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ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1601

and

Boggs of the Senate

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

Section 12-1. A. The ~~State~~ Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry shall enter into a written agreement on behalf of the State of Oklahoma with the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, ~~Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture~~. The agreement shall be for the purpose of cooperating with Wildlife Services, ~~United States Department of Agriculture~~, in conducting wildlife

1 damage management for beavers, coyotes, bobcats, feral swine, and
2 other wildlife or invasive species causing destruction to livestock,
3 poultry, crops, range land, forests, and other resources, including
4 human health and safety.

5 B. Wildlife damage management of predatory animals and other
6 ~~wildlife~~ species causing damage shall include but not be limited to
7 hunting, trapping, or other practical methods for the control of
8 ~~wildlife~~ damage to resources. Operations shall be directly
9 supervised by the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife
10 Services in association with the Department. The Department is
11 authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with counties,
12 associations, corporations, and individuals for hunting and trapping
13 operations and control of wildlife damage.

14 C. In cooperation with Wildlife Services, the Department is
15 authorized to purchase ~~wildlife~~ animal damage management supplies,
16 including but not limited to bait, for cooperating governmental
17 agencies, counties, associations, corporations, and individuals for
18 the control of damage caused by predatory animals and other ~~wildlife~~
19 species. The Department shall make these supplies and baits
20 available to cooperators at approximate cost. The receipts from the
21 sale of supplies and baits shall be credited to the State Department
22 of Agriculture Revolving Fund.

23 D. Furs, skins, ~~and~~ specimens or other parts or byproducts of
24 commercial value collected by ~~wildlife services~~ Wildlife Services

1 agents shall be sold upon sealed bids after advertisement of the
2 sales, as prescribed by the Department. The proceeds of all sales
3 shall be credited to the State Department of Agriculture Revolving
4 Fund. Any specimen may be presented, free of charge, to any state
5 institution subject to the jurisdiction and control of the State of
6 Oklahoma. No bounty shall be collected from any source for
7 predatory animals and wildlife taken by ~~wildlife services~~ Wildlife
8 Services agents operating pursuant to a cooperative agreement.

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

11 Section 12-2. It shall be lawful for an authorized agent of the
12 State Board of Agriculture engaged in wildlife damage management,
13 pursuant to the provisions of Section 12-1 of this title, to carry a
14 ~~clip-loaded or magazine-loaded rifle or shotgun in a vehicle,~~
15 ~~provided the rifle or shotgun is not chamber-loaded~~ firearms in the
16 course of his or her official duties. Authorized agents shall
17 successfully pass a background check by the Oklahoma Department of
18 Agriculture, Food, and Forestry and be trained in accordance with
19 United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services guidelines
20 for the use of firearms in wildlife damage management.

21 The names of agents authorized by the Board to carry a ~~rifle and~~
22 ~~shotgun~~ firearms shall be furnished to the Oklahoma Department of
23 Public Safety.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND WILDLIFE
April 4, 2017 - DO PASS