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FLOOR DEBATE

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agreement with the appropriate livestock health advisory committee. The amendment also combines current subsection (3) and (4) to clarify that there are not two separate categories of surveillance activities. Further, the amendment more thoroughly states the purpose and role of the herd health advisory committees to be an active participant in decisions and activities initiated by the Bureau of Animal Industry under the act. The bulk of the amendment and the addition of Section... is the addition of Sections 1 to 7 of LB 208, with some modifications of these portions of the bill. LB 208 is a bill I brought out of the recommendations of a livestock carcass disposal task force that met three times over the fall to look at livestock carcass disposal. Members of the state's major livestock organizations, along with representatives of the DEQ and the Department of Agriculture, participated in the task force. The task force and the bill itself were initiated out of the concern for the growing dependence on burial for carcass disposal, in part due to the proliferation of larger and larger confined livestock operations, in part due to the decline of the rendering industry. Much like LB 438, LB 208 was introduced as an opportunity for the livestock industry to be more proactive on an issue which has the potential to be politically volatile. LB 208 was also introduced to implement certain recommendations of the LB 1209 livestock waste management task force pertaining to livestock disposal. The portions of LB 208 added by the committee amendments attempt to resolve overlapping authorities between the DEQ and the Department of Agriculture with respect to livestock carcasses. During the course of our task force consideration of the issue, legal counsel for the Department of Environmental Quality determined that livestock carcasses were within the definition of solid waste for purposes of the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act. Currently, DEQ has interpreted 54-744 within the Department of Agriculture's authorities, which contains specific disposal requirements for animals which die of disease to preempt DEQ jurisdiction over disposal practices. However, DEQ still retains authority over disposal of all other livestock carcasses. The committee amendments incorporate the provisions of LB 208 that remove the distinction in 54-744 between animals which die of disease and otherwise, thereby making the statute administered by the department applicable to all livestock. Other provisions of