

**ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2017**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB449**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday February 14, 2017  
**Committee On:** Agriculture  
**Introducer:** Chambers  
**One Liner:** Repeal the Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Management Act

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

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**Vote Results:**  
**Aye:** 7 Senators Albrecht, Blood, Brasch, Chambers, Harr, Krist, Lowe  
**Nay:** 1 Senator Halloran  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Verbal Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Ernie Chambers  
Jarel Vinduska  
John Hansen  
Bruce Kennedy

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Nebraska Wildlife Federation  
Nebraska Farmers Union  
Wachiska Audubon

**Opponents:**

Jack Andersen

**Representing:**

Sheridan County Board of Commissioners

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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

LB 449 outright repeals sections 23-3801 through 23-3810 which collectively are cited as the Black-tailed Prairie Dog Management Act. The Act imposes an affirmative duty upon landowners and managers within a county that has adopted a black-tailed prairie dog management plan to prevent uncontrolled spread of colonies of black-tailed prairie dogs to neighboring properties. The Act sets forth minimal elements of county management plans, and procedures and standards by which counties may assume and implement authorities under the Act to compel landowner responsibility.

Section 81-2,236 authorizes the Director of Agriculture to cooperate with USDA-APHIS for control and management of predators, rodents and other wildlife injuries to livestock, game and human health. Section 1 of the bill would strike express text that this authorization includes the control of black-tailed prairie dogs.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The committee amendment (AM536) strikes sections 1 and 2 leaving only the outright repeal of sections 23-3801 through 23-3810.

