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FLOOR DEBATE

April 11, 2003      LB 74, 305, 348, 804

AM0794, I have a note you want to withdraw that particular amendment, Senator. Mr. President, Senator Erdman would move to return the bill for specific amendment, AM1033. (Legislative Journal page 1083.)

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. AM1033 is an amendment that I had originally offered, and after discussion with Senator Hudkins and Senator Wehrbein decided to add some additional language in there, and I have a sheet passed out that you should have all received during the original Final Reading that explains in a section by section basis what it is that we're trying to accomplish with the amendment to LB 305. The three issues that aren't in the amendment are LB 348, which was advanced from the Natural Resources Committee unanimously; LB 804 which was introduced by Senator Wehrbein, also advanced from the committee without any opposition; and LB 74 which is from Senator Hudkins; all three of those issues deal with Section 37 of our state law. I rise today to offer the amendment to LB 305. Each of the bills amend Section 37 relating to Game and Parks. All the bills were considered by the Natural Resources Committee, voted out of the committee without any no votes. Senator Hudkins and Senator Wehrbein will also have an opportunity to speak on their portions as well. I would like to walk you through in detail with a majority of AM1033, which is the committee amendment for LB 348. At the hearing for LB 348 we had supporting testimony from ten individuals including representatives from Game and Parks, the National Transportation Safety Board, United States Coast Guard, the Hastings Police Department, several trade associations representing sportsmen and boat manufacturers, along with several constituents from District 47. The provisions included in this amendment reflect the committee amendment passed by the Natural Resources Committee in a unanimous vote. We worked closely with the committee and with Game and Parks to assure that we have taken into account any implementation issues. Briefly, let me summarize the changes made to the State Boat Act. First, Section 1 would add boat safety training to the purposes for which registration fees can be used. The deletions in Section 21 on page 3 would allow boat