

bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: LB 236 is advanced. Before we proceed to the next bill, I would like to introduce some guests of Senator Bernard-Stevens and they are under the north balcony. We have George and Marilyn Huebner from Hershey, Nebraska. Would you please stand and be welcomed by your Legislature. Thank you for being with us. We will now go back up to the first part of General File. Senator Rod Johnson has returned. We will go back to LB 142. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB 142 was introduced by Senator Rod Johnson. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 10th, referred to the Agriculture Committee. They report it to General File with no committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, LB 142 is a reintroduction of a bill that I have sponsored for many years to reinstate the funding for the animal damage control program in the Department of Agriculture. We have passed this bill, I believe, the last two years and both times it has been vetoed by the Governor. I halfway expect that scenario to play out again this year. But, nevertheless, today I would like to see us advance this bill over at least till Final Reading. Since it will have an A bill, it will have to wait at that point and await the action of this body as far as its...as far as setting individual and personal spending priorities for this coming year. The program was cut, as some of you know, during the 1985 special session. We are still maintaining an animal damage control program in the state. It has been done mostly now on a cooperative basis with counties that want to participate and I believe we have 25 counties in Nebraska that are participating, along with the Game and Parks and the USDA's operation at Clay Center. What we would like to do is to have a statewide enforcement program as opposed to isolated situations where we will have one county with...that is participating on a cooperative basis and a county right beside it who is not and, as I said, they're spread across the state. Most of the counties that are participating right now are in the areas of central and western Nebraska but the problems of predators, in particular, and other type of damage programs...or damage problems in Nebraska are statewide. And, unfortunately, when a