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LB 880

Wehrbein, AM1601. (See page 1813 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized to open on Amendment 1601.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. If you have that in front of you, there's three parts to it, one, two, and three. The first one is the Game and Parks issue that adds...it adds the intent language only as the committee amendment yesterday. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Game and Parks Commission shall not expend appropriated funds for the rearing or stocking of pheasants except for youth education programs. This is funding that we had not put in last year. There was some continuation funding for pheasants. This is where you hatch pheasant chicks and turn them loose in the wild. This year we felt that it was not appropriate to do this sort of activity. Actually, Game and Parks is not doing this activity this year except for youth education programs. So it is in sync with what the present program is going to be for Game and Parks, but we...and we did take the funding out last year. This time we propose to add the intent language so that it would not occur under any circumstances. Secondly, is a request from the Department of Services, DAS, Department of Administrative Services to request an increase in PSL and a decrease in appropriations to hire a full-time employee in place of contract services. So it's allows them to hire a person, increases their PSL, decreases their contract services program, and it's going to be revolving funds. So there's nothing that will show on the sheet. Three is Department of Environmental Control, equality issue, excuse me. It's an issue I mentioned the other day, the debate on low-level nuclear waste, where we reduce the funding from 5.7, we reduce it 2.2 million, which would make it 3.5 left in the program for the low-level nuclear waste issue. If you recall, we had to convert some of this to General...we had to provide some General Funds for the lawsuit, but because the judge restricted some of the lawsuit, it was put on hold by the judge, we only...we have less of the lawsuit to continue to defend at this point. Now I will not want to mislead you, it's very probable in the future that there'll be additional request for funding for this lawsuit. But this point, it is the feeling of the administration and our Appropriations Committee concurred