

have many things that are currently wrong with them, that doesn't enhance the reproduction of fish and so forth in the lakes and streams. What this bill would do and it...the amendment, and it's changed the bill some, is it would, when you went to buy a fishing license, it would increase the price of your fishing license five dollars. It gives Game and Parks the leeway from five to six-fifty to increase, but it would start out at five dollars. It also looks at the fact there's been, there was some concerns that younger children, perhaps it would be prohibitive for them maybe, and so we have raised the age. It's eighteen years and older before you have to acquire the stamp. It also, if you have purchased a lifetime license, it does not apply to that, and so you will not need it then. In addressing the idea of a three-day permit, you would have to pay the five dollars the first time you got a three-day permit, but if for some reason you would want to purchase one later on in the year you would not have to pay it again. The monies that would be raised would be somewhere around a million dollars a year, and that would go into a special cash fund that would then be set aside. And to be able to spend that money for the maintenance and restoration and the kind of things we need to do to improve the aquatic habitat, to be able to allow fish to reproduce more so fishing would become better in the state of Nebraska, the plan for that would need to be approved by the Appropriations Committee and also the Natural Resources Committee. It is a fee increase. And I know that many people, and rightly so, question any fee increase, user fees, as they're referred to. In this particular instance it's exactly what it is. And, but it does enable those people who use the lakes, many of them, a majority of them, to be...that approve this, to be able to go out and find what they think is better fishing. It limits the fact that Game and Parks cannot purchase any additional land with this money. They would be able to maintain any lakes that might come on in the future, but they wouldn't be able to purchase any or broaden, expand the lakes that they currently have. Also looking at the fact that probably one of the target populations that you're looking here, that it would probably help more than some others. You have those that have the boats and so forth, and it might not help those quite as much and some of the bigger lakes. But it would in some of the smaller ones where you have bank fishing, that would allow greater access, I think, to more anglers in the state. I introduced this bill on behalf of the Game and Parks Commission because I personally am an angler, I have been all my life