

animals are still classified as livestock and they will fall under the jurisdiction of the state veterinarian and the Department of Agriculture. Under this version, however, there is no permit that would be required by either the department or the Game and Parks Commission. Domestic cervine animals would also be exempt from the importation ban authority of the Game and Parks Commission such as the ban now in place for red deer and white-tailed deer. The importation of these animals would be regulated by the state veterinarian instead. Therefore, it's kind of premature to state that the change would legalize the production of red deer and white-tailed deer because this determination would be left to the state veterinarian. There is some concern about a worm that gets into the brain of these animals and that they might infect the wild animals in our state. It was explained to us in committee that even the new domesticated version of these species, they don't like it in the wild. They don't want out there. If they get out they can't wait to get back in where they have the support that they need for survival. The note...I'd like to have you note the change in the definition of domesticated cervine animal. This change makes it clear that we would not include animals raised for hunting or sport so these animals then, that are raised for hunting or for sport would still be controlled by the Game and Parks Commission. I think that pretty well explains the committee amendments. If you have any questions I'd sure be glad to try to answer them for you. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Any discussion on the committee amendments to LB 718? Seeing none, Senator Preister, I do see some. Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all, Senator Dierks, a couple of questions. I know that there was some concern when we had the bill before us last year on the puppy mill and the ability of the Department of Agriculture to even be able to have any inspectors available to do any inspections. You're suggesting now, and I apologize because I don't fully understand what you're doing, but that the state veterinarian would have the inspection and the oversight and the Department of Agriculture would be able to do that, and I'm wondering if we have inspectors that are already spread too thin and can't get around to do their job, what this is going to do to their workload and if they're going to really be able to effectively do the other things that they are already mandated to do, and your comments on that I would appreciate.