

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

February 9, 2005 LB 162

body. LB 162 is a bill brought at the request of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and proposes a number of changes in their current permitting processes and associated fees. These changes originated from the responses by the public and work done by the staff over the past two years. The commission established a work group this past year to examine a number of ideas that had been proposed. The entire board of eight commissioners approved the permit changes proposed in LB 162. The commission also solicited comments from constituents via direct e-mails, news stories, and newspapers, and on the radio, their web site, and meetings. They had an e-mail on-line survey, with over 7,000 people responding. The report was based on responses from over 6,000 hunters, 5,000 anglers, and over 6,000 park visitors. So you can see that thousands of people across the state were involved. I want to briefly review some of the provisions of LB 162. This bill would establish a new one-day resident and nonresident fishing permit, and a new two-day nonresident hunting permit. It would require migratory waterfowl stamp for any person 16 years or older. It requires a lifetime aquatic habitat stamp to be purchased with lifetime fishing and combination permit. It creates a nonresident lifetime fishing, hunting, and combination permit. It requires an aquatic habitat stamp, an Nebraska migratory waterfowl stamp for lifetime permit purchases. And it would remove the range of some permits to allow the commission to reduce the price of these permits. It also broadens the definition of a disabled veteran, and that existing permits are grandfathered. It establishes a \$5 veterans permit that begins at age 64. A resident over the age of 69, instead of 70, would also be allowed for a permit for a fee of \$5. Existing permits are grandfathered. It requires all licensed anglers to possess an aquatic habitat stamp issued with fishing permits. It requires Nebraska residents over the age of 16, and all nonresident migratory waterfowl hunters, to possess a Nebraska migratory waterfowl stamp. It provides for an increase in the daily park entry fee, from \$3 per day to \$3.50 in 2006, and then to go to \$4 in 2007. It established the cost of a statewide buck-only permit at two and a half times the amount of regular deer permits. It clarifies that one-in-a-lifetime limit on elk permits applies only to antlered elk. It allows persons under the age of 12 to hunt wild turkey. But they must be accompanied