

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2010
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB747

Hearing Date: Wednesday January 27, 2010
Committee On: Natural Resources
Introducer: Louden
One Liner: Permit killing mountain lions and other predatory animals

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Carlson, Cook, Dubas, Fischer, Haar, Langemeier, McCoy, Schilz
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Senator LeRoy Louden
Sam Wilson
Pete McClymont
Joe Herrod

Representing:

Introducer
Game and Parks Commission
Nebraska Cattlemen
Nebraska Council of Sportsmens Clubs

Opponents:

Greg Lyons

Representing:

Feline Conservation Federation

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 747 would clarify the process under which one may kill a mountain lion that is a threat to a person, livestock or other property.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment, AM 1931, which replaces the bill, removes "mountain lion" from the definition of "predator", and creates a clearer procedure for the permit process. The amendment proposes:

Section 1 creates a reference to the new language.

Section 2 amends 37-559, relating to destruction of predators, by adding a definition that a predator is a badger, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, long-tailed weasel, mink, opossum, raccoon, red fox, or skunk. New language allows a farmer or rancher, without a permit, to kill a mountain lion caught stalking, killing or consuming livestock on the farmer's or rancher's property. The farmer or rancher is further responsible for immediately notifying the Game and Parks Commission to arrange the transfer of the body. One is entitled to defend himself or herself or another person without

penalty if the mountain lion is stalking, attacking, or showing unprovoked aggression toward another. Last, references to federal laws are updated or clarified.

Section 3 creates new language giving the commission authority to issue a permit for killing mountain lions that are preying on livestock or poultry. The 30-day permit requires notification and transfer of the carcass to the commission. A farmer or rancher may qualify for a permit if they notify the commission to confirm there has been depredation by a mountain lion. The commission is to confirm damage was caused by a mountain lion prior to issuing a permit. It also allows the commission to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations.

Section 4 repeals the original sections.

Chris Langemeier, Chairperson