

Senator Chambers and I worked on and finally reached a compromise on. That piece of legislation has been very successful in seeing dogfighting move out of the state. We have found that it has been very successful in deterring that activity. This bill is similar in its impact, I believe. We are attempting here to deter activity with dangerous dogs that might lead to attacks. It is a preventive piece of legislation and it recognizes that across the state there are a number of cities that have adopted some dangerous dog ordinances to try to deal with this problem. We think that that is great and terrific and this bill would not wipe out those ordinances. They could remain as long as they were at least as restrictive as what this bill calls for. This would be a statewide minimum that then local ordinances could build upon, and from what we have seen of those ordinances, it would fit in quite well together. This, by adopting this statewide effort, though, then you also take into account the whole state, the rural areas, the smaller towns would all have this protection for their people. The basic summarization of the bill is that it defines what a dangerous dog is and includes in that definition of potentially dangerous dog that has had a second incident, and a potentially dangerous dog is one that has been unprovoked and has acted in a menacing fashion or has actually provided some sort of nonsevere injury to a human being or domestic animal. What we are trying to do is if this dog looks dangerous, potentially dangerous, let's deal with the issue, and let's provide some protection, and so this bill would have dangerous dogs have protections by having them enclosed in a pen, have a top to the pen, have them protected, because there are many dogs that are in pens without any top. They can jump out. They have, in fact, done some terrible things to children. And so we do try to recognize the need to identify these dogs, to place them in a secured environment, and deal with the issue. And so with that, that summarization of the bill, I would be happy to see the bill advance and pass into law so we can deal with this issue and, hopefully, help some kids keep from getting hurt in this state by dangerous dogs.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on LB 208? Senator Dierks, followed by Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I just would rise in support of this legislation. It is very difficult, I believe, to define a dangerous dog or a potentially dangerous dog, but I think that Senator Wesely has done a