

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2017
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB566

Hearing Date: Wednesday February 08, 2017
Committee On: Natural Resources
Introducer: Natural Resources
One Liner: Adopt the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

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

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Albrecht, Bostelman, Geist, Hughes, Kolowski, McCollister, Quick, Walz

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

Laurie Lage
Scott Smathers

Craig Stover
Roger Roberts
Wes Sheets

Opponents:

Neutral:

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Sportsmen's Federation and Big Game Conservation Association
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Nebraska Wildlife Crimestoppers
Isaac Walton League of America-Nebraska Division

Representing:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 566 adopts and enters Nebraska into the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact and increases penalties for certain game law violations.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 551 to LB 566 strikes the original content of the bill and replaces it with the following:

Section 1 creates new language that:

Adopts and enters the state into the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact;

Provides definitions;

Provides citation procedures for the state issuing the violation;

Provides reporting procedures for the home state;

Provides how reciprocity works between states;

Clarifies that nothing in the compact should hinder a state from applying any of its laws;

Provides process for withdrawing from the compact;

Provides a severability clause;

Assigns the Game and Parks Commission as the authorized entity to enforce the compact and provides additional procedures for them to follow;

Section 2 amends 37-504, which lists the penalties for violation of the Game Law, by creating a separate Class II misdemeanor violation for unlawful hunting, trapping or having the possession of elk. Also raises the fine for such a violation from \$500 to \$1000 per violation, and clarifies that the fine for unlawful possession is per animal, up to maximum fine authorized by law. Also makes Mountain Sheep violations of Game Law Class I rather than Class II misdemeanor.

Section 3 amends 37-513, which provides for the violation of shooting wildlife from a highway or roadway, by raising the penalty from \$100 to \$500.

Section 4 amends 37-614, which provides how a game permit can be revoked or suspended, by providing for a minimum revocation and suspension period of three years for certain violations, and a minimum period of one year for others.

Section 5 amends 37-615, which provides penalties for activities done with a revoked or suspended permit, by making such violation a Class I, rather than Class III misdemeanor, and removes the five year cap on further permit suspension but provides for a minimum two year suspension.

Section 6 amends 37-617, which requires the courts to report suspensions and revocations to the commission, by striking the requirement that the commission notify permit agents.

Section 7 repeals the original sections.

Dan Hughes, Chairperson