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FLOOR DEBATE

February 3, 2003 LB 305

deer hunting season would go into the next calendar year, your old habitat stamp for the previous calendar year would still be valid. The bill also allows the commission to charge a nonrefundable fee of not less than \$5 and not more than \$7 for an application fee for hunting antelope. This is a brand new fee, not an increase of an old fee. And I believe that probably what you do is you put your...when you submit for a license, you put the fee in, and if you are drawn, you get to hunt antelope, and if you don't, you don't get to hunt antelope but you do lose the \$5. It changes the buddy system back to two individuals instead of five. And unfortunately, we changed it last year from two to five. But their experience with five people trying to hunt together was very frustrating for them, so they went back to two. And it reinstates language that was inadvertently deleted in LB 1003 last year, regarding nonresident limited deer permits. The nonresident must be...must own 320 acres, as opposed to a resident, who I believe needs to own 80 acres or more farm or ranch land in Nebraska for agricultural purposes, or a member of such a person's immediate family residing in the same household may apply for a limited deer permit. And I believe that permit, that nonresident land hunter's permit is twice what a person in the state of Nebraska would pay. Perhaps the most controversial of the provisions, and certainly the one that has received the most press, is Section 18 of the bill, where engaging in sponsoring, instigating, assisting, or profiting from the killing, wounding or attempted killing or wounding of animals of the families Tayassuidae and Suidae for the purposes of sport, pleasure, amusement, or the production of a trophy. The Tayassuidae I believe are the wild pigs or wild boars, as they are referred to, and the Suidae is the domestic pigs. And it is sometimes difficult to tell the difference. And I know some of you have received some information on that. I will tell you a little bit about that. And I would refer to the handout that you were given this morning. This...we only have one person in the state of Nebraska that advertises for pig hunts. Pigs are very destructive if they get out into the wild. I believe Missouri now has probably about 27 counties with wild pigs in them, which is double what they had a few years ago. Kansas is experiencing a problem in the southeast part of the state. When pigs get loose, they can be destructive. They can be hard on the environment. A sow can have at least 24