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FLOOR DEBATE

April 12, 2005 LB 673

SENATOR LOUDEN: A no-kill? Not necess...

SENATOR HOWARD: They would be vacuumed up and transported?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Well, that part would be, yeah. That would be...okay, that's two options that they would...that is available that I know of.

SENATOR HOWARD: What would be the most likely?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Well, usually, where it's landowners that live around them all the time and they don't have any place to release them, usually by eradicating some of them, the rest of them don't bother that much. I don't know if you're familiar with deer or if you're familiar with coyotes. We have coyotes all the time. Soon as they're thick then they become a problem. We cohabitate with coyotes all the time. When they get to be a problem around the house, why, we usually do something with them. If they get to killing animals, then they're usually done something with. But the idea is to keep them down at a manageable number so they're not causing a problem.

SENATOR HOWARD: Does "do something with them" mean poison or shoot?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yeah, either way I suppose, whatever method is available that the people can have. If it's a private landowner, they can do probably anything they want to on the land where that prairie dog is. This management plan really doesn't affect what a private landowner does with prairie dogs on his own land. This is more or less a bill in case they get to encroaching on other people's land.

SENATOR HOWARD: So management, the term "management" would really be up to the choice of the individual landowner himself.

SENATOR LOUDEN: True. The people...if someone has prairie dogs on their land and they so desire to keep them, then they don't necessarily have to...have to eradicate them or destroy them. If they can keep them on their land then that's no problem to anybody else. That's how they...that's their option.