

ENGROSSED SENATE
BILL NO. 928

By: Mickle of the Senate
and
Dunegan of the House

An Act relating to wildlife; amending 29 O.S. 1991, Sections 3-302, 4-110 and 4-112, as last amended by Sections 3 and 4, Chapter 214, O.S.L. 1993 (29 O.S. Supp. 1993, Sections 4-110 and 4-112), 29 O.S. 1991, Sections 4-113 and 4-114, as amended by Section 5, Chapter 402, O.S.L. 1992 (29 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 4-114), which relate to the Wildlife Conservation Fund and to hunting and fishing licenses; making certain funds subject to appropriation and to budgetary limitations; modifying certain fishing license fees and time limits certain licenses are valid; modifying qualifications for disability fishing license; modifying certain hunting license fees; modifying qualifications for disability hunting license; modifying hunting/fishing annual combination license fee; modifying hunting/fishing lifetime license fees; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 1991, Section 3-302, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-302. A. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a ~~revolving~~ fund to be known as the Wildlife Conservation Fund, which shall consist of all monies heretofore or hereafter appropriated to, on deposit in, or credited to the State Game and Fish Fund created by Section 115, Title 29 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and, in addition thereto, all license fees, penalties, fines or forfeitures and bond forfeitures collected by the state, any subdivision thereof, any public official or any other person for the violation of the wildlife conservation laws of this state, and all donations for such purposes as well as all monies received by the Department and all interest accruing therefrom. All monies accruing to the fund shall be subject to appropriation by the Legislature for the purposes specified in subsection C of this section to be expended within budgetary limitations established by the Legislature.

B. The expenditures of the Wildlife Conservation Fund shall be under the control and supervision of the Commission, and all claims against said fund shall be paid on its itemized voucher form, prepared by said Commission and sworn to by the claimant, and/or vendor's invoices as authorized under Section 86.1, Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. All such claims when duly signed and sworn to shall be audited by the Commission and/or designated employees and, upon final approval, vouchers which are payable from said fund shall be forwarded to the Director of State Finance. Upon approval thereof, warrants shall issue according to law, and said warrants shall be paid by the State Treasurer from said fund. A reserve fund of not less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) shall be maintained to be used in emergencies only, by and with the consent of the Governor, and an additional reserve fund of not less than Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) shall be maintained for the liquidation of unissued licenses purchased by authorized agents for

sale which have remained unsold when such unissued licenses are returned for refunds as provided for by law.

C. All fees, monies or funds arising from the operation and transactions of the Commission and from the application and administration of the laws and regulations pertaining to the wildlife resources of the state and from the sale of property used for said purposes shall be expended and used by said Commission for the control, management, restoration, conservation and regulation of the wildlife resources of the state, including the purchase or other acquisition of property for said purposes, and for the administration of the laws pertaining thereto and for no other purposes.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 1991, Section 4-110, as last amended by Section 3, Chapter 214, O.S.L. 1993 (29 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 4-110), is amended to read as follows:

Section 4-110. A. Except as otherwise provided in the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Code, no person shall fish, pursue, harass, catch, kill, take in any manner, use, have in possession, sell, or transport all or any portion of fish without having first procured a license for such from the Director or from any of the authorized agents of the Department. The Commission may designate two (2) days per year in which residents and nonresidents may fish without first procuring a fishing license pursuant to the provisions of this section.

B. Pursuant to the provisions of this Code, persons excepted from the license requirements of this section are:

1. Legal residents under sixteen (16) years of age on the first day of the current calendar year and nonresidents under sixteen (16) years of age from states which do not require nonresident fishing licenses for persons under sixteen (16) years of age;

2. Legal residents sixty-four (64) years of age or older and nonresidents sixty-four (64) years of age or older from states which

do not require nonresident fishing licenses for persons sixty-four (64) years of age or older, provided such resident has obtained a senior citizen's license pursuant to the provisions of Section 4-133 of this title;

3. Legal resident veterans having a disability of sixty percent (60%) or more;

4. Legal resident owners or tenants, their spouses, parents, grandparents, children and their spouses, grandchildren and their spouses who fish in private ponds on land owned or leased by them;

5. Every Oklahoma citizen who is serving in a branch of the United States Armed Forces, is on properly authorized leave of absence from military duty, has in his possession proper written evidence showing such authorized leave, and is serving outside the State of Oklahoma at the time of such fishing;

6. Any patient of an institution of the State of Oklahoma established for the care and treatment of mental illness or alcohol or drug dependency or any developmentally disabled person residing in any group home or other institution or developmentally disabled persons when accompanied by an attendant of such institution or legal guardian of said patient, or when fishing on institutional property;

7. Any person under eighteen (18) years of age who is in the legal and physical custody of the State of Oklahoma or one of its agencies by court order;

8. Any person who is legally blind or who has any other physical impairment, as certified by a duly qualified physician, which prevents him from properly using fishing apparatus without the assistance of another person, and any one person actually accompanying and actually assisting such legally blind or otherwise physically impaired person while the latter is fishing. This certification shall be carried by the individual while fishing;

9. Nonresidents under fourteen (14) years of age;

10. Job Corps trainees of this state, provided that such trainees shall have on their persons a duly authorized identification card issued by their respective Job Corps Center and shall present such card upon request, in lieu of a fishing license. The trainees shall return their cards to their respective Job Corps Center when the trainees leave their respective Job Corps training programs;

11. Any legal resident having a proven disability which renders him nonambulatory and confines him to a wheelchair as certified by a duly qualified physician; and

12. Any person who is fishing with a pole and line, trotline, or throwline in streams, natural lakes, natural ponds, and mine pits in the county in which he is a resident, or in streams, natural lakes, natural ponds, and mine pits which form a part of the boundary line of the county in which he is a resident, when using any bait other than commercial or artificial bait, blood, stink bait, cut fish, and shrimp.

C. Except as otherwise provided for in the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Code, the fee for an annual license issued pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be:

1. For legal residents, ~~Nine Dollars and twenty-five cents (\$9.25)~~ Thirteen Dollars (\$13.00); and

2. For nonresidents, ~~Twenty-two Dollars and fifty cents (\$22.50)~~ Twenty-seven Dollars and fifty cents (\$27.50), provided the Commission may enter into reciprocity agreements with states wherein nonresident license fees shall be in conformity with such reciprocal agreements. For a ~~ten-day~~ fourteen-day nonresident permit license, ~~Fourteen Dollars (\$14.00)~~ Nineteen Dollars (\$19.00). For a ~~three-day~~ five-day nonresident permit license, ~~Six Dollars and fifty cents (\$6.50)~~ Nine Dollars (\$9.00). Of the amount of monies collected pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph, Five Dollars (\$5.00) of the license fee for nonresidents, Two Dollars and fifty

cents (\$2.50) of the ~~ten-day~~ fourteen-day nonresident permit fee and One Dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) of the ~~three-day~~ five-day nonresident permit fee shall be deposited in the Wildlife Habitat Fund created pursuant to the provisions of Section 4-132 of this title.

D. Legal residents who have resided in this state for at least six (6) months and who are receiving Social Security Disability ~~and Social Security~~ Insurance benefits or Supplemental Security Income benefits or both may purchase a disability fishing license from the Director for Ten Dollars (\$10.00) for five (5) years.

E. Any person arrested while violating the provisions of this section who does not meet the requirements of subsection H of this section, may purchase a substitute temporary thirty-day license from the arresting game warden in lieu of posting bond. The fee for a substitute license purchased pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be:

1. For legal residents, Thirty-five Dollars (\$35.00); and
2. For nonresidents, Seventy-five Dollars (\$75.00).

The fees from licenses purchased pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be deposited in the Wildlife Conservation Fund to be used exclusively for developing, managing, preserving, and protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat.

F. Unless a substitute license is purchased as provided for by subsection E of this section, any resident of this state convicted of violating the provisions of this section shall be punished by the imposition of a fine of not less than Ten Dollars (\$10.00) nor more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days, or by both said fine and imprisonment.

G. Unless a substitute license is purchased as provided for by subsection E of this section, any nonresident convicted of violating this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than Twenty-

five Dollars (\$25.00) nor more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not more than thirty (30) days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

H. Any person producing proof in court that a current fishing license issued by the Department of Wildlife Conservation to such person was in force at the time of the alleged offense shall be entitled to dismissal of a charge of violating this section upon payment of court costs; however, if proof of fishing license is presented to the court or district attorney within seventy-two (72) hours after the violation, the charge shall be dismissed without payment of court costs.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 1991, Section 4-112, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter 214, O.S.L. 1993 (29 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 4-112), is amended to read as follows:

Section 4-112. A. Except as otherwise provided for in the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Code, no person may hunt, pursue, trap, harass, catch, kill, take or attempt to take in any manner, use, have in possession, sell, or transport all or any portion of any wildlife except fish, without having first procured a license for such from the Director or from any authorized agents of the Department.

B. Pursuant to the provisions of this Code, persons excepted from the license requirement of this section are:

1. Legal residents of Oklahoma under sixteen (16) years of age on the first day of the current calendar year;

2. Legal residents of Oklahoma sixty-four (64) years of age or older provided such persons have obtained a senior citizen's license pursuant to the provisions of Section 4-133 of this title;

3. Legal resident veterans having a disability of sixty percent (60%) or more;

4. Legal resident owners or tenants who hunt on land owned or leased by them;

5. Every citizen of Oklahoma serving in a branch of the United States Armed Forces, who is on properly authorized leave from military duty, who has in his possession proper written evidence showing such authorized leave, and who is serving outside the State of Oklahoma at the time of such hunting;

6. Any nonresident under fourteen (14) years of age; and

7. Legal residents having a proven disability which renders them nonambulatory and confines them to a wheelchair, as certified by a medical doctor duly licensed to practice medicine in this state.

C. Except as otherwise provided for in the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Code, the fees for licenses listed in this subsection are:

1. a. Annual hunting licenses for nonresidents hunting game other than deer, antelope, or elk, ~~Seventy-three Dollars and fifty cents (\$73.50)~~ Eighty-four Dollars (\$84.00); for deer, ~~One Hundred Forty-two Dollars (\$142.00)~~ One Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$160.00); for antelope and elk, ~~Two Hundred Ten Dollars and fifty cents (\$210.50)~~ Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00). There shall be no exemptions for deer, antelope, elk, or turkey. For a five-day nonresident hunting license to hunt game other than deer, antelope, elk, turkey, or pheasant, the fee shall be ~~Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00)~~ Thirty-four Dollars (\$34.00).
- b. Of the amount of monies collected pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph, Five Dollars (\$5.00) of the license fee for hunting game other than deer, antelope and elk, Five Dollars (\$5.00) of the license fee for hunting deer, Five Dollars (\$5.00) of the license fee for hunting antelope and elk and Two Dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) of the five-day

hunting license shall be deposited in the Wildlife Habitat Fund created pursuant to the provisions of Section 4-132 of this title.

- c. The Oklahoma Wildlife Department shall not issue any nonresident deer, antelope, or elk licenses to residents of any other state which has a deer season but does not allow Oklahoma residents the opportunity to purchase nonresident licenses in their state.

2. Disability hunting license, residents of this state for at least six (6) months and who are receiving Social Security Disability ~~and Social Security~~ Insurance benefits or Supplemental Security Income benefits or both may purchase a disability hunting license from the Director for Ten Dollars (\$10.00) for five (5) years.

3. Deer gun hunting license, residents, ~~Thirteen Dollars and seventy-five cents (\$13.75)~~ Fifteen Dollars and seventy-five cents (\$15.75). There shall be no exemptions except for residents sixty-four (64) years of age or older provided such residents have obtained a senior citizen's license pursuant to the provisions of Section 4-133 of this title. In addition, veterans who are totally disabled as certified by the U.S. Veterans Administration shall be exempt from the fees specified pursuant to this paragraph.

4. Deer archery hunting license, residents, ~~Thirteen Dollars and seventy-five cents (\$13.75)~~ Fifteen Dollars and seventy-five cents (\$15.75). No exemptions.

5. Primitive firearms license, residents, ~~Thirteen Dollars and seventy-five cents (\$13.75)~~ Fifteen Dollars and seventy-five cents (\$15.75). No exemptions.

6. Elk or antelope hunting license, residents, Thirty-four Dollars and twenty-five cents (\$34.25). No exemptions.

7. Bonus, special or second deer gun hunting license, residents, ~~Thirteen Dollars and seventy-five cents (\$13.75)~~ Fifteen

Dollars and seventy-five cents (\$15.75). No exemptions except for residents sixty-five (65) years of age or older provided such residents have obtained a senior citizen's license pursuant to the provisions of Section 4-133 of this title. In addition, veterans who are totally disabled, if certified by the U.S. Veterans Administration shall be exempt from the fees specified pursuant to this paragraph.

D. The fees for hunting licenses, except as provided for in the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Code, are:

1. Legal residents, ~~Nine Dollars and twenty-five cents (\$9.25)~~ Thirteen Dollars (\$13.00); and

2. Commercial hunting area ten-day permit, resident or nonresident, Five Dollars (\$5.00).

E. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to require a hunting license, resident or nonresident, of any person merely because he participates, as owner or handler of an entry, as an official, or as a spectator in the conduct of a field trial or performance test of dogs, whether he is a resident or nonresident of the State of Oklahoma. No license to hunt shall be required of any person engaged in training or working dogs, provided said person is in no way engaged in hunting and does not take or attempt to take in any manner any game.

F. Any person arrested for hunting game other than deer, antelope, elk, or turkey without a valid hunting license as required by the provisions of subsection A of this section may purchase a substitute temporary thirty-day license from the arresting game warden in lieu of posting bond. Proof of hunter safety certification will not be required for such temporary substitute license. The fee for a substitute license purchased pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be:

1. For legal residents, Thirty-five Dollars (\$35.00); and

2. For nonresidents, One Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$130.00).

The fees from licenses purchased pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be deposited in the Wildlife Conservation Fund to be used exclusively for developing, managing, preserving, and protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat.

G. Any person producing proof in court that a current hunting license issued by the Department of Wildlife Conservation to such person was in force at the time of the alleged offense shall be entitled to dismissal of a charge of violating this section upon payment of court costs; however, if proof of hunting license is presented to the court or district attorney within seventy-two (72) hours after the violation, the charge shall be dismissed without payment of court costs.

H. Unless a substitute license is purchased as provided for by subsection F of this section, any resident convicted of violating the provisions of this section shall be punished by the imposition of a fine of not less than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) nor more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days, or by both said fine and imprisonment.

I. Unless a substitute license is purchased as provided for by subsection F of this section, any nonresident convicted of violating the provisions of this section shall be punished by the imposition of a fine of not less than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed six (6) months, or by both said fine and imprisonment.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 1991, Section 4-113, is amended to read as follows:

Section 4-113. A. All legal residents who are not the individuals excepted from the license requirement as provided in subsection B of Section 4-112 of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation

Code may purchase an annual combination hunting/fishing license from the Director or his agents.

B. The fee for a license under this section shall be ~~Seventeen Dollars and fifty cents (\$17.50)~~ Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00).

SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 1991, Section 4-114, as amended by Section 5, Chapter 402, O.S.L. 1992 (29 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 4-114), is amended to read as follows:

Section 4-114. A. All legal residents who have resided in the state for at least six (6) months may purchase lifetime fishing licenses, lifetime hunting licenses or lifetime combination hunting/fishing licenses from the Director.

B. The fee for these licenses shall be:

1. Lifetime fishing license, ~~One Hundred Twenty-five Dollars (\$125.00)~~ One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00);

2. Lifetime hunting license, ~~Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00)~~ Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00);

3. Lifetime hunting license for persons age sixty (60) years and over, Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00); and

4. Lifetime combination hunting/fishing license, ~~Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00)~~ Five Hundred Twenty-five Dollars (\$525.00).

C. The use of the licenses provided in this section are subject to those restrictions provided by statute and the regulations of the Commission. The lifetime hunting license shall be in lieu of all annual hunting licenses and all special season permits.

D. Nonresidents may purchase:

1. A lifetime nonresident fishing license. The fee for such license shall be ~~Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00)~~ Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00);

2. A lifetime nonresident small game hunting license to hunt game other than deer, antelope, elk, or turkey. The fee shall be Four Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$450.00); or

3. A lifetime nonresident combination fishing and small game hunting license. The fee shall be ~~Six Hundred Twenty-five Dollars (\$625.00)~~ Six Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$650.00).

E. Should any lifetime license be lost or destroyed, a duplicate will be issued by the Department for a fee of Five Dollars (\$5.00).

F. A lifetime licensee shall not lose the privileges of such license by a subsequent transfer of residency.

SECTION 6. This act shall become effective January 1, 1995.

Passed the Senate the 8th day of March, 1994.

President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____, 1994.

Speaker of the House of Representatives