

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

3 SENATE BILL 1828

By: Bullard

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to wildlife; authorizing velvet buck
8 season; setting season and bag limit; specifying
9 muzzle loaders; providing for permit, stamp or
10 license; applying velvet bucks harvest to deer bag
11 limits; directing the Wildlife Conservation
12 Commission to promulgate rules; authorizing
13 cancellation for certain conditions; prohibiting
14 certain refunds of fees; requiring valid license,
15 permit or stamp; providing for enforcement of laws
16 and rules; setting licenses, permits or stamps by
17 rule; requiring season to be based on normal deer
18 populations; providing for codification; providing an
19 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

17 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-114.1 of Title 29, unless
19 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. Pursuant to Section 5-401 of Title 29 of the Oklahoma
21 Statutes, the Wildlife Conservation Commission is authorized to
22 declare an open season to hunt and harvest velvet bucks during the
23 last week of August only in those counties or parts of counties of
24 this state where, in the judgment of the Commission, the population

1 of deer exist in sufficient quantity and health to warrant an open
2 season. An open season to hunt and harvest velvet bucks shall be
3 declared by a Commission resolution not less than ten (10) days
4 before the season is opened. The duration of a declared open season
5 shall not exceed more than four (4) days and be restricted to a
6 limit of one (1) velvet buck per hunt during the season.

7 B. The Commission shall authorize muzzle loaders as the sole
8 method for shooting, hunting, killing, wounding, taking or
9 attempting to shoot, hunt, kill, wound or take any velvet buck
10 during a declared open season.

11 C. During a declared open season legal residents of Oklahoma
12 and non-residents may hunt velvet bucks provided the person has a
13 valid deer license, velvet buck permit or stamp as otherwise
14 provided by law in this state. All velvet bucks shot, killed,
15 wounded, taken and harvested shall count against the licensee's
16 annual bag limit for deer in this state.

17 D. The Commission is authorized to prescribe rules necessary
18 for the proper conduct and policing of a declared open season for
19 the hunting and harvesting of velvet bucks; the velvet antler size;
20 the kind of bucks that may be taken; and the dates and time limits
21 of such season. The Commission shall be authorized to cancel a
22 declared velvet buck open season for any reason deemed appropriate
23 including, but not limited to, disease, weather, deer population and
24 herd health. Any cancelation of a declared velvet buck open season

1 shall prohibit the Commission from refunding or crediting any fees
2 paid for a velvet buck permit, stamp or license.

3 E. All laws and rules pertaining to velvet bucks in this state
4 shall be enforceable by the Department of Wildlife Conservation and
5 its agents. The Commission shall set velvet buck licenses, permits
6 and/or stamps by rule.

7 F. The Commission is authorized to require by rule that any
8 person participating in a declared velvet buck open season or
9 hunting in open areas during a declared velvet buck open season to
10 procure a special permit, stamp or license to participate in a
11 declared velvet buck open season or to hunt in such open areas
12 during a declared velvet buck open season and may charge residents
13 and nonresidents fees and such other compensation for those Oklahoma
14 surface holders participating in the Acres for Wildlife Program.
15 The rate of such fees and compensation shall be determined by the
16 Wildlife Conservation Commission. No exemptions shall be permitted.

17 G. Velvet buck open seasons, closed seasons, bag limits, catch
18 limits, possession limits and territorial limitations set forth in
19 law or rule are hereby declared to be based on the existence of a
20 normal population of deer prior to the Commission declaring a velvet
21 buck open season. Such seasons, catch limits, bag limits,
22 possession limits and territorial limitations as set by law or rule
23 shall prevail and be in full force and effect for deer so long as
24

1 the population or numbers of deer remain normal in areas of this
2 state.

3 H. For purposes of this section:

4 1. "Velvet buck" means a male deer with velvet antler; and

5 2. "Velvet antler" means the whole cartilaginous antler is
6 exhibited in a precalcified growth stage of the Cervidae family.
7 The deer antler must be covered in velvet-like hair that is
8 essentially skin that supplies nutrients and blood flow to the
9 growing bone and antler underneath.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2022.

11 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
12 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
13 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
14 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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