

# **One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB395**

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**Chairperson: Senator Bruce Bostelman**

**Committee: Natural Resources**

**Date of Hearing: January 28, 2021**

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

LB 395 expands the authority to designate a special deer depredation season or extend an existing deer hunting season to also include antelope and elk. Such seasons are designated when there is excessive property damage. The director of the Game and Parks Commission is authorized to specify the sex and number or quota of animals allowed to be taken in addition to other criteria already allowed in statute.

Under LB 395, the depredation season is opened up to nonresidents as well as residents. The fee for a nonresident special depredation season permit shall not be more than \$75. Currently, landowner special depredation season permits are free. Under LB 395, landowners or lessees will be charged no more than \$10 for such permits. The permit holder must own or operate 20 acres for deer and antelope permits, 80 acres for elk permits, and hunting must be permitted on such land. The antlerless requirement for landowner permits is stricken.

LB 395 increases the number of landowner antelope and elk permits in each management unit from 50% to 75% of the regular permits authorized.

Finally, LB 395 establishes an "Earn a Bull" program for private landowners to increase antlerless elk harvest. Landowners or lessees will report annually the number of antlerless elk harvested on their property in order to qualify for a free landowner elk permit.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Tim Gragert**