



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - Second Session - 2006
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 986

Chairperson: Bob Kremer
Committee: Agriculture
Date of Hearing: January 31, 2006

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The primary purpose of LB 986 is to provide for reinstatement of the state funding match of animal damage control programs administered by the Wildlife Services Division of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection service of USDA. It is a goal of this appropriation to enable a more coordinated and efficient deployment of federal animal damage control resources, restoration of a statewide network of animal damage control services, and help reduce cost inequities faced by cooperators directly contracting for WS services.

LB 986 inserts a duty of the Department of Agriculture to prepare and submit budget requests beginning with Fiscal Year 07-08 to match the USDA/APHIS general fund allocation for wildlife services in Nebraska up to a maximum of \$500,000. The bill further defines the authorities of the Department for animal damage control, and specifies additional requirements of cooperative agreements with the state office of Wildlife Services entered into by the Department, including that the Department provide biannual reports on the uses made of state appropriated funds. Parallel clarification of county animal damage control authorities are made. Certain obsolete duties and authorities of counties are repealed including a liability of counties to match private contributions within the county for animal damage control and repeal of a taxing authority for animal damage control programs. The mechanism for collecting this tax is no longer available.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Bob Kremer