

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

HOUSE BILL 1601

By: Enns

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to agriculture; amending 2 O.S. 2011, Sections 12-1 and 12-2, which relate to wildlife services; updating agency name; including feral swine in wildlife damage management; specifying management shall include damage to resources; providing collected parts or byproducts of commercial value shall be sold; specifying type of firearm certain agents authorized to carry; requiring background check and training; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2011, Section 12-1, is amended to read as follows:

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 damage management for beavers, coyotes, bobcats, feral swine, and

1 other wildlife or invasive species causing destruction to livestock,
2 poultry, crops, range land, forests, and other resources, including
3 human health and safety.

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

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

22 D. Furs, skins, ~~and~~ specimens or other parts or byproducts of
23 commercial value collected by ~~wildlife services~~ Wildlife Services
24 agents shall be sold upon sealed bids after advertisement of the

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

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

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

20 The names of agents authorized by the Board to carry ~~a rifle and~~
21 ~~shotgun~~ firearms shall be furnished to the Oklahoma Department of
22 Public Safety.
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SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

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