

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 29, 2003 LB 306

Senator Stuhr. (Read title.) The bill has been discussed on both Monday and Tuesday of this week, Mr. President. At that time, an amendment was considered, by Senator Stuhr, that was adopted. I do have other amendments pending to the bill. The first motion this morning is by Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers would move to recommit the bill to the Natural Resources Committee.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The Chair would recognize Senator Stuhr for a brief status report.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. If you will recall, LB 306 allows an increase in the current statutory cap on a variety of permits and fees that are administered by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The current permits and fees have reached their statutory limit that was established about ten years ago, in 1993. And what I want to emphasize is that this bill does not mean that they will necessarily increase, but simply allows the commission to do so if they feel that it is necessary, particularly for the upkeep of properties and facilities related to hunting and fishing. Before any increase, there is a public hearing. So I did want to mention that. I also might add that there's a limited six percent increase per year. With that, thank you very much.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. The Chair would now recognize Senator Chambers on his motion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I will never be an angel. The closest I can come to that is to quote an angel. Behold, I bring you this morning good tidings of great joy which shall be unto all people in the Legislature. For offered to you this morning is an agreement between myself, Senator Stuhr, and Senator Schrock. What is going to happen, based on an amendment that Senator Stuhr will offer, is the amount of the cap will be reduced by 50 percent. They say they don't need to raise these fees anyway. And I saw where the Chairperson of the commission is quoted this morning saying they don't need these fees right now, but they don't want to wait until an emergency situation arises. So Senator Stuhr will offer that amendment. Pending right now is an amendment by