

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

3 SENATE BILL NO. 567

By: Dahm

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation  
8 Code; amending 29 O.S. 2011, Section 5-202, as  
9 amended by Section 1, Chapter 200, O.S.L. 2012 (29  
10 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 5-202), which relates to  
11 recreational activity upon the land of another;  
12 assigning a duty for a game warden to inform a person  
13 only when requested to do so; prohibiting game warden  
14 from entering a private property under certain  
15 circumstances unless requested; stating that  
16 suspicion of possession of a firearm or discharge of  
17 a weapon shall not constitute probable cause to enter  
18 a private property; and providing an effective date.

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2011, Section 5-202, as  
17 amended by Section 1, Chapter 200, O.S.L. 2012 (29 O.S. Supp. 2018,  
18 Section 5-202), is amended to read as follows:

19 Section 5-202. A. Except as otherwise provided, no person may  
20 hunt or take by any means or method upon the land of another without  
21 the consent of the owner, lessee or occupant of such land.

22 B. For purposes of this section, consent shall be presumed to  
23 be valid for not more than one (1) year, unless the owner, lessee,  
24

1 or occupant specifically grants consent for a specified period of  
2 time.

3 C. Excluding land primarily devoted to farming, ranching, or  
4 forestry purposes as set forth in Section 1835.2 of Title 21 of the  
5 Oklahoma Statutes, areas exempt from the provisions of subsection A  
6 of this section are lands belonging to this state which are not  
7 leased and occupied by a resident, excluding school land.

8 D. Any game warden investigating a hunter in the field ~~has the~~  
9 does not have a duty, unless the landowner, lessee or occupant has  
10 requested a game warden to do so, to inform the hunter that it is  
11 necessary to obtain the consent of the landowner, lessee or occupant  
12 to hunt or take on the particular property. Prosecution for  
13 violations of the provisions of this section may be commenced only  
14 upon written complaint of such owner, lessee or occupant filed  
15 before any court authorized to punish such violation, or upon  
16 written complaint to any game warden or officer authorized to make  
17 arrest for such offenses.

18 E. Unless otherwise requested by a property owner, lessee, or  
19 tenant, a game warden shall not enter a private property on the  
20 suspicion of the possible possession or discharge of a firearm or  
21 bow.

22 F. Suspicion of the possible possession or discharge of a  
23 firearm or bow shall not constitute probable cause for a game warden  
24 to enter a private property.

1        G. No person shall operate a motor-driven conveyance on lands  
2 that are fenced and posted or are in cultivation without permission  
3 of the landowner, lessee or occupant.

4        ~~F.~~ H. The consent of any owner, lessee or occupant of land  
5 authorizing a person to hunt, take, fish or engage in any  
6 recreational activity upon the land of any such owner, lessee or  
7 occupant shall not be construed to create any additional duty of  
8 care or impose any additional liability other than specified by  
9 Sections 16-71.2 and 16-71.3 of Title 2 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

10       ~~G.~~ I. The obtaining of consent from any owner, lessee or  
11 occupant of land authorizing a person to hunt, take, fish or engage  
12 in any recreational activity shall not relieve the authorized person  
13 using the land from any obligation which the person may have in the  
14 absence of obtaining such consent to exercise care in the use of  
15 such land and in activities thereon, or from the legal consequences  
16 of failure to employ such care.

17       ~~H.~~ J. 1. It shall be an affirmative defense to prosecution  
18 under subsection A of this section that the accused had express or  
19 implied permission or legal authority to be on the property.

20       2. If an accused reasonably believed he or she was upon  
21 property for which they had permission to be upon, it shall be an  
22 affirmative defense to prosecution under subsection A of this  
23 section that the accused had with him or her, on his or her person,  
24 written permission from the surface owner, surface lessee, hunting

1 lessee, or lawful occupant to be upon such person's land while the  
2 accused was upon any adjoining property. This defense shall not be  
3 available to the accused if:

4 a. the accused has previously pled guilty, nolo  
5 contendere, or has been convicted of any act of  
6 trespass or has been found civilly liable of any act  
7 of trespass, or

8 b. the accused, while the accused was upon the adjoining  
9 property, does not have with him or her, on his or her  
10 person, the written permission specified in this  
11 paragraph.

12 ~~I.~~ K. Any person convicted for the first time of violating any  
13 provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and  
14 punished by the imposition of a fine of not less than Five Hundred  
15 Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars  
16 (\$1,500.00), or by imprisonment in the county jail for thirty (30)  
17 days, or by both fine and imprisonment.

18 ~~J.~~ L. Any person convicted for the second or subsequent time of  
19 violating any provisions of this section shall be guilty of a  
20 misdemeanor and punished by the imposition of a fine of not less  
21 than One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) nor more than Two  
22 Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00), or by imprisonment in the  
23 county jail for not less than six (6) months, or by both fine and  
24 imprisonment.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.

57-1-1219 QD 1/17/2019 8:46:05 AM