

age and there is no knowledge as to whether or not it is something that would be used, whereas if you were to increase it even slightly to nine or ten years of age, that there...very likely you would still have six years' use of that money, investment of that money before it would be dumped into the fund and not held in escrow where it might prove to be an incentive for individuals to purchase these. I'm not going to attack the bill. I think the concept is a good proposal. I just think that the age is far too young to get any kind of experience from it but I guess we can wait and see and see if there aren't a huge number of folks who take advantage of this, but to buy a lifetime hunting permit at age three or four is, I guess, something that I don't think many people would envision doing, but maybe the incentive is great enough because of the reduced rate. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, I don't really want to spend a lot of time with this. I'd like, but I'm sorry, Senator Schmitt, when you introduced, would you give just briefly the reason for the introduction of this bill, then I have a comment after that.

SENATOR SCHMITT: This bill was brought to me by the Game Commission, Senator Wehrbein, and, I guess, being a hunter and having a grandchild now, I have purchased two lifetime hunting permits for my two sons in previous years at the regular value and I guess this was basically...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: The reason for them to bring the bill was to encourage more interest in hunting and fishing, would that be part of their reasoning?

SENATOR SCHMITT: Well, I think after it was brought to me, even I had parents and grandparents that felt maybe this would make a nice Christmas present or a birthday present to give a child at that age.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you. I was going to suggest that this might be done on a pilot basis for five years, but I realize that it probably won't pan out in five years, it should have a real idea of what it was to do, but as I look at it, it's going to be in state law they will have to continue to offer these unless we change it and I'm not sure whether we're going to know