

**ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2019**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT (CORRECTED)**  
**LB374**

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**Hearing Date:** Wednesday February 27, 2019  
**Committee On:** Natural Resources  
**Introducer:** Brewer  
**One Liner:** Provide for raptor permits for wildlife abatement

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

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Albrecht, Bostelman, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Hughes, Moser, Quick  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Oral Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Tom Brewer  
Kurt Von Cloedt  
Timothy McCoy

**Representing:**

Introducer  
self  
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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

LB 374 would authorize the Game and Parks Commission to issue raptor permits for wildlife abatement.

Sections 1 and 2 amend 37-201, which lists the statutes included in the Game Law, and 37-202, which states the definitions in these sections apply only to Game Law, by adding reference to the new language in this bill.

Section 3 creates new language defining "wildlife abatement" as the use of a trained raptor to frighten, flush, haze, take, or kill certain wildlife to manage depredation, damage, threats to human health and safety or commerce.

Section 4 amends 37-497, which authorizes the Game and Parks Commission to protect and manage raptors and provides for the practice of falconry, by changing the name of the falconry permit to the raptor permit, authorizing possession of raptors for wildlife abatement, and authorizing raptor permits for wildlife abatement to be issued only to residents who meet certain requirements. The fee for a permit will not be more than \$23 for 12 to 17 year-olds, and not more than \$61 for 18 year-olds and older. No permits are allowed for those younger than 12, and 12 to 17 year-olds must be sponsored by a permitted adult. Permits expire after three years.

Section 5 amends 37-498, which prohibits taking raptors into captivity without a permit, by changing falconry permits to raptor permits and adding an exception for raptor permits for wildlife abatement.

Section 6 repeals the original sections.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The committee amendment, AM 335, removes language that was inadvertently left in the introduced bill.

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Dan Hughes, Chairperson