

One Hundred Third Legislature - Second Session - 2014

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB671

Chairperson: Senator Tom Carlson

Committee: Natural Resources

Date of Hearing: January 29, 2014

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 671 repeals sections 37-472 and 37-473 which permit the Game and Parks Commission to establish hunting seasons for mountain lions.

The stricken matter on page 3 will be reinstated by an amendment submitted to the Committee.

The bill was drafted so that the green copy (for convenience) contains the provisions of existing law detailing the circumstances under which a mountain lion may be killed legally. These provisions provide adequate safeguards which nullify any justification for "sport" and "trophy" hunting – which is designed to be a revenue-raiser.

Commission Deputy Director Tom McCoy noted that "there have been no confirmed reports of mountain lions preying on livestock or pets in Nebraska" and "no one has been attacked." (Omaha World-Herald, 1/19/14)

In the area(s) where hunting is allowed, the mountain lion population is estimated by the Commission to range from 15 to 22 of the great cats.

Principal Introducer: Senator Ernie Chambers