

the bill on the amendments. I would try to move the adoption of the amendments before we get into the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers, do you wish to speak to the Committee amendments or to the bill?

SENATOR VICKERS: To the Committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, the Chair recognizes Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: A question of Senator Reutzel.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Yes, sir.

SENATOR VICKERS: Senator Reutzel, could you explain a little further as to why you removed "game" and inserted "wild"?

SENATOR REUTZEL: Senator Vickers, there's a definition in the statutes already on wild animals. The purpose of the bill, and I guess we're going to have to get into it when we're talking on the amendments, but the purpose of the bill is to help conservation officers enforce deer permit regulations. We have had officers testify on this bill who said they have come up on the field...it's not unusual to go up on the field and see fifteen or twenty people out hunting deer. They all go out in the same vehicles. They're all hunting the same section of land. They all have scoped rifles, and they all have walkie-talkies, CB radios, communication, and they are hunting the deer, but only one person out of that fifteen or twenty has a deer permit, and that defeats the whole purpose of the deer permit. The reason for a limited number of deer permits is so that we can keep stable deer population across the state. That's very important and when we issue X number of permits, we know there's going to be a percentage that don't get a deer during their season. Either they can only go out once or twice during the season, or for one reason or another they do not get a deer, and so there's a certain percentage figured in there. When you issue the same amount of permits and you've got fifteen or twenty people, and I talked to a conservation officer just recently who said they've seen as many as thirty people hunting deer on one permit that defeats the whole purpose of the deer permit, and that is to keep a stable population. By inserting "wild" animal in there, it gets away from the conversation officer stopping someone and asking them what they're hunting. Well, if you've got a deer permit, you're home free, but the rest of that group can say they're out hunting a wild animal. They could be hunting squirrel. They could be hunting rabbit, or anything with that rifle. And all it does, by inserting...by inserting wild