



**Hundredth Legislature - Second Session - 2008
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 729**

Chairperson: Philip Erdman
Committee: Agriculture
Date of Hearing: January 22, 2008

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

LB 729 would broaden the definition of exotic animals with respect to goats.

Under the current statutory framework that regulates exotic animal auctions and swap meets for animal disease tracking purposes, “exotic animal” does not include “goats sold for dairy, food, or fiber.” (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-701.03(8)).

LB 729 would amend the statute to state: “exotic animal” does not include “breeds of goats utilized for dairy, food, or fiber that the department [of Agriculture of the State of Nebraska] determines have readily available venues of trade at licensed auction markets” (emphasis added). Thus, under LB 729, breeds of goats utilized for dairy, food, or fiber would not necessarily be excluded from exotic animal auctions and swap meets in the situation where there are no readily available venues of trade at licensed auction markets. In other words, the “test” of whether a goat is exotic or not, would become whether, in the discretion of the Department, venues of trade at licensed auction markets are readily available. LB 729 would direct the Department to “identify the breeds of goats that are not exotic animals.”

LB 729 also amends Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-7,108 so that it is in harmony with the above change in definition.

In sum, LB 729 corrects an unintended problem with the current law in that goats “sold for dairy, food, or fiber” are automatically excluded from exotic animal auctions and swap meets, despite the fact that, at the present time, there are few readily available venues of trade at licensed auction markets for goats.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Mike Flood