

muzzle-loaders. We see them from time to time at parades. They are loud, they're noisy and they have a lot of smoke. Right now it is against the law to use high-powered rifles to hunt wild animals other than deer during the firearms deer season. This prohibition has been established to help stop illegal hunting of deer and some of you that were down here about 10 years ago, well, we passed this bill. LB 127 amends a current law to state that it is against the law to use high-powered rifles to hunt wild animals other than deer during the center-fire cartridge deer season. Firearms is a broad term which includes high-powered rifles and muzzle-loaders. Center-fire cartridges is a narrower term which does not describe or include muzzle-loaders. By using the wording in the bill, the Game and Parks Commission is given the authority to establish a separate deer season for muzzle-loaders. The bill merely authorizes this to be done. If the bill passes, the Game and Parks Commission could hold a public hearing on any proposed rules and regulations to establish a new season. The use of high-powered rifles to hunt wild animals other than deer would not be prohibited during the muzzle-loading deer season. This bill is supported by the Game and Parks Commission and they testified at the public hearing. I'm now ready for the amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hefner would move to amend by adding the emergency clause.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, I would like to have the emergency clause on this bill because the Game and Parks Commission usually holds hearings in March to establish hunting seasons. If the bill passes before then, it would then be in effect at the times of these hearings and the Game and Parks Commission could make their decision at this time. So I would move for the adoption of this amendment. This amendment would merely add the emergency clause.

SENATOR LAMB PRESIDING

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Hartnett, please.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, members of the body, could I ask Senator Hefner a couple of questions?

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Hefner, would you yield?

SENATOR HEFNER: Certainly.