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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 754

introduced a bill to do a study, which did not get very far, and this year came back with LB 754. It was a topic with a lot of interest. We had an overflow crowd that we had to reserve another room with closed circuit TV and had a good hearing on both sides. Somewhat the goal I'm sure was misunderstood and some information was put out that was not quite accurate of what the goal Senator Bromm has, and that was to try to enhance our livestock industry in Nebraska, and he has stated what his goals have been with the bill in his opening statement. We have had many meetings with a lot of different people, some that were in opposition that tried to come up with some wording that would not be so...such a problem for them, and so I think the committee amendments really don't as much change the bill but they do clarify what the real intentions are. One of the components was that the Department of Agriculture develop a criteria to designate a county as a livestock friendly county and to make the rules and regulations to carry out that duty. And also the original bill was kind of...it talked about shifting the burden of proof to the local zoning, and that was what caused a lot of heartburn, even though Senator Bromm did submit a amendment before the hearing started that we even distributed and everybody had in hand that stated that after all the rules, after all the county zoning permits were granted, then they'd need to show...the burden of proof went to the county board. But that seemed to have a lot of problems, so the committee amendments changed that somewhat. One of the goals is to, somewhere along in the whole process of getting county zoning permits and the DEQ permits, that there could be in the midpoint somewhere that you could get a determination whether you were probably going to get a permit or not before you spent a lot of money going into the DEQ permits and getting all the...your reuse pits and the distribution of the manure and the land and all that; to find out before you spent a lot of money that if you could meet the requirements of the county zoning. So that was kind of the goal, so AM0853 (sic--0912) really takes the place of the bill and it's broken down into about five main parts. Section 1 is kind of revises the statement of intent to carry out the goals that were given by Senator Bromm, in his opening. Section 2 talks about the livestock friendly county and, as I mentioned, that the Department of Agriculture would set out the rules and regulations for this, and they have given