

lions simply were not a category of animal that are offered protection under the game laws of the state and that is what spurred on LB 259. The Game and Parks Commission, at the time, independent of myself, initiated a study of this area and concluded that a number of animals that were protected in their rules and regulations or were offered no protection at all probably were best included under state statute and that is simply what LB 259 does. It adds some animals to the list of what are classified as fur-bearing animals, which are those animals that are regulated by Game and Parks when it comes to trapping, and also adds three categories of animals to game animals, those categories being mountain lions, moose and bears. All three of those of those animals...Senator Hall suggests we might add giraffes and elephants but I think they are even more rarely found in Nebraska than these categories. But, obviously, mountain lions, moose and bears are not animals that are commonly found in Nebraska, but they all are animals that have historically at times shown up in Nebraska. Currently, they are not included under the definition of game animals and thus have no protection. By including them under this definition, they would theoretically be subject to hunting seasons by Game and Parks Commission, but since there are very rare occurrences the real impact of this would be to offer them protection so they couldn't be shot randomly by individuals out there. That is the sole intent of LB 259 and I would urge your support for its advancement.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Will. Discussion on LB 259? Seeing none, Senator Will, would you like to close? Senator Will waives closing. The question is the advancement of LB 259 to E & R Initial. Those in favor vote aye, opposed no. We are voting on the advancement of LB 259. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the advancement of 259.

SENATOR CROSBY: LB 259 advances. LB 295.

CLERK: LB 296 introduced by Senator Beutler. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 10, referred to the Natural Resources Committee, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Beutler, on the committee amendments.