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FLOOR DEBATE

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the bird flu in the poultry flocks. The bill assigns the duty to the department, and its purpose is to continue and expand the bird flu testing project led by the university that the department, the industry and the university have been helping to fund. At that time we still hoped that there would be funds coming from that way, but felt like it needed another \$50,000. It also specifies that any activities are to be carried out in cooperation with the bird and the property owners. Sections 6 through 18 incorporate the provisions of LB 855. This also was advanced from the committee, as the one before that, without any dissenting votes, and all the testifiers were, I think, each one...but maybe one individual was in opposition, but they all testified as proponents of the bill. The committee amendments expand the authority of the Department of Agriculture with respect to exotic animal auctions and swap meets. And exotic animal auctions, I've never been to one, or a swap meet, but they are where it's a planned event where it's advertised where people can bring in their exotic animals and have them auctioned off. A swap meet is where it would be advertised again as an event, but people could bring in their exotic animals or whatever they would like to trade. They might sell privately. They might even give them away. But these swap meets and auctions, many times the department does not know they're even being conducted and not able to really monitor what's going on there. Some of the requirements that would be required of the organizers of the swap meets would be in Section 7. It requires the organizer to notify the Bureau of Animal Industry in writing or by fax at least 30 days prior to the auction or the meet, and the items that need to be provided shall include the location, the time, the date of the auction, and the name and address of the organizer. Section 8 requires the organizer to maintain records for up to five years. The items that need to be maintained would be the name, address and phone number of the organizer, the name and address of all persons transferring and receiving such animals, the number and species of each exotic animal transferred, the date of transfer, and a copy of each required certificate of veterinarian inspection. The organizer would also be required to provide the department access to and copies of all the records. The Department of Agriculture is given authority to access and copy these records. Section 9 limits animals to be sold in this manner, whether it's by