

**ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION  
2008**

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**

**LB1059**

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**Hearing Date:** February 21, 2008

**Committee On:** Natural Resources

**Introducer(s):** (Lautenbaugh)

**Title:** Change deer hunting provisions and provide for donation of deer to food banks

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**

Indefinitely Postponed

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**Vote Results:**

8 Yes                      Senators Carlson, Christensen, Dubas, Fischer,  
Hudkins, Kopplin, Louden, Wallman

0 No

0 Absent

0 Present, not voting

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**Proponents:**

Senator Scott Lautenbaugh  
Wes Sheets  
Jessica Kolterman  
Jeff Shaner  
Joe Herrod

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Nebraska Division Izaak Walton League  
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation  
Self  
Nebraska Council of Sportsmens Clubs

**Opponents:**

None

**Representing:****Neutral:**

Jim Douglas

**Representing:**

Game and Parks Commission

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**Summary of purpose and/or change:**

LB 1059 does the following:

Section 1 Adds the sections of this bill to the Game Law.

Section 2 Adds one dollar for each deer hunting permit issued to be credited to the Help Us Stop Hunger Cash Fund.

Section 3 Under the special depredation permit, a permit holder would be allowed to take one deer for personal use and up to four deer for donation under the provisions of this bill.

Requires one dollar of the permit fee to be credited to the Help Us Stop Hunger Cash Fund.

Section 4 Intent language to encourage the donation of deer to a program to feed residents of Nebraska who are in need.

Section 5 Definitions:

- (1) Deer – any wild deer legally taken in Nebraska and deer confiscated as legal evidence if the confiscated carcass is considered by the conservation officer to be in good condition for donation;
- (2) Distributor – the food bank or such other venison distribution service provider as designated by contract with the commission;
- (3) Field dressed – properly bled and cleaned of the internal organs;
- (4) Food bank – a private, nonprofit charitable organization incorporated in Nebraska, whose mission is to alleviate hunger and reduce food waste in Nebraska; and
- (5) Meat processor – any business that is licensed to process meat for retail customers by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, the US Department of Agriculture or a neighboring state's department that is similar to Nebraska's.

Section 6 Deer is the only species of wildlife covered by this act. To be accepted, the entire deer carcass shall be donated, but the hunter may keep the antlers, head and cape.

Section 7 (1) Requires the commission to set a fair price for the donation

of deer, and establish an annual per-deer processing payment to be made to meat processors.

- (2) Requires the commission to establish an annual per-deer administrative payment to be made to the food bank.
- (3) Requires the commission to adopt rules and regulations establishing standards for participating lockers to meet relating to deer processing.

Section 8 Requires the commission to promote the harvest of deer and donation of deer during periods of excessive deer population.

Section 9 Requires the commission to enter into uniform agreements with meat processors; provide forms for donation of deer by hunters, posters for meat processors to advertise their participation, venison pickup receipts and invoices, and two-pound freezer bags for use by meat processors that are participating in the program.

Section 10 Requires the commission to enter into an annual agreement with a food bank or other service providers to carry out the provisions of the act, and to pay the distributor a per-deer rate of payment for administrative services provided.

Section 11 Requires the distributor to enter into an annual agreement with the commission for venison pickup from meat processors and distribution and for the financial accounts with meat processors. Requires the commission to compensate the distributor at a rate per deer determined by the commission.

- Section 12
- (1) Requires the distributor to cause timely pickup of venison from the processor and distribution to the distributor's member social service agencies.
  - (2) Requires the distributor to make payments to meat processors at the rate set by the commission. If funding is available from the commission, payments shall be made to meat processors within 30 days after submittal of a complete and accurate record.
  - (3) Requires the distributor to keep accurate records.
  - (4) All unused funds are required to be refunded to the commission by May 1 of each year.

- Section 13
- (1) Each meat processor shall enter into a uniform annual agreement with the commission by August 1 prior to the coming deer season.
  - (2) Requires meat processors to accept the entire field-dressed carcass of a donated deer and cannot assess any fees or costs to donors.
  - (3) Meat processors must accept a donated deer if the meat processor determines the venison is in acceptable condition. Requires the deer to be processed into pure ground venison with no additives, placed in

- two-pound bags and frozen prior to being received by a representative of the food bank or another designated distributor.
- (4) At the time of pickup, the meat processor shall provide accurate information and an official signature on a form provided by the commission.
  - (5) To receive payment for venison processing, the meat processor must submit to the distributor a copy of the venison pickup and invoice form, and any additional information required by the commission.

Section 14 The commission may enter into agreements with other organizations for the purpose of expanding the deer donation program. The commission may offer matching grants to pay for deer processing to organizations that acquire funding from sources other than the state.

Section 15 Creates the Help Us Stop Hunger Cash Fund to be administered by the commission.

Section 16 Repealer.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

None

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Senator LeRoy Loudon, Chairperson