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FLOOR DEBATE

April 20, 2005 LB 673A

the counties are paying this money now; is that correct?

SENATOR LOUDEN: The counties are contributing to their own funds, yes. They're contracting with the APHIS, the USDA wildlife management people, for some of their predator control--rabbits, skunks, like I've mentioned, European starlings and that sort of thing. The counties are financing that now at the present time, and even some private people are. Game and Parks are financing that on their own, because there isn't any money in that wildlife, in the state wildlife fund. So...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Louden, if this is such an important issue to the counties affected, why can't they kick in the money? Twenty-five thousand, apparently, is deemed to be enough to cover all of the counties that will be involved; is that true or is that false?

SENATOR LOUDEN: I don't know, as it depends on how extensive they want to get. It would probably help on some of the counties. If it was a complete statewide deal, no, it isn't nearly enough money.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So if it's not enough money, why are you accepting \$25,000?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Well, it's \$25,000 more than what we had before we started.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But if it's not going to do the job...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...how will it be spent? How will they decide where it is spent?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Well, about like any other government program, they use the money until it's gone. And when it's gone, why, they'll have to figure out something else.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And you're agreeing to this reduction, from