

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2014
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB699

Hearing Date: Wednesday January 22, 2014
Committee On: Natural Resources
Introducer: Larson
One Liner: Change provisions relating to hunting permits and hunter education programs

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Brasch, Carlson, Dubas, Haar, Johnson, Kolowski, Schilz, Smith
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Senator Tyson Larson
Benjamin Greenfield
R.B. Drickey
Russ Wentworth
Jordan Hitchcock
Akacia Wentworth
Glenn Smith
Dr. Zeke Pipher
Gary Stauffer
Keith Cline
Tim McCoy

Representing:

Introducer
Self
Special Youth Challenge
Special Youth Challenge
Special Youth Challenge
Special Youth Challenge
Camp Witness Bible Conference Association
Special Youth Challenge
Self
Special Youth Challenge
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Opponents:

Rod Moeller

Representing:

NFOA

Neutral:

Scott Smathers

Representing:

Nebraska Sportsman's Foundation

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 699 would allow those with developmental disabilities to obtain a hunting permit after being issued a license-purchase exemption certificate by the Game and Parks Commission. Any such person must be accompanied by a licensed hunter who is not developmentally disabled, and must provide written physician authorization. The commission may not issue an exemption certificate to one who has been found by a court or mental health board to pose a danger to himself or herself or others.

Explanation of amendments:

The original bill eliminated the bow hunter education program. The committee amendment reinstates the program, and clarifies the language of the license-purchase exemption certificate process.

Section 1 amends 37-201, which cites the Game Law, by making reference to the new language of this bill.

Section 2 contains new language authorizing the Game and Parks Commission to issue license-purchase exemption certificates to developmentally disabled persons to allow them to purchase hunting permits. Exemption certificates are to be issued at no cost and shall state that the holder is to at all times be accompanied by a licensed hunter who is at least 19 years old. A person who has been declared by a court or mental health board to be a danger to him or herself or others is not eligible, and a physician must provide written authorization that such person is at all times capable of understanding and following directions.

Section 3 amends 37-404, which states how a person qualifies for a hunting permit, by adding reference to the exception created in section 2.

Section 4 amends 37-413, which contains the firearm hunter education program requirements, by eliminating reference to "crossbow" training and replacing it with "air gun" training (crossbow hunting will be covered in the next section). Also eliminates language specifying that firearm hunter training is to include 10 hours of classroom instruction or independent study sufficient to pass an examination and requiring four hours of practical instruction. Adds reference to the provisions of section 2 for the license-purchase exemption certificate.

Section 5 amends 37-414, which contains the bow hunter education program requirements, by eliminating language specifying that bow hunter training is to include 10 hours of classroom instruction or independent study sufficient to pass an examination and requiring four hours of practical instruction. Adds reference to the provisions of section 2 for the license-purchase exemption certificate.

Section 6 repeals the original sections.

Tom Carlson, Chairperson