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LB 856

are disease-ridden and all are forcibly bred.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. Thank you, Senator Mines. And I think that was more accurate than your opening statement, and I think your opening statement led to believe that all operations that are in the commercial cat and dog business are in that scenario. I think your comments here are further clarifying that it's specifically puppy mills. And I'd take great exception if it would have been for all, because of the...in the businesses and those individuals that I know personally that are engaged in the business and treat their animals just as Senator Chambers does. I've also had an opportunity to work with the Nebraska Dog Breeders Association and they are in support, as I understand it, at least some of their members are, the one that I know personally, with your amendment, as it came out of the committee. And I will say that the committee amendment, which is your amendment, is a lot more reasonable; is based more in reality than what the testimony we heard in support of your original bill. I'm grateful that you're willing to work with us to find some common sense, because I would say that those that may have testified in favor of the bill have a different agenda than what even you would, as far as creating a fair regulatory process. So I appreciate your willingness to work with those who are interested and the amendment that's before us. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Price.

SENATOR PRICE: Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members of the body, in 1999, my second year in the Legislature, I introduced LB 825, which was to license and regulate commercial breeders of cats and dogs. Well, that was an interesting year. Every time I got up, they meowed or barked at me here in the body, and then it was held in Ag Committee and then, with an interim study following that session, it was passed out of the Ag Committee in 2000 and passed 37 to 0. I visited with the cockfighters, the coon dog raisers and all types of animal breeders, the humane societies, the pet rescue. It was very, very successful. There was a concern at that time about removing...or permitting puppies or kitties to be adopted at age six weeks. They wanted it at eight weeks, and there was a controversy on that. And