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FLOOR DEBATE

February 12, 2003 LB 158

for disease surveillance. It quarantines...it has a quarantine process, and releases...regulates government interstate...intrastate and interstate movement of swine. It has recordkeeping requirements, trace back and trace forward activities to help in the cleanup of the herds that are designated as having pseudorabies. Under the program, states and local areas progress through a five-stage pseudorabies status. At the present time...well, since 1996, the state has made considerable progress toward the eventual goal of attaining Stage V, which is a disease-free status. In 1996, the state was at a Stage III, except for three central Nebraska counties. Today the entire state is in Stage IV. The major changes in this law that will help us to be a consistent state: there will be circle testing of random samples in each herd will be increased from one mile to two miles of an infected herd of any Stage II, III, or IV status area, and will increase from one and a half to five miles any herd that's infected in a Stage V area. Stages II, III, IV, and V status areas are established pursuant to the federal program standards. And also the change will be the time required for filing a swine herd clean-up plan, has been shortened from 30 days to 7 days. There will be clean-up testing is being changed to mandatory testing of 100 percent of the swine in an infected herd for the purpose of removing the inspected...infected swine. It will require vaccination language to be added when deemed appropriate. The department may pay for the vaccines if funds are available and if it's appropriate. And then, sixth, the obsolete language regarding classification of a concentration point and herd title is being deleted. In addition to adding the provisions of LB 158, the committee amendment amends Section 3 of the bill to specify that all citations to the Code of Federal Regulations refer to such regulations as they existed on January 1, 2003. That's been known as the Chambers amendment many times. It denotes that it's at a specific time, the regulations that were in effect at that time. The amendment also adds the emergency clause, but specifies operation dates for those sections containing the scrapie...or the Scrapie Eradication Control Act to remain an operative date of original provision of LB 158 of January 1, 2004. I would ask you to adopt the committee amendments, which is the pseudorabies program.