



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 352

Chairperson: Ray Aguilar
Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Date of Hearing: February 28, 2007

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

LB 352 will provide shooting range operations with guidelines and protections that would allow these ranges to continue operating when faced with urbanization.

Over the years, shooting ranges have been established in many localities across Nebraska. They provide significant benefits to the many sportsmen in our state as well as valuable training for many law enforcement agencies and departments. The situation today is that as our state becomes more and more urbanized, many shooting facilities are being closed in by surrounding development. This results in shooting ranges becoming subject to a growing number of complaints of nuisance of one kind or another, even though the shooting range may have been in place for many years and operating reasonably and safely. Often, these ranges have been in use long before parties that have objections arrive in the neighborhood.

This bill proposes to establish a method to create acceptable standards and guidelines under which shooting ranges would be expected to operate. In so doing, these shooting ranges would be afforded reasonable relief from facing potential litigation for inconsequential actions.

The key elements that this bill addresses are that the shooting ranges shall operate safely within state guidelines. This means they shall keep all projectiles (i.e. bullets, pellets and arrows) within their facility boundaries. They will be required to keep sound levels generated on the range to an acceptable level. They also must operate during reasonable hours subject to local zoning restrictions where applicable. If there are perceptions of guideline violations, or actual violations, the range would have the opportunity to address, and if needed, correct these problems within an acceptable time frame.

LB 352 establishes a methodology for shooting range operations to be a “good neighbor”, taking into consideration safety, sound and operational times with respect to the surrounding area. It also defines expectations and conditions for neighbors and incoming occupants to a neighborhood, as urbanization continues to occur.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Chris Langemeier