

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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April 12, 2005 LB 193, 276, 389, 389A, 673

ASSISTANT CLERK: There is a quorum present, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Clerk, do you have any items for the record or messages?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, your Committee on Enrollment and Review reports LB 193 as correctly engrossed; LB 276, LB 389, and LB 389A, all correctly engrossed. That's all I have at this time. (Legislative Journal page 1175.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. It is 1:30 and past. We now, as the agenda states, will go to General File, 2005 senator priority bills, the Bourne division. Mr. Clerk, LB 673.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, LB 673 was introduced by Senator Louden and others. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 19 of this year, referred to the Agriculture Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File with committee amendments attached. (AM0867, Legislative Journal page 931.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Louden, you're recognized to open on LB 673.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I'm introducing LB 673 and that's a bill to manage black-tailed prairie dogs in Nebraska. Two critical events have led me to introduce this bill: a prolonged severe drought, and the absence of colony management for several years. Management ended when the black-tailed prairie dog was placed on the candidate list for being named an endangered species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded last year that the species and its habitat were not threatened and, therefore, should not be placed on the endangered list. At the same time that the species was being considered, drought hit the western United States. Lack of management, combined with drought, created overpopulation of the species and we now have a crisis. Some counties in the western part of Nebraska are considering changing the classification of agricultural land to wasteland