

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 773
Version:	Engrossed Senate
Request Number:	N/A
Author:	Rep. Newton
Date:	3/29/2021
Impact:	\$0

Research Analysis

SB 773 allows a private property owner, or lessee, to kill prairie dogs during the day without a permit, in order to protect marketable agricultural crops, seed, or other agricultural commodities. This does not apply during deer gun season.

Anyone who has been convicted of “[headlighting](#)” or illegally hunting or selling wildlife in the past three years may not control nuisance or damage by prairie dogs at night.

Prepared By: Emily Wendler

Fiscal Analysis

SB 773 creates an exception to kill prairie dogs without a permit, but does not specify which permit the exception is being created under. The most likely option is the hunting permit. According to officials at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, the exception would create a fiscal impact, but the amount is unclear for several reasons. First, it would depend on how many people no longer seek a hunting license because they are willing to hunt prairie dogs only. Second, for each license not obtained, the Department knows it would lose \$25, plus possible \$75 loss in matching funds from other sources per permit. So while, the Department would feel some financial loss, the full impact of that loss is difficult to determine currently. But, as the Department of Wildlife is a nonappropriated agency, there should be no fiscal impact for the State.

Prepared By: Mariah Searock

Other Considerations

None.