

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 12, 2003 LB 158, 451

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 451.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 451 advances. Mr. Clerk, next agenda item.

CLERK: LB 158 by Senator Kremer. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 10, referred to the Agriculture Committee, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM0125, Legislative Journal page 380.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Kremer, to open on advancement of LB 158.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I will try to not be too detailed. This is a bill that was brought to us, LB 158, by the Department of Agriculture to authorize a program to eradicate scrapies in sheep and goats, similar to other livestock disease eradication programs currently carried out by the Department of Agriculture. Essentially, the bill assigns necessary duties and authorizations to the Bureau of Animal Industry and to enable Nebraska to remain consistent with the federal regulations governing interstate movements of sheep and goat. Scrapies is a fatal degenerative disease affecting the nervous systems of sheep and goats, and it's one of a number of diseases classified as TSE, which is the BSE in cattle, chronic wasting disease in cervids, and the Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. Since 1952, USDA has worked to control scrapies which entered the U.S. through an imported sheep in 1947, and since 1992, USDA has implemented a voluntary scrapie certification program and it restricts the interstate movement of the infected animals or other animals consistent (sic) as high risk having the disease. In November of 1999, the USDA announced an accelerated scrapies eradication initiative, published in the revisions of L. of 9 CFR, parts 52 and 59. The USDA published a final rule on August 21, 19...2001. The new rule places additional restrictions on interstate movement. It also reinstates indemnity programs, payment for the producers that destroy infected and high-risk animals. It establishes a