ask a couple of questions of Senator Beutler, if I could. The first one you already answered and that had to do with...I thought we had already taken care of the fee thing but you say that bill is not going to, obviously, move this year. The other thing is...and I'm sorry I wasn't listening because I was talking to Senator Abboud, but I was curious about some of these various points you indicate in the