

The key on this is to adopt regulations giving preferential treatment to landowners and lessees in regards to the sex and age of the species harvested, which is different than any other hunting permit, but would grant this authority to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission so that they can adjust as necessary in districts across the state. So, in addition to that, which is I think fairly well accepted as something we can do to help control the deer population by the districts, is the other one as to what qualifies or what determines the size of a landowner for purposes of a permit. The bill says 160 and this amendment goes to 80 acres, and that's on line 19, page 12 is...so a Nebraska resident who owns or leases 80 acres or more of farm or ranchland would be eligible for this specific, this limited hunting permit. And the reason for this, it's a compromise. In the eastern part of the state, many feel 40 acres is a reasonable amount for a landowner. In the western part of the state, many feel 160 and perhaps even more. So this is a compromise at 80 that a person would have to have as a landowner in order for them to get a landowner permit, and that's the purpose of my bill as introduced and that is the compromise that we've had on this bill as part of this bill.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Beutler, anything further on the opening?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, just to be sure that I understood the senator correctly and that everybody is clear on it, right now in terms of the size of the property that one has to own in order to be able to acquire a limited permit there's no size given, right?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: In other words, the old language just said a bona fide farmer or rancher...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ..without saying how much property...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ..you had to own.