

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

HOUSE BILL 2431

By: Roberts (Sean)

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to game and fish; amending 29 O.S. 2011, Section 3-103, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 24, O.S.L. 2017 (29 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 3-103), which relates to the powers and duties of the Wildlife Commission; limiting the Commission's authority to regulate certain hunting seasons; establishing dates for certain deer hunting seasons; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2011, Section 3-103, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 24, O.S.L. 2017 (29 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 3-103), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-103. A. The Wildlife Conservation Commission shall constitute an advisory, administrative and policymaking board for the protection, restoration, perpetuation, conservation, supervision, maintenance, enhancement, and management of wildlife in this state as provided in the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Code.

B. The Director shall consult with the Commission regarding the administration of the affairs of the Department of Wildlife

1 Conservation. The Commission is authorized and empowered to require
2 from the Director complete reports and information relative to the
3 affairs of the Department at the time and in the manner the
4 Commission may deem advisable.

5 C. The Commission shall meet in regular session at least nine
6 times per year not to exceed one meeting per month with not more
7 than two consecutive calendar months between meetings and in special
8 sessions as may be called by the Chair or a majority of the
9 Commission. The Commission may hold any regular or special session
10 at any location within this state. Should a location be chosen
11 other than Commission headquarters in Oklahoma City for a regular or
12 special meeting, notice shall be posted at Commission headquarters
13 in Oklahoma City and advertised in the local newspaper of the city
14 in which the meeting is to be held, at least one time during each of
15 the two (2) weeks prior to the meeting. The advertisements shall
16 include time, date, and address of location of the meeting.

17 D. In addition to the other powers and duties prescribed by
18 law, the Commission shall:

19 1. Institute an affirmative action plan for hiring women and
20 minorities throughout the agency;

21 2. Elect a chair, vice-chair, and secretary, who shall perform
22 the duties required of them by statutes, rules of the Commission,
23 and the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma. The chair, vice-
24 chair, and secretary shall receive no extra compensation;

1 3. Appoint a Director, and determine the qualifications of the
2 Director and all assistants and employees. A Commissioner shall not
3 be eligible for employment in any position within the Department;

4 4. Prescribe rules and policies for the transaction of its
5 business and the control of the Department;

6 5. Develop and implement a plan to provide step raises for
7 Commission employees so that discrepancies of pay levels within a
8 pay grade are eliminated;

9 6. Acquire by purchase, lease, gift, or devise, waters, real
10 property, and personal property incident to the exercise of its
11 functions and to maintain, operate, and dispose of the same;

12 7. Acquire real property by condemnation only when the Attorney
13 General or other counsel deems it an appropriate means of clearing
14 title from willing or unavailable sellers;

15 8. Supervise the establishment, extension, improvement, and
16 operation of the wildlife refuges, propagation areas or stations,
17 public hunting areas, public fishing areas, game management areas,
18 and fish hatcheries;

19 9. Prescribe the manner of cooperation with the Oklahoma
20 Tourism and Recreation Department, colleges and universities within
21 the state, other state agencies, any agency of the federal
22 government, and any city, town, school district, or any other agency
23 or organization in study of conservation and propagation of wildlife
24 and in the establishment, maintenance, and operation of visual

1 educational facilities, recreational facilities, and hunting and
2 fishing facilities, in the study and propagation of wildlife;

3 10. Supervise the letting of all contracts and purchases for
4 the Department, with all purchases of personal property to be made
5 through the Office of Management and Enterprise Services;

6 11. Authorize all claims or expenditures prior to incurring
7 payment except as otherwise provided in this Code;

8 12. Prescribe rules on the use of Department-owned vehicles by
9 the Director, department heads and other essential employees as the
10 Commission deems necessary in order to perform their duties;

11 13. Prescribe rules for the sale of all regular or special
12 licenses;

13 14. Publicize and encourage the conservation and appreciation
14 of wildlife and all other natural resources;

15 15. Regulate the seasons and harvest of wildlife; provided that
16 the dates for deer gun and primitive firearms hunting seasons shall
17 be established pursuant to Section 2 of this act;

18 16. Promulgate rules to sell fishing and hunting licenses via
19 the Internet;

20 17. Annually report to the Governor and the Legislature on the
21 complete operation, activities, and plans of the Department,
22 together with such recommendations for future activities as the
23 Commission may deem to be in the best interest of the state; and
24

1 18. Provide the Governor and the Legislature with an annual
2 inventory of all property and equipment.

3 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-603 of Title 29, unless there
5 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 A. The dates for the deer primitive firearms season shall begin
7 on the fourth Saturday in October and run for fourteen (14)
8 consecutive days.

9 B. The dates for the deer gun season shall begin the Saturday
10 prior to Thanksgiving and run for twenty-one (21) consecutive days.

11 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.
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