

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                               STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                               1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
5 FOR  
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1193

By: West (Rick)

7  
8                               COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

9           An Act relating to livestock; amending 2 O.S. 2011,  
10 Sections 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7, 4-10, 4-11 and  
11 4-13, which relate to livestock brands; defining  
12 terms; transferring certain branding duties to  
13 organization designated by the State Board of  
14 Agriculture; authorizing the Board or newly  
15 designated organization to assume duties under  
16 certain circumstances; updating references;  
17 authorizing the organization to charge reasonable fee  
18 for certified copies, application for registration,  
19 registration renewal and transfer of title; reserving  
20 certain cattle brand; authorizing the Board to  
21 reserve additional brands; amending 4 O.S. 2011,  
22 Section 270.2, which relates to enforcement of laws  
23 pertaining to livestock brands; eliminating Board  
24 duties relating to brand registry; and providing an  
effective date.

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

SECTION 1.           AMENDATORY           2 O.S. 2011, Section 4-2, is  
amended to read as follows:

Section 4-2. For the purposes of this article:

1 1. "Animal" or "livestock" means any cattle, horse, or mule;

2 and

3 2. "Brand" means a permanent identification mark of which the  
4 letters, numbers, and figures used are each three (3) inches or more  
5 in length or diameter and are impressed into the hide of a live  
6 animal either with a hot iron or by the process commonly referred to  
7 as "cold" or "freeze" branding, and includes the location on the  
8 animal. The term means both the mark and location;

9 3. "Organization" means a statewide livestock organization; and

10 4. "Statewide livestock organization" means an organization  
11 headquartered in the state of Oklahoma that represents the majority  
12 of livestock producers in Oklahoma.

13 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2011, Section 4-3, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 4-3. The State Board of Agriculture ~~shall~~ may designate  
16 a statewide livestock organization to approve brands for  
17 registration, issue certificates, and serve as an adjudicating  
18 committee in resolving conflicts. ~~It~~ The organization shall publish  
19 a State Brand Book which shall contain a facsimile of each  
20 registered brand with the owner's name and address. ~~The State Brand~~  
21 ~~Book shall also include laws and rules pertaining to the~~  
22 ~~registration of brands~~ In the event the Board determines that the  
23 statewide livestock organization fails to perform the duties  
24 designated in the brand law or is no longer representative of the

majority of livestock producers in Oklahoma, the Board shall designate a new statewide livestock organization or shall perform the duties associated with the brand law, including maintenance of the State Brand Book, receipt of fees for application processing and other duties.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2011, Section 4-4, is amended to read as follows:

Section 4-4. The ~~State Board of Agriculture~~ statewide livestock organization shall be the legal custodian of county brand record books which were maintained under prior laws. Upon request, the ~~Board~~ organization shall provide a certified copy of the record of any brand appearing in the county brand record books, ~~charging~~. The organization may charge a reasonable fee of One Dollar (\$1.00) for each brand.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2011, Section 4-5, is amended to read as follows:

Section 4-5. A. Any application for the registration of a brand shall be:

1. On a form ~~prescribed~~ prepared by the ~~State Board of Agriculture~~ statewide livestock organization; and

2. Accompanied by a reasonable fee ~~of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00)~~ set by the organization for each brand.

B. The application for the registration of a brand shall show the brand location to the following body regions of animals: right

1 or left shoulder, neck, rib, or hind quarter. Previously registered  
2 brands are not affected.

3 C. The applicant shall list at least three distinct brands and  
4 three locations in the preferred order.

5 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2011, Section 4-6, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Section 4-6. A. It shall be unlawful for any person to  
8 knowingly place upon any livestock a brand which has not been  
9 registered with the ~~State Board of Agriculture~~ statewide livestock  
10 organization if the brand duplicates one that is registered.

11 B. For purposes of this section, "duplication" means the use of  
12 a similar brand in any location on the animal designated for a  
13 registered brand.

14 SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2011, Section 4-7, is  
15 amended to read as follows:

16 Section 4-7. A. The ~~State Board of Agriculture~~ statewide  
17 livestock organization shall publish a revised State Brand Book at  
18 least every five (5) years. Supplements may be published as  
19 necessary.

20 B. Prior to publication of a revised State Brand Book all  
21 registered brand owners and assignees shall be notified in writing  
22 that the brand registrations are being terminated.

1 C. The organization shall set a reasonable renewal fee of  
2 ~~Twenty Dollars (\$20.00)~~ for the registration of each brand ~~shall be~~  
3 ~~charged~~ for the ensuing five-year period or fraction thereof.

4 D. The State Brand Book and supplements shall be available to  
5 the public at a price commensurate with the cost of preparation,  
6 printing, and delivery thereof. Upon written request the ~~Board~~  
7 organization shall provide without charge all brand books and  
8 supplements to the county clerk and sheriff of each county, any  
9 inspection agency, any livestock association, or any entity approved  
10 by the ~~Board~~ organization.

11 SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2011, Section 4-10, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Section 4-10. The state reserves the brands of "B", "T", "PI+"  
14 and "A" on the tailhead of cattle. It shall be unlawful for any  
15 person other than authorized agents of the State Board of  
16 Agriculture to use any of such brands. The Board may reserve  
17 additional brands and promulgate rules identifying the reserved  
18 brand.

19 SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2011, Section 4-11, is  
20 amended to read as follows:

21 Section 4-11. Only brands appearing in the current edition of  
22 the State Brand Book or supplement thereto, shall be subject to  
23 sale, assignment, transfer, devise, or bequest. The transfer of  
24 title shall be recorded with the ~~State Board of Agriculture~~

1 statewide livestock organization. ~~The~~ A reasonable fee for  
2 recording the transfer of title shall be ~~Five Dollars (\$5.00)~~ set by  
3 the organization.

4 SECTION 9. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2011, Section 4-13, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Section 4-13. The brand known as the "Dog Iron" brand, as shown  
7 and listed on page 107 at line 23 of the 1950 Oklahoma Brand Book,  
8 and which brand was used during his lifetime by the late Will Rogers  
9 of Oologah and Claremore, Oklahoma, shall be reserved to the State  
10 of Oklahoma for historical purposes. It shall be unlawful for any  
11 person to use the brand for the branding or marketing of animals,  
12 provided that the ~~State Board of Agriculture~~ statewide livestock  
13 organization may register the brand in the name of any blood  
14 relative or descendant of Will Rogers, so the brand may be  
15 perpetuated and preserved for historical purposes and in honor of  
16 the memory of Will Rogers.

17 SECTION 10. AMENDATORY 4 O.S. 2011, Section 270.2, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Section 270.2 The laws of this state relating to violations and  
20 investigations of livestock brands shall be enforced and carried out  
21 by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and any agriculture  
22 law enforcement agent of the state.

1     ~~All responsibilities and duties relating to brand registry,~~  
2     ~~keeping of records and maintenance of files are hereby delegated to~~  
3     ~~the State Board of Agriculture.~~

4     ~~The Board is authorized to enter into contracts with state~~  
5     ~~livestock associations to register and record marks and brands and~~  
6     ~~to make compensation for services. The Board may also appoint~~  
7     ~~agents to receive fees and monies and perform other duties as it may~~  
8     ~~direct; provided, that the agent shall file with and in favor of the~~  
9     ~~Board a fidelity bond executed by a surety company authorized to do~~  
10    ~~business in this state, conditioned on the faithful performance of~~  
11    ~~their duties, a strict accounting of all funds to the Board and on~~  
12    ~~other terms and conditions as the Board may deem necessary, in a~~  
13    ~~penal sum as the Board may require. All fees and monies shall be~~  
14    ~~deposited in the State Department of Agriculture Trust Fund.~~

15         SECTION 11. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

16  
17     COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT,  
18     dated 02/15/2017 - DO PASS, As Amended.